47: 202: 302 Data Analysis in Criminal Justice
4 Credits
Fall, 2017

CON-342
Tuesday
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

I. Course Information

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Kwan-Lamar Blount-Hill, Esq.
Email: kwanlamar.blounthill@rutgers.edu; kblount-hill@jjay.cuny.edu
Phone: (843) 343-1156
Office Hours: By appointment only.

I study institutional legitimacy and the importance of morality in the law and criminal justice. I am a researcher at the Research & Evaluation Center and the Christian Regenhard Center for Emergency Response Studies at John Jay College, CUNY (New York, NY), and have conducted research for John Jay's Center on Race, Crime and Justice, the independent Center for Court Innovation, and for private corporations such as MOCA-PM, Inc. From March 2013-August 2014, I served as a patrol officer for the City of Charleston (SC) Police Department, with special training and certification in crisis management, gang and graffiti enforcement, sexual crimes and traffic enforcement techniques. Before that, I served as a public safety officer (firefighter) for the City of Cayce (SC) Department of Public Safety from May 2011-March 2013, with certifications as fire engineer (or pump operator) and hazardous materials technician. I am an attorney and member of the South Carolina, New Jersey and Georgia Bars, with experience in environmental and criminal law enforcement. I obtained my Juris Doctor from Emory University (in Atlanta, GA, 2011), Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science (Natural Resource Management) from Tuskegee University (Tuskegee, AL, 2008), and is currently completing a Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice from John Jay College/Graduate Center, City University of New York.

Of course, I am open for questions about any aspect of this course. More importantly, however, I welcome any questions you may have as you embark on this academic journey, not just about class but about other aspects of this journey as well.

Course Overview:

47:202:302 Data Analysis in Criminal Justice (4 credits)
This course examines the various types of data used within criminal justice and the fundamentals of statistics and analysis. It also provides an analysis of the appropriate use of data, the limits of various methods, how data is collected, and how to interpret findings. Policy implications of data will also be discussed. Prerequisite: 21:62:202:301 and the basic undergraduate math requirement.
This is a four-credit course, broken into sessions of three (3) hours. Some portions of this course will be conducted in an independent-study style, where in-class, in-session assignments will be completed with access to the professor for one-on-one guidance.

**It is the student's responsibility to stay abreast of all course changes announced through Blackboard or sent through electronic mail messaging. Check your email DAILY.**

The professor retains some flexibility in adjusting the topics covered in the course, the dates on which they are covered, the order in which they are covered, and all other aspects of the course program. The professor also has discretion in adjusting individual student grade points and the manner in which an assignment is graded, with justification and notification.

**Prerequisite:**

The prerequisites for this course are CRJ 47:202:102 (Criminology) and CRJ 47:202:103 (Introduction to Criminal Justice).

**Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define the main characteristics of research designs.
2. Distinguish the levels of measurements and types of variables.
3. Choose, apply, and correctly interpret summary measures.
4. Visualize distributions of continuous and categorical variables.
5. Calculate and interpret measures of association.
6. Explain the principles of statistical inference.
7. Test hypotheses using bivariate analytic techniques.
8. Conduct basic statistical analyses by hand and using computer software.

**Recommended Readings:**


**II. Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09-05-17</td>
<td>Course Introduction: Levels of Measurement and Distribution</td>
<td>Bachman &amp; Paternoster, Ch. 1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09-12-17</td>
<td>Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion</td>
<td>Bachman &amp; Paternoster, Ch. 4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09-19-17</td>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09-26-17</td>
<td>Probability, Point Estimation and Confidence Intervals</td>
<td>Bachman &amp; Paternoster, Ch. 6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-03-17</td>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-10-17</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistical Testing: Categorical Data</td>
<td>Bachman &amp; Paternoster, Ch. 8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-17-17</td>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-24-17</td>
<td>Statistical Testing: Two Populations</td>
<td>Bachman &amp; Paternoster, Ch. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-31-17</td>
<td>Statistical Testing: Dichotomous Variables</td>
<td>Bachman &amp; Paternoster, Ch. 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-07-17</td>
<td>Assignment 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-14-17</td>
<td>Statistical Testing: Three or More Populations</td>
<td>Bachman &amp; Paternoster, Ch. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-28-17</td>
<td>Statistical Testing: Multivariate Tests</td>
<td>Bachman &amp; Paternoster, Ch. 12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-05-17</td>
<td>Final Assignment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-12-17</td>
<td>Course Conclusion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### III. Grading

#### Course Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments (4)</th>
<th>60 points (15 points each)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Assignment</td>
<td>40 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To calculate the amount of points you earned per assignment, use the following formula:

Assignment grade * 0.01 * Assignment points = Earned points

#### Grade Scale

- **A**: 100-90 points
- **B**: 89-80 points
- **C**: 79-70 points
- **D**: 69-60 points
- **F**: 59 or below

All point calculations will be rounded up, to the nearest whole number, in favor of the student.

### IV. Course Policies

#### Classroom Rules

This course is designed to operate in accordance with the regular order and decorum expected in a classroom setting. During in-person sessions, it is expected that you will remain respectful to the professor and to your classmates. You will be asked to leave the room if you create unnecessary and unacceptable disturbances. Such requests will have an impact on your overall grade.

#### Attendance

Attendance will be taken at some point during the class session. From time to time, students may be called on to contribute to class discussions. Your attendance to these in-person sessions is mandatory. Failure to attend will result in a deduction of your grade points. You may, however, receive up to ten (10) additional points to your overall grade through your participation in class – including online interactive materials – so long as they are substantive contributions that demonstrate thoughtful consideration of the material, attentiveness during the class lecture and discussion and preparation for the course. The granting of these additional points (or a portion of them) is entirely up to the discretion of the professor and not a right of yours. Furthermore, if you choose not to attend, know that the professor will not cover any material outside of class that was covered in the session you missed unless you were excused.
Late Assignments

All papers must be turned in, via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. Assignments turned in within twenty-four (24) hours after the deadline will have their grade reduced by two percent (2%) of the allotted grade points. Assignments turned in within a week after the deadline will have their grade reduced by ten percent (10%) of the allotted grade points. Assignments turned in within two weeks after the deadline will have their grade reduced by twenty percent of the allotted grade points. Assignments turned in at any time after this point will receive no more than fifty percent (50%) of the allotted grade points. If, for some reason, you cannot submit it through Blackboard, you may submit assignments by electronic mail to the professor at kblount-hill@jjay.cuny.edu or kwanlamar.blounthill@rutgers.edu. In order to be excused from the application of these penalties, you must be given explicit approval by the professor. You should save all email correspondences with the professor. In cases where an email message is not received, the professor will assume it was not sent unless proven by your records.

Academic Integrity

As a member of the Rutgers University community you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity

Your academic work should be the result of your own individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not your own. Violations of the university's policy will result in appropriate action.

Academic Resources

Students with Disabilities

Rutgers University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Nondiscrimination Policy of the University and in compliance with § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For additional information please visit the website https://ods.rutgers.edu/ or contact the representative for the Newark Campus.

Kate Torres
Coordinator of ADA Services and Academic Support
Robeson Campus Center, Suite 352
350 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: 973.353.5300
Fax: 973.353.5666
E-mail: kate.torres@rutgers.edu
Website: https://ods.rutgers.edu/

Psychological and Counseling Services

If you experience psychological or other difficulties as a result of this course, or because of other issues that may interfere with your performance in the course, please contact the university’s psychological and counseling service center (http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu; 973-353-5805), which is located in Blumenthal Hall, room 101. The center offers a variety of free, confidential services to part-time and full-time students who are enrolled at Rutgers.

If you are interested in finding out more about
• Accelerated Master's Program (B.S. /M.A.)
• Criminal Justice National Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma)
Please refer to the School of Criminal Justice website http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/