

Syllabus for CCJ 6706: Quantitative Research Methods

Spring 2009

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Office Hours: Mondays (3:00 – 4:00)
Tuesdays and Thursdays (10:00 – noon)
*Other hours by appointment

Course Description

This course introduces graduate students to quantitative social science research and its applications to the field of criminology and criminal justice. This course examines techniques used in research, discusses how to design and conduct research projects, and how to analyze the results of such projects utilizing advanced computer statistical analysis software.

Course Objectives

1. To learn elementary methods of quantitative data analysis within the context of criminological research and peer-reviewed publications.
2. To develop a conceptual understanding of techniques and the ability to interpret quantitative results.
3. To demonstrate critical thinking skills at a level appropriate for graduate-level education in the social sciences.

Required Textbook

Vito, G. F., Blankenship, M. B., & Kunselman, J. C. (2008). *Statistical analysis in criminal justice and criminology: A user's guide* (2nd ed.). Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc.

A calculator is also required for the course

Grading Policy

There will be two (2) areas that comprise the grading for this course: exams and homework assignments.

Exams

There will be three exams; each exam will cover approximately one-third of the course material. Exams will be a combination of short answer/essay and statistical problems, and each exam will be worth 100 points. Students should bring a calculator for the exams. I will provide all necessary tables to complete the problems.

Homework

There will be 10 homework assignments over the course of the semester. Each homework assignment will be worth a maximum of 10 points, and I will **not** accept late assignments. You will have the opportunity to re-do each homework assignment after I return it, in order to earn a maximum of one-half of the points lost from the original grade. Revised homework assignments are due the class after I return them, and they must be re-worked in its **entirety**.

Based on the above information, final course grades will be based on the following:

Exam #1:	100 points
Exam #2:	100 points
Exam #3:	100 points
Homework:	100 points

Total: 400 points

Final grades will be based on the following total points:

360 – 400 points (90% - 100%)	=	A
320 – 359 points (80% - 89%)	=	B
280 – 319 points (70% - 79%)	=	C
260 – 279 points (65% - 69%)	=	D
≤ 259 points (≤ 64%)	=	F

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating, in any form, will not be tolerated. All suspected cases will be handled according to the Academic Integrity Policy at UNF (see graduate catalog).

Disability Statement

Students with disabilities who seek reasonable accommodations in the classroom or other aspects of performing their coursework must first register with the UNF Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in Building 10, Room 1201. DRC staff members work with students to obtain required documentation of disability and to identify appropriate accommodations as required by applicable disability laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). After receiving all necessary documentation, the DRC staff determines whether a student qualifies for services with the DRC and if so, the accommodations the student will be provided. DRC staff then prepares a letter for the student to provide faculty advising them of approved accommodations. For further information, contact the DRC by phone (904) 620-2769, email (kwebb@unf.edu), or visit the DRC website (<http://www.unf.edu/dept/disabled-services>).

Classroom Civility

Students and faculty alike should strive to create a class environment that reflects mutual respect and the importance of learning. If a student's behavior threatens to disrupt that environment, the faculty member has a responsibility to seek resolution of the problem.

A faculty member is empowered to request that a student leave during particular class period if, in the measured opinion of that faculty member, the student:

1. Significantly disrupts the learning process, or
2. Is a threat to others.

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND COURSE SCHEDULE:

These reading assignments are tentative and subject to change, depending on how the course develops over time. However, an effort will be made to follow the schedule as closely as possible. Again, it is stressed that class attendance is important, in order to receive all information for which you will be responsible, complete the course requirements, and to be notified of any schedule revisions.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading Due
Week 1: (1/6/09)	Course overview	
Week 2: (1/13/09)	Purpose of statistics/ Summarizing data	Chs. 1-3
Week 3: (1/20/09)	Measures of central tendency & dispersion	Chs. 4-5
Week 4: (1/27/09)	Normal distributions	Ch. 7
Week 5: (2/3/09)		Exam #1
Week 6: (2/10/09)	Chi-square	Ch. 6
Week 7: (2/17/09)	T-test	Ch. 8
Week 8: (2/24/09)	ANOVA	Ch. 9
Week 9: (3/3/09)		Exam #2
Week 10: (3/10/09)		No class: Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences' Conference
Week 11: (3/17/09)		No class: Spring Break
Week 12: (3/24/09)	Correlation	Ch. 10
Week 13: (3/31/09)	Regression	Ch. 11
Week 14: (4/7/09)	Using statistics in research	Ch. 12 & articles in Blackboard
Week 15: (4/14/09)		Exam #3
Final exam time: 4/21/09 (6:00 to 7:50)		Final activity