

CATALOG YEAR 2010-2011**(Please use separate form for each add/change)**COLLEGE/SCHOOL : Arts and SciencesCurrent Catalog Page(s) Affected 117

Course: Add: X Delete: _____
 (check all that apply) Change: Number: 4325 Title Statistics in Criminal Justice SCH 3
 Description: see below Prerequisite

CRIJ 4325**Statistics in Criminal Justice****Three semester hours**

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to basic concepts and techniques necessary for a preliminary and proficient understanding of criminal justice research. Emphasis will be placed on analyzing and interpreting research findings using a standard statistical software package that includes descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, and bivariate analysis. Prerequisite for CRIJ majors: Twelve hours of CRIJ lower-level required courses. Prerequisite for non-CRIJ majors: Twelve hours of social sciences outside of CRIJ.

Justification: To provide an understanding of the issues involved in statistical inference and analysis in order to enable students to examine actual criminal justice problems and be intelligent users of statistical studies.

Program: Add: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed Program of Study description and 4-year plan. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the and indicate changes in red.

Minor: Add: _____ Delete: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed minor. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the and indicate changes in red.

Faculty: Add: _____ Delete: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed faculty entry. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the and indicate changes in red.

College Introductory Pages: Add information: _____ Change information: _____ Attach new/changed information. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the and indicate changes in red.

Approvals:

Signature

Date

Chair

Department Curriculum Committee _____

Chair

Department _____

Chair

College Curriculum Committee _____

Dean _____

CRIJ 4325 Statistics in Criminal Justice

Instructor: Dae-Hoon Kwak
Office: Canseco Hall (CH) 302L
Office Hour: TBA
Phone: 956-326-2618
E-Mail: dkwak@tamiu.edu
Web Pages: <https://elearning.tamiu.edu/frames.aspx> (ANGEL)
<http://www.tamiu.edu/~dkwak> (Instructor's webpage)

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction of basic concepts and techniques necessary for a preliminary and proficient understanding of criminal justice research. Emphasis will be placed on analyzing and interpreting research findings using a standard statistical software package (SPSS) includes descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, bivariate analysis, and bivariate correlation and regression.

Course Objectives:

The course is intended to: (1) introduce students to the basic means of measurement and statistical testing used most commonly in criminal justice; (2) equip students with the skills required to choose appropriate statistical procedures for research; (3) execute those procedures and correctly interpret the results; and (4) provide an understanding of the issues involved in statistical inference and analysis in order to enable students to examine actual criminal justice problems and be intelligent users of statistical studies.

Required Text:

James A. Fox, Jack A. Levin, & David R. Forde. *Elementary Statistics in Criminal Justice Research*, 3rd edition. Belmont, CA: Allyn & Bacon, 2008.

* Additional reading materials will be provided by the instructor with no cost. Students are able to download these reading materials via the course web pages. ***Content from these readings will be included on exams.***

Class Format:

This course will consist mainly of lecture, lab demonstration and discussion generated by the instructor and students. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to class meeting and be prepared to discuss the topics in class. Although this course contains a lecture component, students are encouraged to actively participate in the discussion topics and respect the ideas of their fellow classmates.

Course Requirements:

Exams (50%): Each student is required to take two exams. The exams are *no cumulative* but are *closed book exams*. Exams consist of multiple choices, true/false, and short answer drawn from the material discussed in class and assigned readings. ***There are no make-up exams***

without a documented, verifiable doctor's excuse or emergency the day of the exam. If a make-up should be necessary it will be all essay questions.

Problem Sets (25%): Each student is required to download five problem sets through ANGEL. Answers to any problems that require computations should show as much of the work performed as possible. Problems using SPSS procedures should include printouts of the results where appropriate. The answers should be typed and submitted according to the course schedule. The maximum point value for each problem set is 20 points. ***Late submissions will not be accepted.***

Research Paper (20%): You are required to write a research paper (10 to 15 pages). The research paper requires you to analyze secondary dataset which is obtained from ICPSR website to answer your main research questions. The detail information will be provided in the class. You must also make an oral presentation on your topic on specific dates (the dates will be announced as the semester progresses). ***Late submissions will be penalized and will no longer be accepted after a week.***

Class Participation (In Class Quizzes, 5%): In addition to the exams and assignments, there will be four quizzes during the semester. In general, quizzes cover lecture notes and readings from the previous class and readings for the current class. Because these quizzes are not usually announced ahead of time, it would be good idea to do the assigned readings for each class and to review your notes from the previous class before coming to class each day. ***When quizzes are done in class, students who miss those days will not be able to make them up unless students can meet the standard of proof in place for missed exams (see above description).***

Attendance:

Attendance in all classes is expected. I will not record attendance daily. However, ***I incorporate information in lecture from sources other than the assigned text and this information will appear on the exams.*** If you are going to miss a class or have missed one, it is your responsibility to obtain any notes or handouts for missed lectures. If you know in advance that you will be absent for a specific length of time (e.g. scheduled surgery, etc.), let me know as soon as possible.

Grading:

The course grade will be based on five components.

Course Requirements	Points	%
Exam #1	100	50 %
Exam #2	100	
Problem Sets (25 pts each)	100	25 %
Research Paper / Presentation	80	20 %
Class Participation (5 pts each)	20	5 %

Total	400	100 %
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Grading Scale:

All earned points on all of the requirements will be added together with your course grade determined according to the scale below.

Raw Points	%	Grade
360 – 400	90 – 100	A
320 – 359	80 – 89	B
280 – 319	70 – 79	C
240 – 279	60 – 69	D
< 239	< 59	F

Important Information (Policies of the College of Arts and Sciences):

Classroom Behavior: The College of Arts and Sciences encourages classroom discussion and academic debate as an essential intellectual activity. It is essential that students learn to express and defend their beliefs, but it is also essential that they learn to listen and respond respectfully to others whose beliefs they may not share. The College will always tolerate diverse, unorthodox, and unpopular points of view, but it will not tolerate condescending or insulting remarks. When students verbally abuse or ridicule and intimidate others whose views they do not agree with, they subvert the free exchange of ideas that should characterize a university classroom. If their actions are deemed by the professor to be disruptive, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include being involuntarily withdrawn from the class.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s work as your own. 1) When you borrow someone else’s facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words, you must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism. 2) When you also borrow someone else’s words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism. 3) When you present someone else’s paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own, you have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2010, sixth edition of the *Manual of The American Psychological Association* (APA):

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. *Each* time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text.

The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the Discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications. (pp. 15-16)

Consult the Writing Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the *Manual of the APA* or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* for guidance on proper documentation. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

Penalties for Plagiarism: Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student will receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, has the right to give freshmen and sophomore students a “zero” for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of “F” (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade. This option is not available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse.

Penalties for Cheating: Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student will receive a “zero” for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident must be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an “F” in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an “F” in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a “W.”

A new grade to denote academic dishonesty is now available, a “M” for “Academic Misconduct.” It has the same effect as an “F” but will indicate on the transcript that the failure was due to academic misconduct.

Student Right of Appeal: Faculty will notify students immediately via the student’s TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member’s charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 3 business days of the faculty member’s e-mail message to the student. The *Student Handbook* provides details.

UConnect, TAMIU E-Mail, and Dusty Alert: Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU’s UConnect Portal and TAMIU E-mail are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty – not the U.S. Mail and not other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check UConnect and their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or UConnect message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to sign-up for *Dusty Alert* (see www.tamui.edu). *Dusty Alert* is an instant cell phone text-messaging system allowing the university to communicate immediately with you if there is an on-campus emergency, something of immediate danger to you, or a campus closing.

Copyright Restrictions: The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment.

Students with Disabilities: Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

Incompletes: The College policy for "Incompletes" discourages them. They are appropriate, however, when the following requirements are met:

- The student cannot complete the class because of a severe illness to self or immediate family member at the very end of the semester (after the date for withdrawal from class) or because of a traumatic event in the student's life (e.g., death of or serious injury or illness to an immediate family member) at the end of the semester, AND
- The student is passing the class at the time he or she cannot complete the semester, AND
- The student has completed either 85-90% of the course requirements or is missing only major assignments due after the final date for withdrawal from class and after the onset of the illness or traumatic event (e.g., assignments such as the final exam for the course or a research paper), AND, finally,
- The faculty member must have the approval of the department chair before giving an Incomplete.

Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course: It is the responsibility of the STUDENT to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course.

Independent Study Course: Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Grade Changes & Appeals: Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be

entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the *Student Handbook* and the *Faculty Handbook*.

Final Examination: Final Examination must be comprehensive and must contain a written component. The written component should comprise 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.