

RESEARCH METHODS

CRIJ 4322 | FALL 2024

Undergraduate Course Syllabus

Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.

- Zora Neale Hurston



This syllabus was created to provide you with an overview of the learning expectations for this course. Additional assignment details, student resources, and UT Tyler policies and Information are provided on Canvas.

This course meets on campus in RBN 4024 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30PM - 1:50PM.

DR. DANIELLE BAILEY

My office is in the College of Arts & Sciences building, Office 135A. You can reach me at dbailey@uttyler.edu or 903.566.7432. My personal Zoom Meeting room ID is my office phone number.

I hold Open Office Hours on Tues/Thurs from 2:00PM to 4:00PM. During these times, I will be available in my office for student walk-in help, questions, and assistance. You can also schedule an appointment with me as needed. Please email appointment requests.

Course Description

This course provides a basic introduction to the principles, methods, and techniques of empirical social research. Topics include the fundamentals of the scientific method and scientific inquiry, ethical considerations in research, basic methods of quantitative and qualitative data collection, and strengths and weaknesses of various data collection methods. The course is designed to make you a more informed consumer of scientific research through discussion, analysis, and hands-on practice.

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Course Learning Objectives

By the completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Apply ethical guidelines to research proposals to identify potential risks such as harm to participants, lack of informed consent, and voluntary participation concerns
- Create a real-world measurement by conceptualizing and operationalizing an abstract concept into a specific survey measure
- Explain why research designs often deviate from ideal standards, including use of non-probability sampling, non-random assignment, lack of control groups, etc.
- Evaluate the reliability and validity of a research study based on its research design, sampling methods, data collection instrument, and analysis technique
- Construct a web-based survey to analyze the relationship between two variables
- Analyze variables using univariate and bivariate methods and illustrate your findings with correctly formatted graphs and tables

Student Learning Outcomes

This course is a required course for the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice at UT Tyler. Criminal Justice majors will be tested over the contents of this course during CRIJ 4355 (Senior Seminar), with the expectation that you can interpret and evaluate published research data as well as design and implement survey research on your own. For this reason, I recommend keeping all notes, readings, and assignment materials as future study aids.

Open Educational Resources

There are no required textbooks for this class!

This class is taught using Open Educational Resources (OER), meaning that you will be able to access all of the assigned readings for this course without paying anything. There are multiple OER resources used during this course. All readings are provided on Canvas as PDF files that you can download, print, and/or read online.

This course uses chapter(s) from the following OER textbooks:

- [Principles of Sociological Inquiry: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods](#) (2012), Saylor Academy.
- [Research Methods for Criminal Justice Students](#) (2022). Monica Williams
- [Research Methods for the Social Sciences: An Introduction](#) (n.d.). Valerie Sheppard

Dr. Bailey's Website

Additional instructional materials are provided for you on the Research Methods section of Dr. Bailey's website (link below). Use of Dr. Bailey's website is not required but is highly recommended for students seeking additional instruction or assistance with the course material.

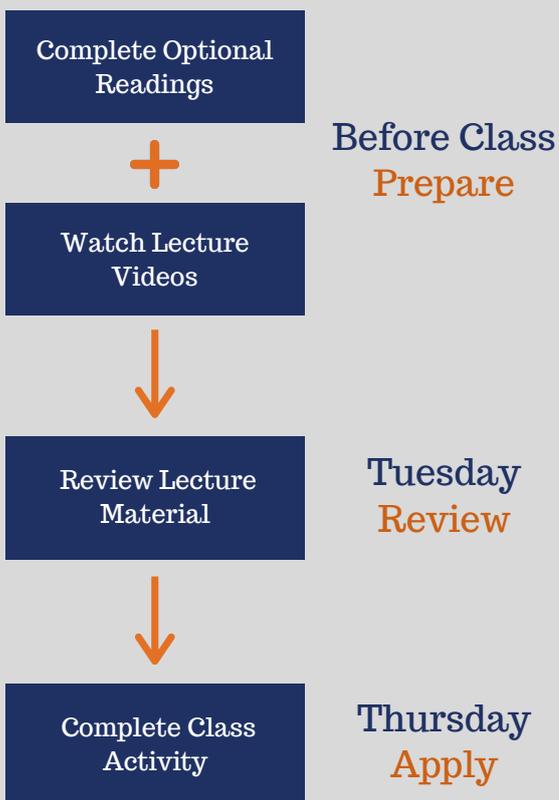
www.daniellebaileyphd.com



Course Assignments

Flipped Classroom

Welcome to our flipped classroom! This means you will review lecture materials before coming to class, allowing us to spend our class time on engaging, hands-on activities that are designed to deepen your understanding of the content. In order to make the most of class activities, it is important to come prepared with study notes and other materials. Regular class attendance is essential. For excused absences and emergencies, please contact me via email as early as possible.



Lecture Reviews

Lecture Reviews are designed to assess your understanding of core concepts from the material you learned before class. Conceptual questions and small group discussions will be used to help deepen your comprehension and prepare you for future application of core concepts.

Class Activities

Class activities are designed to help you apply the lecture material to real-world problems. A diverse range of activities (writing, hands-on, research, etc.) will be included to appeal to different learning styles and encourage student engagement. All class activities will be graded using a standardized rubric.

Data Analytics Certificate:

I'm excited to offer an extra credit opportunity through the Grow with Google Microcertificate Program in Data Analytics. This certificate will train you how to use R, SQL, and Tableau to visualize, organize, and analyze data - highly valued skills in today's criminal justice job markets. The full Data Analytics certificate includes eight modules. Each completed module will earn you a digital badge from Coursera that you can include on your resume and your professional social media accounts. You will also receive 20 extra credit points for each module you complete, with a maximum of 60 extra credit points. I strongly believe that these modules will be beneficial not only for this course but also for your future career success.



Research Project

The Research Project is a cumulative course project that is completed via a series of smaller assignments. There are two pathways through the research project: design a hypothetical study in a research proposal (Pathway A), or design a survey and collect your own data (Pathway B). You choose which pathway is best based on your area of interest, desired time spent out of class on research, and your continuing education goals. Both pathways will include an oral presentation and written assignments.



Writing in the Course:

This course contains several writing assignments. I encourage you to visit the UT Tyler Writing Center. They offer on-campus (CAS 202) or online appointments with trained writing tutors that can help you revise and edit your written assignments before you submit them.

Make an appointment TODAY!
[Writing Center Website](#)

Project Pathways

There are two pathways through the research project. Short descriptions are provided below, with more detailed information and grading rubrics provided on Canvas.

Pathway A: Hypothetical Study

This pathway requires you to brainstorm and assess three unique methodologies to answer your research question. This pathway has more research and writing requirements than Pathway B.

- Topic Selection (5 points)
- CITI Certificate (25 points)
- Annotated Bibliography (50 points)
- Meeting with Dr. Bailey (25 points)
- Proposal Presentation (100 points)
- Research Proposal (75 points)

Pathway A: Survey Project

This pathway requires you to design and disseminate a survey to answer your research question. This pathway requires data analysis and more outside of class time than Pathway A.

- Topic Selection (5 points)
- CITI Certificate (25 points)
- Meeting with Dr. Bailey (25 points)
- Proposal and Survey (100 points)
- Findings Presentation (100 points)
- Data Analysis Files (25 points)

GRADES

Research Project

Pathway A

Topic Selection	5 points
CITI Certificate	25 points
Annotated Bibliography	50 points
Proposal Meeting	25 points
Proposal Presentation	100 points
Research Proposal	75 points

Pathway B

Topic Selection	5 points
CITI Certificate	25 points
Proposal Meeting	25 points
Proposal and Survey	100 points
Findings Presentation	100 points
Data Analysis Files	25 points

Research Project Points:

280

Individual Assignments

Lecture Video Quizzes	230 points
Lecture Review (drop lowest)	110 points
Class Activities (drop lowest)	80 points
Exam #1	100 points
Exam #2	100 points
Exam #3	100 points

Individual Assignment Points:

720

Total Points Possible

1,000

Grading Scale

900 or more points	A
800 - 899 points	B
700 - 799 points	C
600 - 699 points	D
Less than 600 points	F



Assignment Submissions

All assignments will be submitted during class or Canvas. Due dates for all assignments are provided in the detailed Course Schedule, available in the Welcome Module of the Canvas course. I encourage you to use the Canvas Calendar to keep track of the course assignments and upcoming deadlines.

My Response Time

I try to respond to all emails and voicemails within one business day. I reserve weekends, holidays, and school breaks for my family, so response time may be longer at these times. I try to grade all assignments, activities, and exams within two weeks of the due date. Much of the time you will be able to see grades sooner than the times listed. However, there are times when it takes longer to grade assignments, so please be patient if you do not see your grades immediately.

Open Office Hours

I hold Open Office Hours each week. During these times, I can go over assignments, discuss quizzes/exams, and answer any questions about course material. When I am holding Open Office Hours, I will be available in my campus office (CAS 135A) unless I have informed you otherwise. If you are unable to visit me during my scheduled office hours and need help, please feel free to contact me via email and set up an appointment. I can set up on-campus or video-conferencing appointments as necessary.

Late Assignments

I do not accept late written assignments in this course. However, I recognize that life sometimes interferes in your plans, so there are multiple assignments that can be dropped without penalty. Canvas will automatically drop the lowest lecture review and class activity score. This means you can miss up to two class periods (one week of class) without a reduction in points. Additionally, the lecture video quizzes can be completed late without penalty, so even if you miss class you can still receive the class concepts from that module.

If life circumstances arise that will cause substantial disruption to your workload beyond these accommodations, please reach out to me to discuss possible alternatives.

**It always seems
impossible until it's done.**

- Nelson Mandela

**I'm Here to Help
You Succeed**



During the course, if you experience any situation that impacts your physical, mental, or emotional health, please reach out to me by email. My goal is to help you be successful in the course, so I am happy to discuss alternative options if it becomes necessary.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policies

UT Tyler's AI Policy

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

Dr. Bailey's AI Policy

In this course, I encourage you to use AI programs (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) to help you complete your coursework. These programs can be powerful tools for learning and other productive pursuits, including completing assignments in less time, helping you generate new ideas, and serving as a personalized learning tool. However, your ethical responsibilities as a student remain the same. You must follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. This applies to all uncited or improperly cited content, whether created by a human

or in collaboration with an AI tool. If you use an AI tool to develop content for an assignment, you must cite the tool's contribution to your work. Because AI-generated content is not necessarily accurate or appropriate, you must assess the validity and applicability of any submitted AI output. You will not earn full credit if inaccurate, invalid, or inappropriate information is found in your work.

Written assignments in this course will require an AI Use Statement explaining how AI was used, if at all, for the assignment. You should provide details on what your goals were for the AI program, what prompts you used, and how you used the results from AI to create your submission. This statement can be submitted as a separate page at the end of the assignment, a separate document attached to the Canvas submission form, or as a comment on the Canvas submission form.

Citing AI Sources

You must acknowledge your use of Artificial Intelligence programs in your written work using proper APA format. See below.

In-text citation

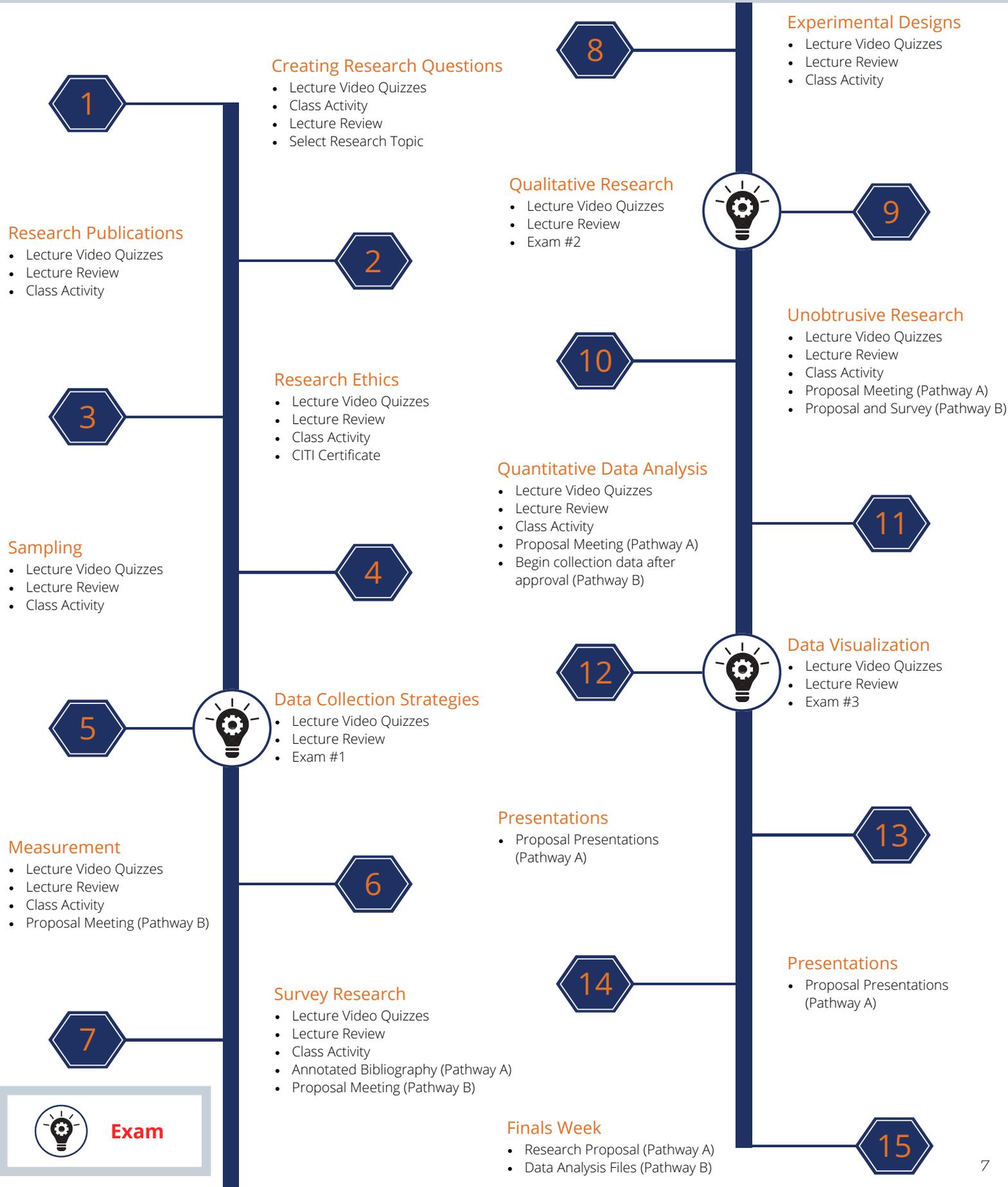
(Copilot, 2024)

Reference citation

Copilot. (2024). Microsoft Copilot (Sep 1 version) [Large language model].
<https://copilot.microsoft.com/>

Learn more about APA format and AI sources: [How to cite ChatGPT](#)

CLASS SCHEDULE





RESOURCES

College of Arts & Sciences Advising

College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) 215
903.565.7389
advising@uttyler.edu

Bookstore

University Center (UC)
903.566.7070
bookstore@uttyler.edu

Campus Computing & Technology Support

Ratcliff Building North (RBN) 3022
903.565.5555
itsupport@uttyler.edu

Muntz Library

Robert R. Muntz Library (LIB)
903.566.7343
library@uttyler.edu

Military & Veterans Success Center

University Center (UC) 3440
903.565.5972
mvsc@uttyler.edu

Patriot Pantry

Muntz Library (LIB) 223
patriotspantry@uttyler.edu

Student Accessibility Office

University Center (UC) 3150
903.565.7079
saroffice@uttyler.edu

Student Counseling Center

903.565.5746 (online appointments available)
counselingandwellness@uttyler.edu

University Health Clinic

University Health Clinic (UHC)
903.939.7870
wellness@uttyler.edu

UT Tyler Police Department

University Service Center (USC) 125
903.566.7300
police@uttyler.edu

Writing Center

College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) 212
uttyler.mywconline.com (online scheduling)
writingcenter@uttyler.edu

One Stop Service Center

Stewart Hall (STE) 230
903.566.7180
enroll@uttyler.edu or cashiers@uttyler.edu
One Stop Service Center includes:

- Cashier's Office
- Enrollment Services
- Financial Aid
- Student Business Services

Crisis Help Line
Available 24/7
903.566.7254

