

## Marshall University Course Syllabus

### CJ 302: Criminal Justice Research Methods

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Course Name       | CJ 302: Criminal Justice Research Methods           |
| Department        | Criminal Justice & Criminology                      |
| Semester          | Fall 2018   |
| Time              | 12:30-1:45 T/TR                                     |
| Location          | 418   |
| Name              | Dr. Stephen Young                                   |
| Email             | Young250@marshall.edu                               |
| Telephone         | 304-696-3082  |
| Office            | Smith Hall 734 Office Hours: 9-1050 MWF 11-1230T/TR |
| Course Start Date | August 20, 2018                                     |
| Course End Date   | December 14, 2018                                   |

For course start and end dates, as well as other deadlines such as add/drop and withdraw, go to the Academic Calendar <http://www.marshall.edu/calendar/academic/>

### Course Materials

The following text is required for this course:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Title     | Basics of Research Methods for Criminal Justice |
| Author(s) | Maxfield, M.G. and Babbie, E.R.                 |
| Publisher | Cengage Publishing                              |
| Edition   | 2016  |
| ISBN      | ISBN-13: 978-1-305-26110-5                      |

Textbooks and materials may be ordered online at the Marshall University Bookstore <http://www.bkstr.com/marshallstore/home/en>

### Course Details

Catalog Description: Logic of social research methods, survey research, methods of evaluation, sampling, and the contrast between qualitative and quantitative criminal justice research (Marshall University Undergraduate Catalog).

Credit Hours: 3

### Computer Requirements

A student must have a computer or access to one, as well as access to the internet to send and receive email messages. If you are using an email account other than your Marshall email account, you must set your Marshall email account to forward to your other account.

Furthermore, a Blackboard shell will be used during the course. There, I will post a copy of your syllabus, PowerPoints, and other important documents for the course (handouts, grades, etc.). I will also use Blackboard to track your grade progress in the course.

Requirements (this includes plug-ins, hardware/software check, etc.) for a MU Online course-<http://www.marshall.edu/wpmu/muonline/2011/11/07/computer-requirements/>

Help Desk – for technical assistance 877-689-8638 (Toll free)  
<http://www.marshall.edu/ucs/cs/helpdesk/>

Troubleshooting – for username/password problems, computer problems, and course tool problems-<http://www.marshall.edu/selfservice/loginselfservices/index.php>

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions -  
<http://www.marshall.edu/wpmu/muonline/category/skb/>

**Program Learning Outcomes**

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE & CRIMINOLOGY PROGRAM**

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice, and in part emphasized and reinforced through this course, undergraduate students will be able to:

1. Differentiate Among Criminal Justice System Components, Roles, and Practices--Students will define and properly use specialized terms to describe, explain, and differentiate the components, roles, and practices of the criminal justice system.
2. Apply Theory in Criminal Justice and Criminology--Students will describe, explain, and differentiate major theories and theorists in criminal justice and criminology, and use one or more of these theories to explain a selected behavior (e.g., crime), event (e.g. victimization), or policy response (e.g., law).

**Course Learning Outcomes**

| Course Outcomes  | How Each Outcome is Practiced in this Course                | How Each Outcome is Evaluated in this Course |
|--|---|--|
| A. Students will describe the fundamentals of social scientific inquiry, the link between theory and research, and policy.   | In-class lectures and activities, readings, and discussions | Quizzes, assignments, and exams              |
| B. Compare and contrast the different approaches to research design, including survey methods, experimental and quasi-experimental design, case studies, field research, content analysis, and secondary data. | In-class lectures and activities, readings, and discussions | Quizzes, assignments, and exams              |

|    |   |   |                                 |
|----|---|---|---------------------------------|
| C. | Apply basic statistical techniques used in criminal justice research to interpret data  | In-class lectures and activities, readings, and discussions | Quizzes, assignments, and exams |
| D. | Articulate their future roles as both producers and consumers of research   | In-class lectures and activities, readings, and discussions | Quizzes, assignments, and exams |
| E. | Develop methodological and critical thinking skills by conducting research and utilizing the research library databases                               | Library research activities                                 | Research exercises              |
| F. | Select a criminological issue and produce a research design using professional language while adhering to the APA guidelines for citation/referencing | In-class lectures and activities, readings, and discussions | Research exercises              |

**Assessment Measures & Grading Criteria**

**Assessment Measures**

|     | Item                | Activity                   | Value (Points) |
|-----|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| (1) | Homework            | 7 Assignments              | 140            |
| (2) | In class activities | 4 Activities               | 100            |
| (3) | Article Review      | 1 Article Review           | 100            |
| (4) | Class attendance    | Daily attendance           | 50             |
| (5) | First Exam          | Multiple choice exam       | 50             |
| (6) | Second Exam         | Multiple Choice Exam       | 50             |
| (7) | Final Exam          | Multiple choice final exam | 100            |
|     | Total Points        |                            | 590            |

*You may check your grades at any time by clicking "My Grades."*

**Grading Criteria**

|          |            |                  |
|----------|------------|------------------|
| <b>A</b> | 90% – 100% | 530– 590 points  |
| <b>B</b> | 80% – 89%  | 470 – 529 points |
| <b>C</b> | 70% – 79%  | 415 – 469 points |
| <b>D</b> | 60% – 69%  | 355 – 414 points |
| <b>F</b> | 0 – 59%    | 0 – 354 points   |

**Exams**

There will be three exams in this course. The first two exams will be worth 50 points apiece with the final being worth 100 points. The exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer, essay or any combination of the aforementioned formats. The final exam is NOT comprehensive.

## **Homework Assignments**

The students will be responsible for submitting 7 homework assignments over the course of the semester. These assignments will always be due the Thursday of the assigned week and will be worth a total of 140 points in the course.

## **Research Exercises**

Students will be required to submit 4 in class research activities worth 100 points of your final grade. Detailed directions for these exercises will be provided accordingly.

## **Class Participation/Attendance**

Much of the learning for this course will take place in the classroom. It is imperative that you are present and actively participate in class discussion.

## **Course Policies**

### ***Make Up Policy:***

There will be **no** make-up of class assignments (including exams) without a university excuse. Late papers will receive a 5 point deduction per day late (each assignment is due at the end of the class period, a 5 point deduction per day late begins immediately following the end of the class the paper is due; a hard copy must be turned in during class). Communicating absences a head of time (when possible) will help with support making up missed assignments.

### ***Cell Phone Policy***

ANY USE OF CELL PHONES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED DURING CLASS. If a cell phone is seen during class you will be asked initially to turn it to silent and to put it away. If a phone is seen a second time, I will ask that you to place it on my desk until the end of class at which point you can retrieve it as you leave the room. If usage continues, I reserve the right to ask you to leave the room and you will not be credited for any assignments accepted during that particular period.

### ***Computer Usage Policy***

The use of computers for the purpose of taking notes will be allowed. If I believe that a student is using a computer for any other purpose than class, I will reserve the right to eliminate the usage of computers by that particular student and if need be, the class as a whole.

## ***ADDITIONAL POLICIES***

### ***University Policies:***

By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by the following University Policies: Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ and Sexual Harassment. Please read the full text of each policy by going to [www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs) and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.” Or, you can access the policies directly by going to [http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page\\_id=802](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802)

### ***Academic Dishonesty:***

Academic Dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication and falsification of data or information, plagiarism, bribes/favors/threats, and complicity (i.e., helping or attempting someone commit an act of dishonesty). As stated in the policy, “A student, by voluntarily accepting admission to the institution or enrolling in a class or course of study offered by Marshall University accepts the academic requirements and criteria of the institution. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of policies regulating academic conduct, including the definitions of academic dishonesty, the possible sanctions and the appeal process. For the purposes of this policy, an academic exercise is defined as any assignment, whether graded or ungraded, that is given in an academic course or must be completed toward the completion of degree or certification requirements. This includes, but is not limited to: Exams, quizzes, papers, oral presentations, data gathering and analysis, practica and creative work of any kind” (MU Undergraduate Catalog). If a student violates this policy, discretion will be used by the instructor; the possible sanction to be applied will be a failing grade for the assignment, exam, or paper. For those of you who need a reminder about the policy, please refer to the MU Undergraduate/Graduate Catalog.

### ***Plagiarism:***

For students (major or non-majors; undergraduates and graduates) who plagiarize a paper that is less than 10 pages in length, a letter grade of zero will be issued for that assignment. When a student plagiarizes a major research paper, report, legal paper, etc., that is 10 pages or more in length, a failing grade will be issued to the student for the course. It should be noted that students are entitled to an appeals process. The protocol for doing so is described under the heading “Academic Dishonesty Policy” and the subheading “Appeals Process” in the MU Undergraduate/Graduate Catalog.

\*\* I reserve the right to change this syllabus/schedule at any time during the course of the semester, based on student progress and materials. An update will be provided in class as well as on blackboard and email to all students.

## **University Policies**

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to [www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs) and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.”

- Academic Dishonesty
- Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates
- Computer Services Acceptable Use Policy
- Inclement Weather
- Dead Week
- Students with Disabilities
- Academic Forgiveness
- Academic Probation and Suspension
- Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students
- Affirmative Action
- Sexual Harassment

**Policy for Students with Disabilities:** Marshall University is committed to equal opportunity education for all students, including those with physical, learning and psychological disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with disabilities to contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) in Prichard Hall 117 (304.696.2467) to provide documentation of their disability. Following this, the ODS Coordinator will send a letter to each of the student's instructors outlining the academic accommodation he/she will need to ensure equality in classroom experiences, outside assignment, testing, and grading. The instructor and student will meet to discuss how the accommodation(s) requested will be provided. For more information, access the website for the Office of Disabled Student Services: <http://www.marshall.edu/disabled>

Course Schedule

| Week | Dates                      | Topics   | Readings/Assignments   |
|------|----------------------------|--|--|
| 1    | August 20th                | Syllabus Day<br>Chapter 1 Scientific Inquiries | Review Syllabus<br>Syllabus Quiz<br>Read Chapter 1                           |
| 2    | August 27 <sup>th</sup>    | Chapter 2                                      | Read Chapter 2<br>Exercise 1 (HW)  |
| 3    | September 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Chapter 3<br><b>No Class 9/3 for Labor Day</b> | Read Chapter 3<br>Exercise 2 (HW)<br>Key ideas Group Activity (In Class)     |
| 4    | September 10 <sup>th</sup> | Chapter 4                                      | Read Chapter 4<br>Units of Analysis (HW)<br>Levels of Measurement (In Class) |
| 5    | September 17 <sup>th</sup> | Chapter 5                                      | Read Chapter 5<br>Exercise 3 (HW)  |
| 6    | September 24 <sup>th</sup> | 1 <sup>st</sup> Exam                           | Catch up day<br>Exam Review  |
| 7    | October 1 <sup>st</sup>    | Chapter 6                                      | Read Chapter 6<br>Exercise 4 (HW)  |
| 8    | October 8 <sup>th</sup>    | Chapter 7                                      | Read Chapter 7<br>Survey Research Class Assignment                           |
| 9    | October 15 <sup>th</sup>   | Chapter 8                                      | Read Chapter 8<br>Exercise 5 (HW)  |
| 10   | October 22 <sup>nd</sup>   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Exam<br>Exam Review            |  |
| 11   | October 29 <sup>th</sup>   | Chapter 9                                      | Read Chapter 9   |
| 12   | November 5 <sup>th</sup>   | Chapter 10                                     | Read Chapter 10<br>Exercise 6 (HW)   |
| 13   | November 12 <sup>th</sup>  | Chapter 10<br><b>No Class 11/14 or 11/16</b>   | Read Chapter 10  |
| 14   | November 19 <sup>th</sup>  | Thanksgiving Break                             |  |
| 15   | November 26 <sup>th</sup>  | Chapter 11                                     | Read Chapter 11  |

|    |                          |                    |  |
|----|--------------------------|--------------------|--|
|    |                          |                    | Field Observation (HW)<br>Assignment                           |
| 15 | December 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Interpreting Stats | Stats PowerPoint<br>Read Stats Chapter<br>Statistic Assignment |
| 16 | December 10th            | Final Exam Review  | Article Review Assignment<br>Final Exam                        |