

**WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION**

**FACULTY MEMBER:**

**TERM:**

**COURSE TITLE: Research Methods in Criminal Justice**

**COURSE NUMBER:**

**OFFICE HOURS/METHOD OF CONTACT:**

**Technical Requirements that may be required to utilize technology in this course:**

- A headset or microphone
- A webcam

**I. RATIONALE:**

Students graduating with a degree in criminal justice must understand the basics of the research process and interpretation of research data. Professionals employed in criminal justice agencies will need to critically evaluate research and determine the appropriateness of its methods and the legitimacy of its conclusions.

**II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:**

**GOAL A:**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of research and an appreciation of its role in the field of criminal justice.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- A-1 Understand the purpose of research
- A-2 Understand the standard methods of research
- A-3 Understand the nature of variables in research

**GOAL B:**

Students will understand and be able to explain the steps of the research process.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- B-1 Specify a study's goals or objectives
- B-2 Define a study's parameters, such as population, sample, and variables
- B-3 Specify the techniques and procedures used to achieve the study's goals or objectives.
- B-4 Describe the process of collecting relevant data

**GOAL C:**

Students will contrast major types of research design, including when and why each is used.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- C-1 Identify and describe historical and archival research
- C-2 Identify and describe descriptive research
- C-3 Identify and describe survey research
- C-4 Identify and describe correlational research
- C-5 Identify and describe experimental and quasi-experimental research
- C-6 Identify and describe field research

**GOAL D:**

Students will understand the process of data collection and sampling.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- D-1 Demonstrate an understanding of the process of asking questions
- D-2 Demonstrate an understanding of the process of direct observation
- D-3 Demonstrate an understanding of the use of existing records in research
- D-4 Demonstrate an understanding of the use of multiple data sources
- D-5 Examine studies that.

F-1 Discuss the

- Utilize content from the scholarly sources
- Please read the rubric for specific details to help you develop your final draft.

**4. Oral Presentation:** In addition to a written review of your research, students will be asked to develop an oral presentation on their research topic.

The oral presentation should:

- Discuss relevant research findings
- Review the strengths and limitations of the cited research
- Discuss the conclusions and implications of your research
- The goal should be for a concise, informative review of your work, with a target of about 5 minutes in length
- Please use technology to present your findings. Some options include:
  - [Kaltura](#)
  - [Prezi](#)
- Please review our rubric to familiarize yourself with the grading criteria for this assignment.

**5. Research Scenario Exercises:** Along with the development of our literature review, students will be learning about different research methods each week, and the research scenario exercises are designed to help mark progress in the skills related to conducting research, including developing research questions, and reading and reviewing scholarly research. Our research scenario exercises include:

- a. Week 1-Introduction to Research
- b. Week 2- Article Summary
- c. Week 4- Sampling Assignment
- d. Week 6- Article Analysis

**6. Mini-Research Studies:** Students will also be given the opportunity to design research questions and propose ways to collect data to answer research questions via our mini-study assignments. Mini-studies will be assigned on the following schedule:

- a. Survey Mini-Study: Week 3
- b. Observational Mini-Study: Week 4
- c. Experimental or Quasi-Experimental Mini-Study: Week 5



