

**CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS**

**CRIM 2090**

**Prerequisites: .5 FCE in CRIM**

*Fall 2020*

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| Instructor name: Dr. Alana Saulnier | Email: alana.saulnier@lakeheadu.ca  |
| Office location: OA 3018 | Classroom location: myCourselink |
| Time and date: Web – online asynchronous | Office hours: Mon 9-11am or by appointment  |
| Marker: Daniel Scholte  | Email: dscholte@lakeheadu.ca |

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| **Course Description and Learning Outcomes** In this course you will learn how meaningful knowledge on topics relevant to the field of criminology is created. This begins with learning the foundation of scientific inquiry and the research process but will ultimately include learning about a range of specific research methods used by criminologists to *collect* data. Our objective is for you to come to be able to identify key goals, limitations, and data collection procedures associated with these various methods. In a practical sense, this course will provide you with the ability to: 1. Articulate basic scientific principles, concepts, and terminology.
2. List and describe appropriate methods for collecting data on criminological topics.
3. Produce annotated bibliographies that summarize key information in core criminological readings.
4. Identify when and why a specific research method is most appropriate for specific research questions you are interested in testing.
5. Produce a research proposal that includes testable research questions and describes appropriate methods of data collection.
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**COURSE MATERIALS**

**Required Text**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

***Older editions or the digital version of the text can be purchased for a reduced price. The digital copy of the text can be purchased through this link:***

<https://login.nelsonbrain.com/course/MTPPV4BNCFZ8>

**GRADING AND EVALUATION**

**Course Evaluation and Assessment Weighting**

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| Evaluation  | Due Date | Value |
| Online quizzes  | Fluctuating (see Assessment Details section) | 25% (5% x 5)  |
| Lecture-based assignments | Fluctuating (see Assessment Details section) | 10% |
| Email Professionalism assignments  | Fluctuating (see Assessment Details section) | 5% |
| Research question assignment  | October 22 | 5% |
| Annotated bibliography assignment and AIM Course  | November 05 | 10% |
| Research proposal  | December 01  | 20% |
| Synchronous final exam | TBD (December 10 – 20) | 25% |

**Assessment Details**

***Online Quizzes (5% x 5 = 25%)***

There will be SIX online quizzes held throughout the semester BUT only the FIVE that you perform best on will count towards your final grade. These quizzes are designed to keep you up-to-date on course readings and will focus on content covered in the course readings. The quizzes will be open book and available for you to take at your leisure from the time they are made available until the time each is due (see schedule below). Quizzes will not open until the due date for the preceding quiz has passed (e.g., Quiz 2 will not open until the due date for Quiz 1 has passed). Quizzes will NOT be cumulative. Each quiz will ONLY focus on the content covered since the last quiz. **All quizzes will consist of 20 multiple choice questions that you will have 40 minutes to complete from the time you begin the quiz. Quizzes are expected to be completed INDIVIDUALLY.** The due date schedule for the online quizzes is…

 Quiz 1: Sept 20, 11:59pm

 Quiz 2: Sept 27, 11:59pm

 Quiz 3: Oct 11, 11:59pm

 Quiz 4: Nov 01, 11:59pm

 Quiz 5: Nov 15, 11:59pm

 Quiz 6: Nov 29, 11:59pm

Late quizzes will be deducted 5% per day and will not be accepted more than (7) days after the deadline. Quizzes submitted more than (7) days after the deadline will result in a mark of 0.

***Lecture-based Assignments (10%)***

This course will adopt an interactive approach to applying basic research concepts and practices that will have you complete activities as a portion of your grade. Lecture-based assignments will take place on a regular basis, with materials and instructions posted alongside lecture videos in the “Content” tab. Lecture-based activities will be submitted via email to our course marker and are due weekly on Saturdays by 11:59pm. Specific submission instructions will be included with each lecture based activity. Are you thoroughly reading this syllabus? Good for you! Send me an email with the name of a song that you like and I will award you one point extra credit toward your final grade in this category.

***Email Professionalism Assignments (5%)***

Responsible professionals regularly check their emails and respond promptly and professionally. This assignment is intended to help you develop these important habits of email professionalism. The assignment is worth 5% of your final grade in the course. At two times of my choosing during the semester I will send an email to your Lakehead University account. You must respond to the email using the criteria outlined in the “Email Professionalism Assignment Instructions” in the “Assignments” tab on D2L. Each of your email responses is worth 2.5% of your final grade. Responses that do not conform to the instructions in their entirety will be given a grade of zero.

***Research Question Assignment (5%)***

You will prepare a mini research proposal (6-7 typed written pages, double spaced) on one of three topics provided by myself that most interests you. **Before completing this task, you should read the document called “CRIM 2090 Research Proposal Instructions” in the “Assignments” tab on D2L.**

The research proposal assignment will be completed in segments to encourage your success. The first segment is the Research Question Assignment. Complete instructions regarding this task are presented in the document called “CRIM 2090 Research Question Assignment Instructions” in the “Assignments” tab on D2L. The assignment must be submitted to D2L by 11:59pm on Oct 22.

***Annotated Bibliography Assignment and AIM Course (10%)***

You will prepare a mini research proposal (6-7 typed written pages, double spaced) on one of three topics provided by myself that most interests you. **Before completing this task, you should read the document called “CRIM 2090 Research Proposal Instructions” in the “Assignments” tab on D2L.**

The research proposal assignment will be completed in segments to encourage your success. The second segment is the Annotated Bibliography Assignment and AIM Course. Complete instructions regarding these tasks are presented in the document called “CRIM 2090 Annotated Bibliography Assignment Instructions” in the “Assignments” tab on D2L. These assignments must be submitted to D2L by 11:59pm on Nov 05.

***Research Proposal (20%)***

You will prepare a mini research proposal (6-7 typed written pages, double spaced) on one of three topics provided by myself that most interests you. Complete instructions regarding this task are presented in the document called “CRIM 2090 Research Proposal Instructions” in the “Assignments” tab on D2L. This assignment must be submitted to D2L by 11:59pm on Dec 01.

***Synchronous final Exam (25%)***

The final exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The exam will take place online during a two hour window scheduled during the formal exam period (Dec 10-20; date TBA) and will cover all lecture and reading materials throughout the semester. Review material will be provided on Dec 03 for the exam. **You are strongly advised not to plan any commitments, such as travel or work, during this period. Students will not be permitted to write the final exam on any date other than the alternative exam date without a valid reason for missing the original exam date.** There will be no rescheduling of examinations to accommodate travel or extracurricular activities. No one will be allowed to write examinations prior to the scheduled date.

**COURSE SCHEDULE, READINGS AND KEY DATES**

This is an online course. In the course website, under the “Content” tab, you will see that each week of the course is designated with a folder. Within each week’s folder, you will see two further folders represented the “first” and “second” class of the respective week. These folders will be labelled with the date schedule presented below. It is your responsibility to review the contents of these folders in a timely manner.

**Week 1:** **Introduction**

Posted by Sept 08: Course Introduction

 **Reading: None**

Posted by Sept 10: Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry

 **Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 1: Crime, Criminal Justice and Scientific Inquiry.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

**Week 2: Criminal Justice Inquiry**

Posted by Sept 15: Foundations of Criminal Justice Research I

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 2: Foundations of Criminal Justice Research.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Posted by Sept 17: Foundations of Criminal Justice Research II

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 3: Ethics and Criminal Justice Research.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

**Week 3: Structuring Criminal Justice Inquiry**

Posted by Sept 22: General Issues in Research Design

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 4: General Issues in Research Design.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Posted by Sept 24: Concepts, Operationalization and Measurement

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 5: Concepts, Operationalization and Measurement.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

**Week 4: Measuring Crime and Criminology Topics**

Posted by Sept 29: Measuring Crime and Criminology I

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 6: Measuring Crime.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Posted by Oct 01: Measuring Crime and Criminology II

**Reading: None**

**Week 5: Experimental and Quasi-experimental Designs**

Posted by Oct 06: Experimental and Quasi-experimental Designs I

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 7: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Posted by Oct 08: Experimental and Quasi-experimental Designs I

**Reading:** **None**

**FALL STUDY BREAK: OCT 12 – 16**

**Week 6: Research Proposal Workshop**

Posted by Oct 20: Developing a Research Proposal Workshop I

**Reading: None**

**Oct 22:** **QUESTIONS AND WORK PERIOD**

**Research Question Assignment due**

**Reading: None**

**Week 7: Survey Research**

Posted by Oct 27: Survey Research

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 9: Survey Research.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Posted by Oct 29: Sampling

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 8: Sampling.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

**Week 8: Field Observation**

Posted by Nov 03: Field Observation

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 11: Field Observation.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

**Nov 05:** **QUESTIONS AND WORK PERIOD**

**Annotated Bibliography Assignment and AIM Course due**

**Reading: None**

**Week 9: Qualitative Interviewing**

Posted by Nov 10: Qualitative Interviewing I

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 10: Qualitative Interviewing.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Posted by Nov 12: Qualitative Interviewing II

**Reading: None**

**Week 10: Content Analysis and Secondary Data**

Posted by Nov 17: Content Analysis and Secondary Data I

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 12: Agency Records, Content Analysis and Secondary Data.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Posted by Nov 19: Content Analysis and Secondary Data II

**Reading: None**

**Week 11: Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis**

Posted by Nov 24: Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis I

**Reading:**

Maxfield, M., G. & Babbie, E., R. (2018). **Chapter 13: Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis.** *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology Eighth Edition.* Cengage Learning.

Posted by Nov 26: Developing a Research Proposal Workshop II

**Reading: None**

**Week 12: Values and Research**

**Dec 01:** **QUESTIONS AND WORK PERIOD**

**Research Proposal due**

**Reading: None**

Posted by Dec 03: Values and Research

**Reading:**

Becker, H. S. (1966). Whose side are we on? *Social Problems*, *14*, 239.

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| Lakehead University Grading Scale |  |
| A+ | 90-100% |
| A | 80-89% |
| B | 70-79% |
| C | 60-69% |
| D | 50-59% |
| E Fail | 40-49% |
| F Fail | 1-39% |
| F Academic Dishonesty | 0% |

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Course Drop Deadline

Please be aware that the deadline to drop this course is November 06, 2020.

**Student Courtesy**

I expect all students to be respectful in their interactions with any person involved with the course, both in the class and online. Engaging in side conversations while your instructor or other students are talking is rude and distracting; doing so will result in you being asked to leave the classroom. You are welcome to use laptops during the class.

**Tests, Exams and Term Work**

If you are going to miss a test, it is very important that you email me as soon as you know that you will be missing the test. Missed tests will be accommodated only in extraordinary circumstances that are supported by written documentation from a healthcare practitioner using the official Student Health Certificate, available at

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/examination/medical-notes/node/10641>

Midterm examinations for full courses and final examination for all courses are scheduled by the Registrar’s Office. Students are strongly urged NOT to make any commitments (i.e., vacation, job related, or other travel plans) during either the term as a whole or the final examination period. Students are required to be available for all examinations during the periods for which they are scheduled (as published in course syllabus). It is your responsibility to check the final exam schedule and arrive at the scheduled date/time/location to avoid a grade of zero. There will be no rescheduling of examinations to accommodate holiday travel or extracurricular activities. No one will be allowed to write examinations prior to the scheduled date.

Extensions of deadlines for completion of assignments or writing of midterms/final examinations may be granted to students on the basis of illness, accident, or other extreme and legitimate circumstances beyond their control. Consideration for deferrals will not normally be granted on the basis of vacation/travel plans or job-related obligations.

**Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism, cheating and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Being caught engaging in any such activities will result in disciplinary action either within the course or at the university level. A listing of University Regulations can be found at: <http://navigator.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=21&chapterid=3506&loaduseredits=False>. The code of student behaviour and disciplinary procedures can be found at: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/policies/student-related/code-of-student-behaviour-and-disciplinary-procedures>.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of students who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly:

(a) The minimum penalty for a student found guilty of [plagiarism](http://navigator.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/definitions/Plagiarism.html), or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.
(b) A student found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated [plagiarism](http://navigator.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/definitions/Plagiarism.html), or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

**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 need your help in ensuring I accommodate you properly. More generally, Lakehead 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) coordinate 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 RESOURCES**

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, don’t 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, co-operative opportunities and leadership development. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre>.

**The Lakehead Library** provides access to resources, study rooms, and research support both online via chat and in person with more details available here <https://library.lakeheadu.ca/>.

## Public Computer Labs are available on campus where you may write and/or 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>.

**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>.