



Instructor: Luzi Shi
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Course Description and Goals

This course will introduce you to the major types of data and analyses used by criminologists, and seek to make students better consumers of social scientific research reported by the media or used in political or policymaking debates. By the end of the course, students should have a comprehensive and clear understanding of the following topics:

- Think analytically about issues in criminal justice research
- Outline the major steps in empirical research
- Evaluate and understand when to use different methods for collecting data
- Understand the importance of research methods to the field of criminal justice

Course Materials

- Each week you will read a book chapter/journal article or readings summarized by me in lecture slides. You don't need to buy a book on your own.
- We will cover 13 different topics over 13 weeks of classes. Each week you are expected to do the readings carefully. You will also watch one to two video clips recorded by different scholars and research institutions on these topics. All lecture slides and videos are mandatory.

Instruction Contact Information

- Feel free to e-mail me with any questions or concerns about this course. I will make sure to respond to you within 24 hours.
- Since this class is fully online, all of my communication with students will take place over e-mail. This means that you have to **CHECK YOUR E-MAIL REGULARLY**. I am going to assume that you are checking your e-mail at least **ONCE A DAY**. If you are going to be away from Internet access for more than that amount of time, please let me know beforehand.
- Every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., you can join me and your classmates in a virtual office hour. Links to the virtual meetings will be posted on Blackboard in advance. I am also happy to schedule personal virtual appointments with you as needed. You are encouraged to meet with me virtually to ensure comprehension of the course material.

Evaluation Rules

- The total grade is 100 points. There will be 15 extra credits for you to grab throughout this semester.
- Your performance in this class is evaluated through: 1) quizzes, worth 60% of the total grade; and 2) assignments, worth 40% of the total grade.
- You should be aware that the subjects we cover are generally cumulative in nature. As a result, areas covered early in the course are relevant throughout the entire course.
- If you have questions about the grade you received on an assignment, I am happy to answer those questions and to suggest ways that you can do better.
- If you do not think that the grade you received reflects the quality of your work, you may ask for the answers to be graded again. To do so, submit a formal appeal in writing, explaining why you think the grade you received is not a fair reflection of the quality of your work. The new grade, whether high or lower, will then become your final grade on this assignment.
- There are no opportunities to re-take tests or to do extra-credit work requested by the students in this course.
- At the end of the semester, I will calculate your grade as described above and that grade becomes your final grade. I will not increase any person's grade solely to change their letter grade. So if you make an 89, you will make a B+, not an A-. No amount of pleading will change this outcome. Particularly common and ineffective are pleas claiming that your grade in this class will cause you to lose a scholarship, prevent you from attending the graduate or professional school of your choice, or lead to some other unfortunate, but unlikely, consequence.

Quizzes

- Each week there will be a quiz of 5 questions (multiple choice and true/false), each question is worth 1 point. Throughout this semester, there will be altogether 60 questions, worth 60 points out of the total grade of 100 points.
- Because the quizzes are based entirely on readings, I will go through everyone's answers each week and check to make sure that none of the questions are too tricky, specific, or vague. If any question is answered correctly less than 30% of the time, I'll assume it is unfairly difficult and give everyone credit for it.

- There is no opportunity to retake the quiz. If your Internet breaks off while you take the quiz, let me know immediately and I will give you two short-answer questions to finish in lieu of the quiz (2.5 points per question). The short-answer questions are of the same difficulty levels with the quizzes and should take less than 30 minutes to finish.

Assignments

- Throughout the semester, there are three worksheet assignments. When you start your own research, worksheet is a great (if not the best) way to help you stay organized of the literatures and bibliographies. The three worksheet assignments are designed to help you understand and decompose the important components of criminological research papers. The worksheet assignment focus on decomposing the article Sugie et al. (2019). You are expected to understand how the authors conduct the literature review, form research questions and hypotheses, measure the variables, and do the experiment. Each assignment is worth 10 points and 10% of the total grade. Detailed instructions and grading scales will be posted in advance on Blackboard.
- You are required to take the CITI training. The CITI certificate is worth 10% of the total grade.

Extra Credits

- Each week you can get 1 extra credit by posting a response to the assigned discussion topic on Blackboard. The discussion topics are designed to help you develop a research project on your own and exchange ideas with your classmates.
- In the first week, you can get up to 2 extra credits by completing the first weekly five-question quiz, which is about the syllabus and course overview.

Late Work and Missed Work

- Late assignments will be penalized by 1 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 5 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late work is 50% (5 points).
- If you are late for the quizzes, contact me and I will give you two short-answer questions to finish in lieu of the quizzes (2.5 points per question). The short-answer questions are of the same difficulty levels with the quizzes and should take less than 30 minutes to finish. Late submissions will be penalized by 1 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 2 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late submission is 2 points.
- If you are late for the extra credit assignments, you will not get any extra credits, including the first-week quiz and the weekly discussion posts.
- If you need to miss an exam or any assignment, you *must have a university-approved excuse*. The university policy regarding absences and make-up work can be found here: <https://catalog.bridgew.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=486&hl=prerequisite+policy&returnto=search>.
- If you need to make up an assignment, you must do so within a week of returning from your excused absence.

Grading Scale

A: 100-94	B: 86-84	C: 76-74	D: 66-64
A-: 93-90	B-: 83-80	C-: 73-70	D-: 63-60
B+: 89-87	C+: 79-77	D+: 69-67	F: 59 or below

Syllabus Change Policy

- The syllabus is designed to be a resource that students should use throughout the semester. While this syllabus lists readings and test dates, students should use the course website and Blackboard as their primary source for detailed information regarding the course. This is important because the instructor may update or modify assignments and readings throughout the course. In the situation of change or modification, the instructor will post changes under the “Announcements” tab on Blackboard.

Academic Honor Policy

- I do not tolerate academic misconduct of any kind. This includes, but is not limited to cheating and plagiarism. The most common reason students resort to plagiarism or cheating is running out of time to do the assignment properly. Please plan accordingly and be sure to allow yourself sufficient time to complete all assignments. As a student at BSU, it is your responsibility to understand and abide by University policies: <https://catalog.bridgew.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=970>
- Please take time to understand the nature of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes turning in the same work to more than one class, not citing sources correctly, not paraphrasing correctly, etc.
- Failure to abide by any classroom or BSU policy may result in one or more of the following actions depending on the severity of the offense: 1) written warning, 2) reduction of the course grade, 3) failure of the course, and 4) referral to the Dean

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

- BSU makes every effort to accommodate the unique needs of its students. In keeping with university policy, students are expected to contact the Disability Resources Office (DRO) each time they register for a course to request accommodations for that course. DRO then provides a letter to the instructor for the upcoming class. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation for a documented disability should contact the Disability Resources Office at 508-531-2194, TTY 508- 531-6113, or email at DisabilityResources@bridgew.edu for review and approval of accommodation requests.

Title IX and Sexual Violence

- BSU is committed to maintaining safe and healthy learning, living and working environments that are free from all forms of sexual violence; inclusive of sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and retaliation. The Office of Equal Opportunity and the Title IX Coordinator work to ensure that all members of the campus community flourish in a supportive and

fair climate. Consistent with this commitment, the BSU sexual violence policy complies with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendment of 1972 (“Title IX”), which prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in education programs and activities, as well as the retaliation for the purposes of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX. To learn more regarding all resources for victim-survivors see <https://my.bridgew.edu/departments/affirmativeaction/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

*All readings and videos are **mandatory** and provided on Blackboard.*

Theme	Week*	Assignments	Evaluations
Section I: Getting Started with Questions and Motivations I.1. The importance of research	#1 (W, 09/02 - T, 09/08)	1) Syllabus 2) Video on introduction to research methods: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kB4gKoS4MNw 3) Read the <u>Conclusion</u> section from Tonry (2010). 4) Video on the importance of research: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkWmjCWMENg&t=1s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Tuesday 09/08 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. It is open-book. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. You can get up to 2 extra credits by completing the quiz before the deadline (0.4 extra credit per question). The quiz covers content from the syllabus, the reading, and the videos. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 09/08 at 5p.m.
I.2. Research questions, hypotheses, and variables	#2 (T, 09/08 – T, 09/15)	1) Lecture slides on research questions, hypotheses, and variables 2) Video on reach question, hypothesis, and variables: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_BmjujIZExQ&t=5s 3) Video on variables: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6N6g43JqMz4&t=181s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Tuesday 09/15 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from the lecture slides and the videos. Worksheet assignment 1 due Tuesday 09/29 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 09/15 at 5p.m.
I.3 Theoretical framework and literature review	#3 (T 09/15 – T, 09/22)	1) Lecture slides on theoretical motivation and literature review 2) Video on how to do literature review: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIYC6zG265E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Tuesday 9/22 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the lecture slides and video. Worksheet assignment 1 due Tuesday 09/29 at 5p.m. You should have a draft for your assignment this week. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 09/22 at 5p.m.
II. Measuring What You Want to Study: 1. What is measurement?	#4 (T, 09/22 – T, 09/29)	1) Lecture slides on measurement 2) Video on operationalization: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imZuOdjBQLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Tuesday 9/29 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the lecture slides and video. Worksheet assignment 1 due Tuesday 09/29 at 5p.m. Late submissions will be penalized by 1 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 5 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late work is 50%. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 09/29 at 5p.m.
II.2. Finding measures in existing data	#5 (T, 09/29 – T, 10/06)	1) Lecture slides on secondary data about crime and criminal justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Tuesday 10/06 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from the lecture slides. Worksheet assignment 2 due Tuesday 10/20 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 10/06 at 5p.m.
II.3 Creating self-report measures	#6 (T, 10/06 – T, 10/13)	1) Lecture slides on survey question design 2) Video on question wording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFzGdQrr2K8&t=89s 3) Video on survey question design: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iq_fhT_uY1hw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 8-question quiz is due Tuesday 10/13 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 0.5 points. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the lecture slides and videos. Worksheet assignment 2 due Tuesday 10/20 at 5p.m. You should have a draft for the assignment in this week. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 10/13 at 5p.m.

<p>III. Collecting Data Using Surveys and Experiments: 1. Probability sampling</p>	<p>#7 (T, 10/13 – T, 10/20)</p>	<p>1) Video on probability sampling: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnibC2MNGG4&t=992s (from 3:00 to 21:50) 2) Lecture slides on probability sampling 3) Video on random sampling: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sonXfzElhvo&t=20s</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 8-question quiz is due Tuesday 10/20 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 0.5 points. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the lecture slides and videos. Worksheet assignment 2 due Tuesday 10/20 at 5p.m. Late submissions will be penalized by 1 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 5 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late work is 50%. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 10/20 at 5p.m.
<p>III. 2. Non-probability sampling</p>	<p>#8 (T, 10/20 – T, 10/27)</p>	<p>1) Lecture slides on non-probability sampling 2) Video on nonprobability surveys: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9dmq6Lwh24 3) Video on nonprobability sampling: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnibC2MNGG4&t=992s (from 21:50 to 27:00)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Tuesday 10/27 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the lecture slides and videos. Worksheet assignment 3 due Tuesday 11/17 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now. You can get 1 extra credits by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 10/27 at 5p.m.
<p>III.3 Modes of survey</p>	<p>#9 (T,10/27 – T, 11/03)</p>	<p>1) Lecture slides on web survey design 2) Video on mode effect: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRK_dXay5HY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Tuesday 11/03 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the lecture slides and video. Worksheet assignment 3 due Tuesday 11/17 at 5p.m. You can start working on it now. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 11/03 at 5p.m.
<p>III.4 Causal inference and experimental manipulation</p>	<p>#10 (T, 11/03 – T, 11/10)</p>	<p>1) Lecture slides on experiments 2) Video on experiments: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQ3W MuWQLs0&t=277s</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Tuesday 11/10 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the lecture slides and video. Worksheet assignment 3 due Tuesday 11/17 at 5p.m. You should have a draft for this assignment in this week. You can get 5 extra credits by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 11/10 at 5p.m.
<p>IV. Qualitative Research</p>	<p>#11 (T, 11/10 – T, 11/17)</p>	<p>1) King et al. (1994). Two styles of research, one logic of inference 2) Video on qualitative criminological research: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjDURViPVY&t=1270s (from beginning to 43:00)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Tuesday 11/17 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the reading and video. Worksheet assignment 3 due Tuesday 11/17 at 5p.m. Late submissions will be penalized by 1 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 5 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late work is 50%. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 11/17 at 5p.m.
<p>V. Ethics</p>	<p>#12 (T, 11/17 – T, 11/24)</p>	<p>1) Chapter 3 in Maxfield & Babbie 2) Video on Stanford prison experiment: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRR7CwdHxUE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly 5-question quiz is due Tuesday 11/24 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. The quiz covers content from both the book chapter and video. CITI training assignment due Tuesday 12/08 at 5p.m. You should start working on it this week. You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 11/24 at 5p.m.

VI. Interpreting and Critiquing Research	#13 (T, 12/01 – T, 12/08)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lecture slides on inferential statistics and p hacking 2) Video on statistical significance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwBW1aWic_Y 3) Video on p value: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyknGvncKLw 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly 5-question quiz is due Tuesday 12/08 at 5p.m. You can take the quiz any time before then. Each question is worth 1 point. It is open-book. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There is NO chance to retake it once you have finished it. The quiz will not reopen after the due date. • The quiz covers content from both the lecture slides and videos. • CITI training assignment due Tuesday 12/08 at 5p.m. Late submissions will be penalized by 1 point for each day they are late. This will max out at 5 days, meaning that the most you can have deducted for late work is 50%. • You can get 1 extra credit by participating in the discussion posting a comment to the assigned discussion topic by Tuesday 12/08 at 5p.m.
M: Monday; T: Tuesday; W: Wednesday; Th: Thursday; F: Friday; S: Sunday. All dates are in 2020.			