ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 105
RESEARCH METHODS

Instructor: Mona Lynch
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e-mail: mlynch@email.sjsu.edu
Class meetings: T-Th. 10:30-11:45 AM
Office hours: T 2:00-5:30 PM; Th. 9:00-10:30 AM

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:
This course will systematically cover the basic elements of social science research methodology, with an emphasis on criminal justice research. We will learn about the necessary components of research methods to understand, critique, design, and carry out sound research. This class will cover: critically reading research on crime and justice issues, conceiving a workable criminal justice research question, selecting an appropriate method for the research question, designing a criminal justice research study, ethical issues faced when conducting criminal justice research, and how to make sense of research findings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
In addition to participating in the class discussions and activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays, you need to: complete the required readings prior to the class for which they are assigned; complete a cumulative research project that will be the compilation of several interrelated assignments done throughout the semester, and take three in-class objective format exams that will cover the readings and lecture materials. The required projects can be on any of a range of topics related to the criminal justice, depending upon your interests.

REQUIRED TEXT:

GRADING, MISSED EXAM & LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY
Only legitimately excused missed exams can be made up. My policy for what constitutes legitimate excuses generally include the following: your own serious illness or injury (documented by a physician); a documented death in your immediate family; unavoidable, documented, schedule conflict for SCHOOL related purposes (i.e., required by athletic team to be on the road). Only under extreme
and unavoidable emergency circumstances will you be able to make up an exam
for a legitimate excuse if you have not given notice of your absence before the
actual scheduled exam period. In other words, don't report your absence after the
exam was given, unless you can document your complete and total inability to do
so before the exam. You may only make up 1 scheduled exam during the semester,
so if you are not in attendance for more than 1 scheduled exam, you will receive
zero points for any additional missed exams. Missed exams #1 & #2 will be taken
on the final day of class, May 15, during the class period. The make-up exams will
be in a different format than the original exams. The missed final period will be
arranged if necessary, and will also be in a different format than the original final.

The assignment deadlines are firm deadlines. No late assignments will be
accepted without prior arrangement with me. Again, only legitimate excuses will
be accepted to avoid being penalized on the assignments. Computer / printer
breakdowns are generally NOT legitimate excuses. The final project will be graded
down 10% for each CALENDAR day late.

Your final grade for the course will be based upon your performances on
the in-class exams, the assignments, and the final project, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Points Maximum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>240 (6 x 40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final project:</td>
<td>160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total possible:</td>
<td>1000</td>
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A range = 900 points or above
B range = 800-899 points
C range = 700-799 points
D range = 600-699 points
F = 599 points or below

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS / ASSIGNMENTS / DUE DATES:

WEEK 1 (January 29-31): Introduction to asking and answering research
questions.
Read: By Tuesday, 1-29: Chapter 1.
Read: By Thursday, 1-31: handout.
Assignment #1--your responses to the handout--due Thursday, January 31.
WEEK 2 (February 5-7): Theory and causation; reading social science research.
Read: By Tuesday, 2-5: Chapter 2.
Read: By Thursday, 2-7: Chapter 3, to bottom of p. 55.
Assignment #2--your research question--due Thursday, February 7.

WEEK 3 (February 12-14): Introduction to research design.
Read: By Tuesday, 2-12: Chapter 4, Appendix A.

WEEK 4 (February 19-21): From concepts to measures.
Read: By Tuesday, 2-19: Chapter 5.
Assignment #3--the relevant literature list--due Thursday, February 21.

Read: By Tuesday, 2-26: Chapter 6.
BRING ONE RESEARCH ARTICLE TO CLASS, Tuesday, 2-26

WEEK 6 (March 5-7): Ethics and research.
EXAM #1 (Tuesday, March 5)
Read: By Thursday, 3-7: Chapter 8 (note switch in chapter order).

WEEK 7 (March 12-14): Introduction to data collection.
Read: By Tuesday, 3-12: Chapter 9 (note switch in chapter order).
Assignment #4--single article summary--due Tuesday, March 12.

WEEK 8 (March 19-21): Experimental designs.
Read: By Tuesday, 3-19: Chapter 7 (note switch in chapter order).
Assignment #5--the relevant literature synthesis--due Thursday, March 21

WEEK 9 (March 26-28): SPRING BREAK--NO CLASSES

WEEK 10 (April 2-4): Survey research.
Read: By Tuesday, 4-2: Chapter 10.

WEEK 11 (April 9-11): Field research.
Read: By Tuesday, 4-9: Chapter 11.
WEEK 12 (April 16-18): Unobtrusive methods.

EXAM #2 (Tuesday, April 16)
Read: By Thursday, 4-18: Chapter 12.

WEEK 13 (April 23-25): RESEARCH DESIGN PROJECT WORK
NO FORMAL CLASSES THIS WEEK--REQUIRED INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS
ON RESEARCH PROJECTS

WEEK 14 (April 30-May 2): Program evaluation.
Read: By Tuesday, 4-30: Chapter 13.
Assignment #6--the research design--due Thursday, May 2

WEEK 15 (May 7-9): Making sense of findings; Communicating research findings.
Read: By Tuesday, 5-7: Chapter 14.
Read: By Thursday, 5-9: Appendix C.

WEEK 16 (May 14): EXAM 1 & 2 MAKE-UPS; FINAL PROJECTS
FINAL PROJECT DUE: Tuesday, May 14 in class.

Final exam during scheduled exam period: Tuesday, May 21, 10:45 AM-NOON.
(NOTE LATER START TIME)