



CRIM 4801 YBO: Honours Research Project Fall 2019 and Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Brian Krupp

Office: OA 3021

Meetings: by appointment only

Email: dbkrupp@lakeheadu.ca (do not email me through myCourseLink)

Course location: OA 2006

Course times: Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00pm to 5:30pm

Course website: available on myCourseLink

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Honours Research Project is a capstone course in Criminology. Its purpose is to teach you to apply the knowledge and skills you have learned over the course of your studies to produce the pinnacle piece of scholarship of your undergraduate career. To wit, you will develop and deliver a research project of your own making, with the aim of replicating past criminological findings or discovering new ones. This will entail identifying a research question, finding, reading and synthesizing the relevant literature, generating hypotheses, designing an empirical methodology, locating appropriate data, developing predictions, analyzing the data, writing up the results, and presenting your project to your peers. In the process, you will gain a deeper understanding of the field and of the practice of criminological research.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a student in this course, you will acquire a variety of research skills, ranging from the integration of past findings to the analysis of data to test your hypotheses. In this way, you will develop a greater appreciation of a topic area of criminology. You will also perform peer review and preregister your hypotheses, methods, and analysis plans, all of which will help you master critical thinking skills. Finally, you will learn written, oral, and visual communication skills.

REQUIRED READING

Students are responsible for reading the following textbook, in keeping with the schedule below:

Wang, G. T., & Park, K. (2016). *Student Research and Report Writing: From topic selection to the complete paper*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

EVALUATION

Component	Grade Value	Due Dates
1. AWARE course	REQUIRED	September 23
2. Peer review	10%	Ongoing
3. Thesis topic and bibliography	5%	Peer draft: September 30 Peer feedback: October 2 Final draft: October 7
4. Literature review	10%	Peer draft: October 28 Peer feedback: October 30 Final draft: November 4
5. Research proposal presentation	10%	November 18-27
6. Written research proposal	20%	Peer draft: December 2 Peer feedback: December 6 Final draft: December 11
7. Preregistration	REQUIRED	Peer draft: January 13 Peer feedback: January 15 Final draft: January 20
8. Research update	5%	February 24-26
9. Final project presentation	10%	March 16-25, 2019
10. Written final project	30%	Peer draft: March 30 Peer feedback: April 3 Final draft: April 8

More information regarding the format and grading of these components is forthcoming. For the time being, here is a brief summary of each component:

1. In the fall semester, you will first be required to complete the Academic Writing And Research E-learning (AWARE) course. **This is mandatory**. Its purpose is to ensure that all students know how to perform their writing and research with integrity. Until you have successfully completed the AWARE course, I will not grade any other assignments, and late penalties will apply even if you submit them on time. You must upload your certificates of completion by 4:00pm on **September 23, 2019**.
2. Throughout both semesters, you will perform peer review on your colleagues' work and, likewise, your work will be subject to peer review. This will entail reading and thinking critically about your colleagues' work, providing constructive feedback to help them improve, and revising your own work in light of your peers' feedback. The deadlines for your peer feedback are given above, below, and online.
3. For your first written assignment, you will be asked to submit a two-page, single-spaced document that describes your thesis topic, asks several research questions, and provides an initial bibliography. The draft for peer review is due by 4:00pm on **September 30, 2019**, peer feedback is due by 11:59pm on **October 2, 2019**, and the final draft is due by 11:59pm on **October 7, 2019**.
4. Next, you will submit a comprehensive literature review of between three and four single-spaced pages. This will provide depth and clarity to your thesis topic, allowing you to narrow down your research questions. The draft for peer review is due by 4:00pm on **October 28, 2019**, peer feedback is due by 11:59pm on **October 30, 2019**, and the final draft is due by 11:59pm on **November 4, 2019**.
5. After this, you will present your research proposal to the class in a formal talk with supporting slides. The purpose of the presentation is to explain your proposed thesis topic and research questions to the class, alongside your hypotheses, methods, and analysis plans. You will also get valuable feedback from your peers and, when others are presenting, you will return the courtesy by providing helpful feedback of your own. Note that it is up to you to ensure that any software used is compatible with the delivery technology (e.g., computer, projector) available in the classroom. The research proposal presentations will take place during the classes of **November 18, 20, 25, and 27, 2019**.
6. Finally, based on the feedback you have received thus far, you will submit a written research proposal of between six and eight single-spaced pages. This will contain your well-developed literature review, a clear rationale for your hypotheses, detailed methods and predictions, and a carefully specified analytical approach. The draft for peer review is due by 4:00pm on **December 2, 2019**, peer feedback is due by 11:59pm on **December 6, 2019**, and the final draft is due by 11:59pm on **December 11, 2019**.

7. In the winter semester, you will preregister your proposed study. This means refining your proposed hypotheses, methods, predictions, and analyses and submitting them in advance of performing data analysis. It is meant (1) to help you think through the details of your study *before* you begin data analysis and (2) as a bulwark against inappropriate research practices. Preregistration does not count towards your grade, but **it is mandatory**. The draft for peer review is due by 4:00pm on **January 13, 2020**, peer feedback is due by 11:59pm on **January 15, 2020**, and the final draft is due by 11:59pm on **January 20, 2020**.
8. Next, you will present a brief update on your research progress to the class, including the state of data collection and analysis. You are also expected to update the class on any important revisions you have made to your hypotheses, methods, predictions, and analyses after receiving feedback on prior work. This is meant to be an informal, oral presentation only—no slides will be needed. Research updates will take place on **February 24 and 26, 2020**.
9. After this, you will give a formal presentation with slides of your final research project. This should summarise your literature review, hypotheses, methods, predictions, analyses, results, and interpretation. You should also highlight any deviations from your preregistration and the significant limitations of your study. Note again that it is up to you to ensure that any software used is compatible with the delivery technology (e.g., computer, projector) available in the classroom. The final project presentations will take place during the classes of **March 16, 18, 23, and 25, 2020**.
10. Finally, you will submit a final written report of your research project of about twelve single-spaced pages—not including the title page, abstract, bibliography, or appendices. As with the final project presentations, you are expected to provide a literature review, detail your hypotheses, methods, predictions, and analyses, report your results, and discuss them, all in the light of your preregistration and the limitations of your study's design. The draft for peer review is due by 4:00pm on **March 30, 2020**, peer feedback is due by 11:59pm on **April 3, 2020**, and the final draft is due by 11:59pm on **April 8, 2020**.

I reserve the right to adjust final grades up or down, on an individual basis, in light of special circumstances and/or the student's total performance in the course. I also reserve the right to modify elements of the course and will notify students accordingly (in class and on the course website).

DEADLINES AND LATE PENALTIES

For all cases of submitted assignments (components 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 10, above), submissions must be made online via the course website on myCourseLink and peerScholar. Each of these is to be submitted by the deadline listed above. Students will lose all peer review marks for any peer review draft submitted late, and the drafts will not be accepted. Students will lose one peer review mark for each instance of peer feedback submitted late. Finally, final drafts of assignments submitted late will incur a

5% penalty per day, including weekend days, for up to one week. After one week has passed, late papers will incur a grade of zero. Likewise, oral presentations cannot be delayed, and students who do not give their presentations on the assigned date will receive a grade of zero.

If you are unable to submit your work on time for reasons beyond your control, or if you are facing difficulties that put your success in this course at risk, please inform me immediately. Given sufficient notice and appropriate documentation, I may be able to make certain accommodations, entirely at my discretion.

Please note that the final date to drop this course is **February 7, 2020**.

GRADING SCALE

The official Lakehead University grading scale is as follows: A+ = 90-100%, A = 80-89%, B = 70-79%, C = 60-69%, D = 50-59%, E Failed = 40-49%, F Failed = 1-39%, F Academic Dishonesty = 0%.

COURSE ORGANIZATION AND GUIDELINES

The progression of the course follows the process of designing and executing a research project. We will dedicate more in-class time in the fall semester to learn the basic steps, and you will be given more unstructured time in the winter semester to pursue your research project independently. You are expected to attend every class in which there is a scheduled activity, to participate in the lectures and exercises, and to perform high-quality peer review. Here are a few key guidelines to help you with this course:

Independent study. As you are in your final year of your undergraduate degree, you should be able to work as an independent scholar. That is, you are expected to come to class on time and ready to participate, to be on top of your readings and assignments, and to use your time both in and out of class effectively. If you find yourself falling behind, you will need to take the necessary steps to rectify this. I cannot do this for you.

Attendance and meetings. **You are expected to attend every scheduled class.** We will be devoting time in class to work on your projects. However, there may be occasions in which you will require further assistance outside of class. In such cases, I will be happy to meet with you, provided that you have first brought your questions or problems to class. I will *not* meet with students outside of class if they have not first earnestly attempted to seek assistance during class time.

Peer review. Over the course of the year, 10% of your final grade is earned through peer review. This will occur with the help of peerScholar, an online peer assessment tool. You are expected to submit your written drafts for peer review by the deadline, and you are expected to provide feedback on the draft assignments by the peer feedback deadline. In addition to the out-of-class time you have allocated for this course, you are also being given class time to use for peer review. Your feedback should be respectful, open-minded, and use good judgement. While we will cover best discussion practices in class,

it ought to be clear from the outset that critical feedback and questions should strive to be collegial and constructive, at a minimum.

Preregistration. You will be required to preregister your hypotheses, methods, predictions, and data analysis plans prior to analyzing your data. You are prohibited from analyzing your data until such time as I deem your preregistration acceptable. Consequently, under the circumstances that your preregistration has not been approved, late penalties will apply to assignments even if you submit them on time. I urge you to take this process seriously. The success of your project depends on it.

Presentations. The presentation schedules will be determined by random assignment. If you would like to change your presentation date with another student, please do not ask me to coordinate a change in the schedule. Instead, you may approach the other student(s) and ask politely about the possibility of changing dates. If all parties agree to the change, **all parties must email me separately** to confirm the change, providing me with the specific details of the schedule change. If any party does not agree to the change, then the schedule will remain as is.

Schedule delays. While we will try to keep to the schedule of meetings and presentations below, it may be subject to some adjustment. In particular, if the weather forces the campus to close and class to be cancelled, we may move the dates of certain activities and/or increase the number of presentations given in subsequent classes to compensate. Consequently, **I expect you to be available for every class**, including peer review and independent research days.

ETHICS APPROVAL

Given the subject matter, restrictions in accessing relevant populations, and the tight timeline of the course, I strongly encourage the use of secondary, publicly available sources of data as the basis of your research. Conversely, I discourage the collection of data from human participants (in the form of interviews, surveys, or direct observation). If, after consultation with me, you nevertheless decide to collect such data, you will be required to complete ethics training in accordance with the TCPS2 guidelines and to get approval from the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies Undergraduate Research Ethics Committee at Lakehead University prior to beginning data collection.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Students are expected to know the University Regulations and, in particular, to heed the Student Code of Conduct on Academic Integrity:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/106/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf>

Plagiarism is a serious offense. Nevertheless, every year I discover acts of academic dishonesty—some committed on purpose and others by accident. The consequences, however, are the same: I *will* report any case of suspected plagiarism or other form of academic dishonesty, as I am obligated to do, and **a grade of zero at a minimum** will

be assigned to the work. If, after reading the Student Code of Conduct linked above, you are still unsure whether you may be plagiarizing or committing an act of academic dishonesty, contact me to ask.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

If you have a disability that requires accommodations, I strongly encourage you to make use of those accommodations. I am here to assist you, but I need your help in ensuring that you are properly accommodated. More generally, Lakehead University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities. Student Accessibility Services (SAS) coordinates services and facilitates reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Academic accommodations are provided on the basis of documentation of a disability. Additional information is available at the following campus website: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, do not hesitate to ask for help. Come to me, or if it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your academic advisors or get help from any number of other support services on campus, including:

The Student Success Centre has many programs and support services in place to help you achieve your academic and personal goals while studying at Lakehead University. They provide academic support through tutoring services, career exploration, cooperative opportunities, and leadership development. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre>.

The Lakehead University Library provides access to resources, study rooms, and research support both online (via chat) and in person. More details are available here: <https://library.lakeheadu.ca/>.

Public Computer Labs are available on campus, where you may write and print out your work. For more details, go to: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/helpdesk/computer-labs>.

Student Life and Services offers health and wellness resources both on and off campus, as well as opportunities for involvement in health and wellness activities. More information is available here: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/or>.

The Office of Human Rights and Equity: You have the right to an education that is free from any form of discrimination. A wide variety of resources are available here: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/human-rights-and-equity/resources>.

SCHEDULE

Fall 2019. Note: “WP” indicates Wang & Park (2016).

Dates	Activities and Deadlines
September 4	Course overview
September 9	Finding a topic and reviewing the literature: WP chapters 1 and 2
September 11	Finding a topic and reviewing the literature: WP chapters 3 and 4
September 16	Writing for the social sciences
September 18	Writing for the social sciences
September 23	Independent research day: no class AWARE course completion deadline
September 25	Peer review skills
September 30	Peer review day: no class Thesis topic and bibliography peer draft due
October 2	Peer review day: no class Thesis topic and bibliography peer feedback due
October 7	Causal inference and research design: WP chapter 5 Thesis topic and bibliography final draft due
October 9	Causal inference and research design: WP chapter 6
October 14	Fall break: no class
October 16	Fall break: no class
October 21	Finding, coding, and maintaining data
October 23	Finding, coding, and maintaining data

October 28	Peer review day: no class Literature review peer draft due
October 30	Peer review day: no class Literature review peer feedback due
November 4	Visualizing data Literature review final draft due
November 6	Statistics for social science research: WP chapter 9
November 11	Statistics for social science research: WP chapter 10
November 13	Presentation skills: WP chapter 7
November 18	Research proposal presentations
November 20	Research proposal presentations
November 25	Research proposal presentations
November 27	Research proposal presentations
December 2	Peer review day: no class Written research proposal peer draft due
December 6	Exam period: no class Written research proposal peer feedback due
December 11	Exam period: no class Written research proposal final draft due

Winter 2020

Dates	Activity
January 6	Preregistration and the philosophy of open science
January 8	Independent research day: no class
January 13	Peer review day: no class Preregistration peer draft due
January 15	Peer review day: no class Preregistration peer feedback due
January 20	Independent research day: no class Preregistration final draft due
January 22	Independent research day: no class
January 27	Individual meetings: no class
January 29	Individual meetings: no class
February 3	Independent research day: no class
February 5	Independent research day: no class
February 10	Individual meetings: no class, WP chapter 11
February 12	Individual meetings: no class
February 17	Winter break: no class
February 19	Winter break: no class
February 24	Research updates

February 26	Research updates
March 2	Independent research day: no class
March 4	Independent research day: no class
March 9	Individual meetings: no class
March 11	Individual meetings: no class
March 16	Final project presentations
March 18	Final project presentations
March 23	Final project presentations
March 25	Final project presentations
March 30	Peer review day: no class Written project peer draft due
April 1	Peer review day: no class
April 3	Written project peer feedback due
April 8	Written project final draft due