Professor: Chris L. Gibson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Criminology
Office: Turlington 3330
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30pm – 2:30pm; Thursday 9am – 10am
Email: clgibson@ufl.edu (I will try to respond to emails within 48 hours of receipt)

Lab Instructor: Dorothy Du, Doctoral Student
Office: Turlington 3347
Office Hours: Tuesday 2pm-5pm (also by appointment)
Email: duyu@ufl.edu

Lecture: Tuesday 10:40am – 11:30am (Room: CHE 0237)
Thursday 10:40am – 12:35pm (Room: TUR 2353)

Lab:
CLASS NUMBER 11844 Wed 10:40am – 11:30am (Room: Weil 0408E)
CLASS NUMBER 11872 Wed 11:45am – 12:35pm (Room: Weil 0408E)

Course Description

Criminologists and criminal justice practitioners should know how to use research methods and interpret results from empirical studies. They should understand research designs and statistical methods that are often necessary for answering questions about the criminal justice system and criminal behavior. They should be able to conduct searches for peer-reviewed scientific journal articles, and also be able to identify limitations of studies they read. Further, criminal justice practitioners should be familiar with the research process although many of them may never engage in actual research themselves. A practitioner who is able to understand this process will be better equipped for policy discussions.

This course will focus on the fundamentals of research design, measurement, and several quantitative data analysis techniques used by criminologists. Students will learn different types of research designs and terminology, as well as ethical practices involved in conducting research. In weekly labs students will often receive hands-on experience by analyzing criminological data while learning a statistical software package (i.e., SPSS).

Course Objective

1. Become informed consumers of criminological research
2. Learn how to formulate a research question and apply research terminology
3. Perform statistical analyses on criminological data
4. Learn how to disseminate and report research findings

Material

Students are required to read book chapters and articles posted electronically for each class period. The main readings for each week are listed in the course outline in this syllabus. Additional readings may be required as the course progresses, but such readings will always be announced and posted electronically. A USB drive is required for storing and saving data sets and statistical results during lab sessions.
Expectations

What can you expect from me?

1. Be interested and passionate about the course and the material
2. Help you understand the applicability of research methods
3. Challenge you to think about and apply course/lab material
4. Start and end class on time

What will I expect from you?

1. Attend class and show up on time
2. Finish reading assignments prior to lecture/lab and take complete notes
3. Complete all assignments on time
4. For success in most college courses, a student should put in 2 hours outside of class for each hour spent in class. (Especially important for a research methods course)

Course Requirements and Policies

ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED FOR ALL LABS. You earn 2.5 points for each lab session attended. It is important that you do not miss labs because valuable information and data exercises are discussed that are related directly to major assignments for this course. If you must miss a lab due to extremely extenuating circumstances, you MUST email your lab instructor BEFORE the lab session you are missing.

You are not allowed to choose which lab time you attend. Students must attend the lab associated with their course section.

Course Policies

1. Upon entering class all cell phones, Ipods, IPads, earphones, and MP3 players should be turned off. Failure to do so can result in me asking you to leave the class and return the following class period.

2. I do not give permission for students to audio or video record my lectures. The only exception to this policy is if a student has a documented disability. In this case he/she must provide me with the appropriate documentation from UF disability services stating this specific accommodation.

3. Makeup exams will be provided for students who have a university recognized excused absence such as: illnesses with a doctor’s excuse, serious family emergency, and participation in official university activities (athletics). If you must miss an exam due to extremely extenuating circumstances, you must notify me before the exam by email. All make-up exams will be scheduled on the same day as the final exam.

4. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student suspected of cheating will be failed on that particular assignment and referred to the University Honor Court. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, then you are strongly encouraged to refer to your Student Handbook @ (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) or discuss any concerns with the instructor.

5. Be respectful of your professor, lab instructor, and peers. Impulsively shouting out ideas and opinions will not be tolerated. If you want to share an insight, idea, or have a question please raise your hand. The expression of ideas will not be censored; however,
be prepared to defend your ideas. In addition, extend appropriate courtesy to each person in the class.

6. **I do not post my lecture notes on e-learning or canvas.** If you miss class it is your responsibility to borrow notes from a peer who attended the lecture you miss.

**Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at [https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/](https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/](https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/).

**Accommodations**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352.392.8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>300 points (3 exams * 100)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major Lab Assignments</td>
<td>250 points (5 assignments * 50)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Attendance</td>
<td>40 points (2.5 points per lab; first &amp; last lab are freebies)</td>
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**TOTAL POINTS:** 590 points

If you desire to convert your earned points into a percentage to determine course standing you will need to take the number of earned points and divide by the total number of possible points. For example, if you earned a total of 500 points your grade is 500/590 = .847 (84.7 which is a B).

You can also calculate your grade at anytime during the course by taking the number of earned points up to that point of the course and divide by the total number of possible points at that particular time of the course. For example, if you have earned 150 points of 200 possible in the course, then your grade at that particular moment in the course is 150/200 = .75 (75 which is a C)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>00-59</td>
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Exams:

Exam questions will come from lecture notes and assigned readings. Moreover, the exams may consist of multiple choice, short answer, and true/false questions. **The final exam is NOT comprehensive.**

Lab Assignments:

Students are required to complete 5 major lab assignments worth 50 points per assignment. These assignments are a major part of your course grade.

Taken together, assignments are designed to achieve the equivalent of a course paper that satisfies the Gordon Rule and the requirement of completing a data analysis project or research paper. The difference is that you will do this in smaller chunks that make the task of writing a major research paper less overwhelming and more manageable. The overarching goal of these assignments is to develop and test a criminological hypothesis by analyzing data provided to you by Dr. Gibson.

You will have two weeks to complete each assignment. These assignments will go hand and hand with materials covered in lab and lectures so it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you understand, and are able to apply, information covered in both.

Tentative Course Outline:
This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change depending on how the class progresses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Introduction to the Research Process</th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Fundamentals of Research</th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Ethical Issues when Conducting Research</th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Anti-Crime Initiative: Tampa, Florida</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Sept 10, 12)</td>
<td>Reading: Historical overview, research design, and secondary data (assigned reading week 4 folder) Developing a research question and hypothesis</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Measurement in Criminology</th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Exam Week 1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Sept 24, 26)</td>
<td>Exam 1 Review (Kahoot!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 26th – EXAM 1</td>
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Week 7  
(Oct. 1, 3)  
Reading:  
**Probability and Non-probability Sampling**  

Week 8  
(Oct 8, 10)  
Reading:  
**Survey Research in Criminology**  

Week 9  
(Oct 15, 17)  
Reading:  
**Causation and Experimental Designs**  


Week 10  
(Oct. 22, 24)  
Reading:  
**Univariate Statistics and Statistical Significance**  

Week 11  
(Oct 29, 31)  
Reading:  
**Exam Week 2**  
Exam 2 review (Kahoot!)

**Oct 31st - Exam 2**

Week 12  
(Nov 5, 7)  
Reading:  
**Bivariate Analysis: Correlation**  

Week 13  
(Nov 12, 14)  
Reading:  
**ASC Conference in San Francisco**  
NO CLASS

Week 14  
(Nov 19, 21)  
Reading:  
**Linear Regression (part 1)**  
TBA

Week 15  
(Nov 26, 28)  
Reading:  
**Linear Regression (part 2)**  
TBA

**Nov 28th - Thanksgiving**

Week 16  
(Dec 3)  
Reading:  
**Exam 3 Review**  
Dec 12th – Exam 3 (7:30am-9:30am)