

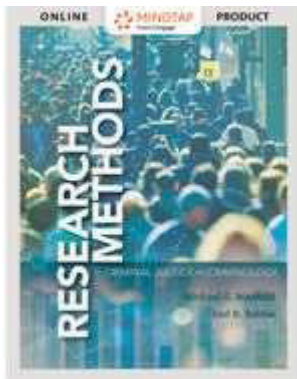
**Sul Ross State University**  
**Fall 2018 Syllabus**  
**CJ 5334- Methods of Social Research (3 HRS)**  
**Class Location: N/A- (Online Course)**

**PROFESSOR:** Evaristus Obinyan, Ph.D.  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

**CJ 5334 Methods of Social Research (3-0).** An introduction to research methods within the social sciences and the major contemporary approaches to it. Basic research and analysis, use and interpretation of research materials. (Required)

Resource and supplement access for:



**MindTap Criminal Justice, 1 term (6 months) Instant Access for Maxfield/Babbie's Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology , 8th Edition**

Michael G. Maxfield; Earl R. Babbie  
ISBN-10: 1-337-09232-0  
ISBN-13: 978-1-337-09232-6

## **Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology**

8th Edition

Michael G. Maxfield John Jay College of Criminal  
Justice, City University of New York  
Earl R. Babbie Chapman University

# **MINDTAP APPLICATION:**

**Once you login to blackboard,  
click on “Getting Started with  
MINDTAP”. Review the Video  
presentation and proceed.**

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- 1. Develop foundational knowledge of key sociological and/or criminological methods**
- 2. Critically analyze sociological and/or criminological research**
- 3. Develop research questions and apply appropriate methods for research**
- 4. Conduct original research using quantitative, qualitative, and/or historical research method**

## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

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**Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to.**

- 1. Demonstrate critical thinking related to the key sociological and criminological research methods**
  - 2. Apply critical thinking and utilize American Psychological Association (APA) style of citation and resear writing and be familiar with APA Manual.**
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3. Display familiarity and understanding of various research methods
  4. Describe the steps involved in criminological research methods.
  5. Critically analyze sociological and/or criminological research
  6. Conduct original research using quantitative, qualitative, and/or historical research method
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#### **CLASS ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:**

Given that this is a fully online course, you cannot attend class in a traditional sense. However, involvement and participation are crucial to your success or lack thereof in this course.

**\*\*Note that there are specific times that each assignment will close and lock. Students are highly encouraged to view the course calendar and to visit the course often. Any student who fails to complete more than two weekly learning units during the entire course of the class will be subject to being administratively dropped from the course.**

#### **END OF COURSE EVALUATIONS:**

Student evaluations of faculty are administered online at the end of each term/session for all courses with five or more students. Students will receive an email containing a link to a survey for each course in which they are enrolled. All responses are anonymous.

Sul Ross State University students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the Sul Ross Student Code of Conduct.” Student Code of Conduct, Responsibilities, Procedures, and Rights are found in the University website

#### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Sul Ross State University and the instructor of this course both place a high priority on the academic integrity of their student scholars. As a result, all institutional guidelines and instructional policies concerning academic integrity will be strictly and uniformly enforced with all students regardless of context. In other words, please don't cheat in this course. With dedication and hard work it shouldn't be necessary, and the possible benefits will be significantly outweighed by the penalties should you be discovered. If objective evidence of academic dishonesty comes to my attention during this course, I will take the following action: (1) the student (or students) involved will receive a failing grade for the activity or assignment in question and (2) the incident will be brought to the attention of the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Director of Distance Learning for consideration of further action against those

involved. It will be the instructor's recommendation that students involved in instances of academic dishonesty receive the harshest possible sanction.

Academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, the following activities: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, obtaining an unfair advantage, and falsifying academic records. In addition, academic dishonesty can include both actions and omissions to act in regards to academic exercises and activities. Cheating is defined here as the obtaining of information (electronic or otherwise) during an examination, the unauthorized use of books, notes, or other sources of information prior to or during an examination, the unauthorized use of books, the removal of faculty examination materials, the alteration of documents or records, or actions identifiable as occurring with the intent to defraud or use under false pretenses. Collusion is defined here as helping other students engage in acts of academic dishonesty, whether the student involved obtains any direct academic advantage from these acts. Plagiarism is defined here as the submission of the ideas, words, or artistic productions of another, without giving due credit or when attempting to falsely represent them as one's own. One final word in this regard, the use of cellular phones, headphones, portable radios, voice recorders, portable music players or any other type of electronic devices during an examination period is strictly forbidden. Their use will be viewed as de facto proof of a student's intent to engage in academic dishonesty and will result in the same types of penalties associated with other forms of academic dishonesty.

#### **APA STYLE:**

This course will use the American Psychological Association (APA) formatting and style guide for all written assignments. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the use of APA a number of resources have been provided below. Please note that all external sources must be appropriately cited. A failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and is a violation the course academic honesty standards.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>  
[http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=apa\\_exposed](http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=apa_exposed)

#### **ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act):**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu) .

## **Distance Education Statement:**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, such as online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. [If the course requires students to take proctored exams or to purchase additional software or equipment, please describe those requirements here.] The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

## **LATE ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION POLICY:**

Students will be given **ONE** extra day to submit Written Assignments. Any assignment that is submitted after the original due date will be subject to an automatic penalty of 10 Points. There are no exceptions to this policy under any circumstances or for any reason. Students will be given two weeks to submit writing assignments so late submissions beyond one day will not be accepted. Please note that this policy does not extend to discussion board assignments. Discussion board posts **will not** be accepted for credit once the discussion board closes.

## **EMAIL RESPONSE POLICY:**

Email will be the primary means of communication with your instructor in this class. The embedded course mail system is the primary means by which email communication will take place in this course. A substitute email has been provided for you in the course information section of the syllabus. However, this alternative means of email should only be used in emergency circumstances or when the course mail system is not functioning properly. The course instructor will make every effort to return all emails as quickly as possible. In practice, this means that all emails will be returned within 24 hours of when they were submitted. Institutionally recognized holidays are an exception to this rule. Any emails that are sent during an officially recognized holiday may not be returned until 24 hours after the conclusion of the holiday. Please note that on occasion technical problems can arise when using email. If you have not received a response within 24 hours of submitting your email, please send a second email to your instructor to verify that the original email was received.

## **DELAYED OPENING OR CLOSING OF THE UNIVERSITY:**

**Students are expected to continue coursework in the event that the University is closed due to unforeseen circumstances.**

### **CLASS BEHAVIOR/APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE:**

**This class is intended to be an open forum for the expression, discussion, and evaluation of a wide variety of topics related to our nation's criminal justice system. Some of the issues that we discuss are likely to be of a somewhat controversial nature. As a result, strong opinions from a wide variety of philosophical and moral perspectives and backgrounds are likely to be expressed. I strive to provide a classroom environment that is conducive to the open and frank expression of many different, and frequently opposing, viewpoints and opinions. I have found that this can greatly enhance the individual learning process and can improve critical thinking skills by exposing individuals to ideas that they may have previously failed to consider. However, in order for class discussions to work as intended, everyone must be willing to participate. In addition, everyone must be willing to respect the right of others in the class to participate in the process as well (netiquette). Rude remarks or personal attacks towards others have no place in the online classroom environment and they will not be tolerated. Try not to be overly intimidated by new ideas and different ways of thinking as they are not likely to harm you. If an incident of inappropriate or aggressive language comes to my attention during the course of the term the material in question will be removed and the student responsible will be warned. Any further examples will result in the student responsible getting a zero for the assignment or activity in question. The sole determination regarding what does and does not constitute inappropriate or aggressive language will be made by the course instructor. One final word in this regard may be warranted. Many of the topics covered during the course of this semester are of an adult nature and they will be discussed in a very frank, direct, and straight forward manner.**

### **STUDENT ASSISTANCE & STUDENT PRIVACY**

**Students seeking academic accommodations for a special need must contact Sul Ross State University Office of Disability Services**

**Students are fully encouraged and invited use the email, to discuss any concerns that they might have, relative to their academic needs. If for some reason, a student needs to meet with me, outside of scheduled office hours, please contact me to schedule an appointment which is possible electronically. NOTE: In an effort to comply with Federal Student Privacy Laws, the Professor will NOT discuss grades or student records over the telephone, or via email. Additionally, SRSU has many services and resources available to students who might be experiencing difficulties, academic or otherwise.**

**Grades:** Student grades will be based on the following:

Discussion Posts (8 Module@ 25 pts each)	200
pts	
Research Paper (1 @ 200 pts each)	200
pts	
Midterm Exam	200pts
Final Exam	400 pts

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Total 1000 pts

**Scale:**

A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799
D	600-699
F	599 & below

**Discussion Board Assignments:**

Each learning unit/module will cover two weeks of graded discussion board assignments. Each discussion board assignment will examine a key concept or issue related to the week's reading assignment. For each discussion board assignment you must submit a minimum of Three posts:

**A.) One primary post of 300 words or more that provides a thorough and substantive overview of all of the items called for in the assignment instructions. In order to avoid a five point penalty, the primary response must be submitted by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. of the corresponding week.**

**B.) Two reply post to two students in the class. Each reply post must be a minimum of 150 words each and must provide substantive feedback and meaningful analysis. Your reply posts to others in the course must be submitted by Sunday at 11:59 PM of the corresponding week.**

Discussion assignments are intended to provide a means of near synchronous communication and interaction among and between students. As a result, no credit will be granted for posts that are submitted after the weekly learning unit has closed. Discussion board assignments will be graded in accordance with the following key criteria:

A.) **timeliness: submitting posts by the required dates and times.**

B.) **quality: submitting high quality posts that are of the appropriate length, scope, depth, and free of spelling errors and grammatical problems.**

C.) **frequency: submitting the minimally required number of posts.**

\* All Learning units will be two weeks in length. All posts for the first weeks Discussion assignments will be due by Thursday and Sunday at 11:59 pm of the first week of the unit. If applicable, posts for the second week discussion assignments will be due by Thursday and Sunday at 11:59 pm of the second week of the learning unit.

To further clarify: To get full credit for each discussion assignment, you must submit an initial response on the topic, (which is your personal assessment or your own personal response) by Thursday at 11:59 pm of the corresponding week, then you have to thoroughly respond to Two of your classmate's posts. The due date for both responses is on Sundays at 11:59 pm. If a student were to submit both responses on Sunday, they would still get credit, but not full credit.

**(An automatic 5 points will be deducted.)**

I set the due date for the initial responses for Thursdays at 11:59 PM so that it will give students time to respond to the initial posts of others. For example, if everyone decided to wait until 11:30 Pm on a Sunday to try to submit their initial responses, it would not give much time to respond to other classmates. So if everyone submit their initial post on Thursday by 11:59 pm, it gives all participants Friday, Saturday and Sunday to responds to others posts.

### **Writing Assignments/Research Paper:**

Students will be required to submit one focused writing assignments. The nature and scope of the writing assignments will vary as will their specific titles. The title of the writing assignment will be reflective of their purpose and structure. While there will be some substantive differences in the writing assignments, they will underscore and reinforce the materials that has been examined during the course of the current learning unit. The writing assignment will be worth 200 points, and is expected to be your own original work. Students must provide appropriate APA citations for all external sources (please see the appropriate section of the syllabus on the use of APA and academic dishonesty). The exact grading criteria associated with each assignment will vary somewhat and additional information regarding the specific criteria will be provided as the course progresses.



**Midterm Examination:** The Midterm examination will be worth a total of 200 points and evaluation will be mainly analysis of specific legal issues.

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**Final Examination:**

This course has a final examination. The final examination will be worth a total of 400 points. The exam questions will come from the assigned reading materials, class lecture overviews, multimedia materials, and any other materials examined or discussed during the course of the class.

(This syllabus is subject to change, at the Professor's discretion, to benefit students.)

