JUSTICE STUDIES 105, SECTION 3
RESEARCH METHODS
SPRING 2007

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:
This course will systematically cover the basic elements of social science research methodology. 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 justice issues, conceiving a workable research question, selecting an appropriate method for the research question, designing a research study, ethical issues faced when conducting social science research, and how to make sense of research findings.

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to: identify, locate, read, and utilize scholarly published research on criminal justice and related social science issues; understand which methods are appropriate for different kinds of research questions; pose a research question, and design an appropriate study to answer that question; and evaluate and critique social science research.

PREREQUISITE: BUS 90, STAT 95, SOCS 15, OR SOCI 102 (OR EQUIVALENT) OR INSTRUCTOR CONSENT

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
In addition to participating in class discussions and activities, you will be required to: (1) complete the assigned readings prior to the class meeting for which they are assigned; (2) complete chapter vocabulary; (3) complete a cumulative research project proposal that will be the compilation of several interrelated assignments throughout the semester; (4) take 1 midterm exam; (5) write an article critique; (6) take a non-cumulative final exam; and (7) give an oral presentation on your project.

REQUIRED TEXT:

ADDITIONAL READINGS AND HANDOUTS:
Additional readings and handouts will be announced in class and posted online.

COURSE DROP POLICY/ ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:
Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first two scheduled class meetings, and who fail to inform prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. However, instructors are not required to drop a student from their course. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure classes are dropped.

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San Jose State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests or quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor, as well as damaging the university’s reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course, and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San Jose State University. Policies and procedures regarding add/drop, academic renewal, withdrawal, and academic integrity can be found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct
**ASSIGNMENTS POLICY & GRADING:**
Missed exams can only be made up if a legitimate absence can be substantiated. Legitimate excuses generally include the following: your own serious illness or injury (documented by a physician); a documented death in your immediate family; unavoidable and documented conflict that is school-related (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 if you have not provided a legitimate excuse prior to your absence. You will only be allowed to make up one exam during the semester. Missed exams will be made up on Thursday, May 24th at a time to be announced, and will be a different format than the original.

Due dates for all assignments, including the final project, are firm deadlines unless formally changed by the instructor and announced in class. Students are responsible for knowing when assignments are due, and for any schedule changes, even if you are absent. Late submissions will only be considered for full credit if the appropriate documentation is provided. The instructor has the discretion to deduct a ½ grade for each day an assignment is late, or refuse to accept the assignment altogether.

Your final grade for the course will be based upon: weekly participation, vocabulary, performance on proposal assignments, performance on article critique, performance the midterm and final exams, and your presentation.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vocabulary:</strong></td>
<td>60 points</td>
<td>12 @ 5 points each</td>
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<td>Proposal Assignments:</td>
<td>200 points</td>
<td>4 @ 50 points each</td>
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<td>Article Critique:</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<td>Take Home Midterm:</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<td>Final Proposal:</td>
<td>200 points</td>
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<td>Presentation:</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<td>In Class Final Exam:</td>
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<td><strong>Total Possible:</strong></td>
<td>860 points</td>
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**GRADE RANGES:**
- A RANGE: 774 POINTS OR ABOVE
- B RANGE: 688 – 773 POINTS
- C RANGE: 602 – 687 POINTS
- D RANGE: 516 – 601 POINTS
- F: 515 AND BELOW

**KEEP TRACK OF YOUR POINTS!**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment #1 (DUE FEB. 7TH):</th>
<th>Voc#1:</th>
<th>Voc#10:</th>
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<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT #2 (DUE FEB 28TH):</td>
<td>Voc#2:</td>
<td>Voc#11:</td>
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<td>MIDTERM (DUE MAR 7TH):</td>
<td>Voc#3:</td>
<td>Voc#12:</td>
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<td>ARTICLE CRITIQUE (DUE MAR 7TH):</td>
<td>Voc#4:</td>
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<td>ASSIGNMENT #3 (DUE APR 4TH):</td>
<td>Voc#5:</td>
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<td>ASSIGNMENT #4 (DUE APR 18TH):</td>
<td>Voc#6:</td>
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<td>PRESENTATION (MAY 2ND OR 9TH):</td>
<td>Voc#7:</td>
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<td>FINAL EXAM (MAY 23RD):</td>
<td>Voc#8:</td>
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<td>PROPOSAL PROJECT (DUE MAY 15TH):</td>
<td>Voc#9:</td>
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**E-MAIL POLICY:**
Please feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check my e-mail often); however, the “subject line” must contain the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS105, Dina Kameda, research question). Do not e-mail the instructor attachments without prior notification; unsolicited attachments will be deleted upon receipt.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>In Class</th>
<th>Homework</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td><strong>Introductions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Handouts: Greensheet, Research Proposal, Ch. 1 Outline&lt;br&gt;Pre-test&lt;br&gt;Utility of research exercise &amp; discussion <strong>Lec #1: Ch. 1 Crime, Criminal Justice, &amp; Scientific Inquiry</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Ch. 1 &amp; 2&lt;br&gt;(3) potential research topics and questions (typed)&lt;br&gt;Vocab #1 (Ch. 1 &amp; 2)</td>
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<td>Jan 31</td>
<td><strong>Collect Vocab #1</strong>&lt;br&gt;Utilizing MLK Library resources to find literature&lt;br&gt;Scholarly Articles &amp; APA presentation&lt;br&gt;Potential research topics check-in; Brief discussion of Assign. #1 <strong>Lec #2: Ch. 2 Theory &amp; Criminal Justice Research</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Ch. 3&lt;br&gt;Begin literature review&lt;br&gt;Vocab #2 (Ch. 3)&lt;br&gt;&lt;strong&gt;Assignment #1:** Topic, Proposition, hypothesis, definitions, variables, and list of (3) scholarly references in APA style</td>
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<td>Feb 7</td>
<td><strong>Collect Vocab #2</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Video:</strong> <em>Quiet Rage</em> (Stanford Prison Experiment) + Discussion <strong>Lec #3: Ch. 3 Ethics &amp; Criminal Justice Research</strong> <strong>Assignment #1 Due!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Ch. 4&lt;br&gt;Vocab #3 (Ch. 4)</td>
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<td>Feb 14</td>
<td><strong>Collect Vocab #3</strong>&lt;br&gt;Return Assignment #1 <strong>Lec #4: Ch. 4 General Issues in Research Design</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Ch. 5 &amp; 6&lt;br&gt;Vocab #4 (Ch. 5 &amp; 6)&lt;br&gt;&lt;strong&gt;Assignment #2:** Brief Literature Review (5 scholarly articles)</td>
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<td>Feb 21</td>
<td><strong>Collect Vocab #4</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Lec #5: Ch. 5 Concepts, Operationalization, &amp; Measurement</strong> <strong>Lec #6: Ch. 6 Measuring Crime</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Ch. 7&lt;br&gt;Vocab #5 (Ch. 7)</td>
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<td>Feb 28</td>
<td><strong>Collect Vocab #5</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;strong&gt;Assignment #2 Due!<strong>&lt;br&gt;Lec #7: Ch. 7 Experimental &amp; Quasi-Experimental Designs&lt;br&gt;Midterm Review&lt;br&gt;Article Critique explanation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Take Home Midterm</strong> (Ch. 1 – 6 + Article Critique)</td>
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<td>Mar 7</td>
<td><strong>Midterm &amp; Article Critique Due!</strong>&lt;br&gt;In class exercise &amp; discussion</td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Ch. 8&lt;br&gt;Vocab #6 (Ch. 8)&lt;br&gt;&lt;strong&gt;Assignment #3:** Research Methodology</td>
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<td>Mar 14</td>
<td><strong>Collect Vocab #6</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Lec #8: Ch. 8 Overview of Data Collection and Sampling</strong>&lt;br&gt;Return and discuss Midterm and Article Critique</td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Ch. 9 &amp; 10&lt;br&gt;Vocab #7 (Ch. 9 &amp; 10)</td>
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<td>Mar 21</td>
<td><strong>Collect Vocab #7</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Lec #9: Ch. 9 Survey Research &amp; Other Ways of Asking Questions</strong> <strong>Lec #10: Ch. 10 Field Research</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong> Ch. 11&lt;br&gt;Vocab #8 (Ch. 11)</td>
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<td>Apr 4</td>
<td>Collect Vocab #8&lt;br&gt;Assignment #3 Due!&lt;br&gt;Lec #11: Ch. 11 Agency Records, Content Analysis, &amp; Secondary Data</td>
<td>Read: Ch. 13&lt;br&gt;Vocab #9 (Ch. 13)&lt;br&gt;Assignment #4: Analysis Plan</td>
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<td>Apr 11</td>
<td>Collect Vocab #9&lt;br&gt;Lec #12: Ch. 13 Interpreting Data&lt;br&gt;Post-test, correct in class, presentation of Pre-test vs. Post-test scores</td>
<td>Final Exam Review handout available online&lt;br&gt;- Assignment #4 Due via email by Wed., April 18th @ 5:30PM&lt;br&gt;- Assignment #4 will be returned with comments on April 25th via email.</td>
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<td>Apr 18</td>
<td>Individual Project Meetings</td>
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<td>Apr 25</td>
<td>Individual Project Meetings</td>
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<td>May 2</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
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<td>May 9</td>
<td>Student Presentations&lt;br&gt;SOTES Evaluations</td>
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<td>May 15</td>
<td><strong>FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE!</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Due in my box by 5:00 PM&lt;br&gt;- If you cannot make to campus by 5:00 PM, you may leave it in a manila envelope under my office door up until 8:00 PM May 15th. The manila envelope must have: JS105 Research Proposal, Your Name, and my name on it in large print.</td>
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<td>May 23</td>
<td>IN CLASS FINAL EXAM 5:15 PM – 7:30 PM</td>
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