
JS 105, Sec. 2: Research Methods in Justice Studies – Fall 2009
Class Meeting Time and Room: Fridays, 12:30 PM – 3:15 PM, MH 324

Instructor: Dina M. Kameda, M.S.

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Cell Phone: (408) 832-9939 (10 AM – 8 PM)

Office Hours (MH 527): Mon 4:30-5:30 PM; Tues 4:15-5 PM; Thurs 5:15-6:30 PM (via e-mail) and Fri 3:15–4:15 PM

Course Materials: <http://www.justice-studies.com>

JS Department Web Site: <http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Course Description:

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.

Prerequisites: (1) UPPER DIVISION STANDING, AND (2) COMPLETION OF 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 reading prior to the class meeting for which they are assigned; (2) complete a cumulative research project proposal that will be the compilation of several interrelated assignments throughout the semester; and (4) take a cumulative final exam. Students will also be required to register on www.turnitin.com.

Attendance will be taken at the start of every class meeting, and you should always bring your textbook to class.

Required Text & Materials:

- 1) Bachman, R., & Schutt, R. K. (2008). *Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.
- 2) One Scantron (Form 882-E available @ the Spartan Bookstore)

Additional Readings and Handouts:

Additional readings and handouts will be announced in class, sent via e-mail, and/or may be posted online.

Course Drop Policy:

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first two scheduled class meetings, and who fail to inform the instructor, prior to the second class meeting, of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. However, please note that instructors are not required to drop a student from their course.

It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. Thursday, September 3, 2009 is the drop deadline. If you decide that you wish to drop the course, please be sure to do so prior to the drop deadline. Students who remain on the class roster, but discontinue coming to class, will receive either a "Withdrawal Unauthorized – WU" or an "F" for the course depending on the circumstances and timing of departure.

Academic integrity:

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

Missed Examination Policy:

A missed exam 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 for your absence upon your return to class. Missed exams will be made up on agreed upon date and time, and will be a different format than the original.

Submission of Proposal Assignments and the Final Research Proposal Policy:

E-mail submissions of assignments must include the following in the file name of the document: (1) Your first and last name, and 2) the name of the assignment (i.e., Assignment#1). Due dates for all assignments, including the final project, are firm deadlines unless formally changed by the instructor via e-mail and/or 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 credible documentation is provided. The instructor has the discretion to deduct points for each day an assignment is late, or refuse to accept the assignment altogether.

Determination of Grades:

Your final grade for the course will be based upon: weekly participation, performance on the individual proposal assignments, performance the final exam, and your final research proposal.

The Proposal Assignments (#1 - #4), and the Final Proposal will be graded based on the following criteria:

(1) Following directions (proper format, timely submission); (2) College level grammar, punctuation, spelling, and APA in-text citations and references (where applicable); and (3) Content (submission of a complete assignment)

Proposal Assignments (#1-4):	200 points maximum (4 @ 50 points each)
In Class Final Exam: (1 scantron)	100 points maximum
Final Proposal:	250 points maximum (includes an article critique)
Total Possible:	550 points

Estimated Grade Point Ranges (subject to change):

A RANGE: 495 POINTS OR ABOVE	D RANGE: 330 – 384 POINTS
B RANGE: 440 – 494 POINTS	F: 329 AND BELOW
C RANGE: 385 – 439 POINTS	

Descriptions of Proposal Assignments #1-4, Final Research Proposal, and Final Exam

- **ASSIGNMENT #1: OUTLINE OF PROPOSED RESEARCH STUDY:**
THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DESIGNED TO OUTLINE THE INITIAL COMPONENTS OF YOUR PROPOSED RESEARCH STUDY, INCLUDING: (1) STATEMENT OF A RESEARCH TOPIC; (2) THEORETICAL PROPOSITION(S); (3) TERM DEFINITIONS; (4) AT LEAST ONE EMPIRICAL HYPOTHESIS THAT DESCRIBES A CLEAR COMPARISON AND PROPOSED OUTCOME; AND (5) VARIABLES (I.E., INDEPENDENT, DEPENDENT, AND BACKGROUND)
- **ASSIGNMENT #2: OUTLINE OF METHODOLOGY, PART 1 (SAMPLE AND PROCEDURE PLAN)**
THIS PORTION OF YOUR METHODOLOGY (ASSIGNMENT #2) IS THE FIRST HALF OF YOUR COMPLETE METHODOLOGY. THIS ASSIGNMENT WILL REQUIRE YOU TO PROVIDE EXTENSIVE DETAILS REGARDING THE FOLLOWING: (1) YOUR STUDY SAMPLE; AND (2) PROCEDURES THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT YOUR PROPOSED STUDY.
- **ASSIGNMENT #3: OUTLINE OF METHODOLOGY, PART 2 (RESEARCH DESIGN & DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT)**
THIS PORTION OF YOUR METHODOLOGY (ASSIGNMENT #3) IS THE SECOND HALF OF YOUR COMPLETE METHODOLOGY. THIS ASSIGNMENT WILL REQUIRE YOU TO PROVIDE EXTENSIVE DETAILS REGARDING YOUR CHOSEN RESEARCH DESIGN. ADDITIONALLY, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO DEVELOP A DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT (E.G., A QUESTIONNAIRE, A SURVEY, A LIST OF INTERVIEW QUESTIONS, OR A CODING FORM) THAT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN “READY TO USE” FORM.
- **ASSIGNMENT #4: OUTLINE OF DATA ANALYSIS PLAN**
THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DESIGNED TO OUTLINE A DATA ANALYSIS PLAN THAT WILL INCLUDE ALL OF YOUR PROPOSED VARIABLES. THERE WILL BE THREE REQUIRED SECTIONS: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS, BIVARIATE ANALYSIS, AND TEST(S) OF THE HYPOTHESIS/HYPOTHESES.
- **FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL**
THE FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL WILL BE YOUR CULMINATING PROJECT FOR THE COURSE. IT WILL INCORPORATE WORK FROM PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED PROPOSAL ASSIGNMENTS (#1-4), AND INCLUDE AN ARTICLE CRITIQUE. IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A TOP GRADE ON YOUR RESEARCH PROPOSAL, ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND PRECISE FORMATTING WILL BE REQUIRED.
- **FINAL EXAM (CHAPTERS 1-8 & 10)**
THE FINAL WILL COVER CHAPTERS #1-8 AND #10, AND WILL BE BASED UPON (50) TRUE/FALSE AND MULTIPLE CHOICE ITEMS

Keep Track of Your Points!

<u>ASSIGNMENTS</u>	<u>DUE DATES</u>
ASSIGNMENT #1: OUTLINE OF PROPOSED RESEARCH STUDY (50 POINTS POSSIBLE)	SEPTEMBER 25 TH _____
ASSIGNMENT #2: OUTLINE OF METHODOLOGY, PART 1 (50 POINTS POSSIBLE)	OCTOBER 16 TH _____
ASSIGNMENT #3: OUTLINE OF METHODOLOGY, PART 2 (50 POINTS POSSIBLE)	OCTOBER 23 RD _____
ASSIGNMENT #4: OUTLINE OF DATA ANALYSIS PLAN (50 POINTS POSSIBLE)	NOVEMBER 6 TH _____
FINAL PROPOSAL (250 POINTS POSSIBLE)	DECEMBER 4 TH _____
FINAL EXAM: CHAPTERS #1-8 & #10 (100 POINTS POSSIBLE)	DECEMBER 10 TH _____

E-mail Policy:

Please feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check often); however, please adhere to the e-mail guidelines below:

- (1) Please include in the “subject line” the course number and section, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS105 section 1, Dina Kameda, research question). The instructor **will not** respond to “**no subject**” e-mails, or any e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.
- (2) Any e-mailed assignments must be sent in one of the following formats as a separate attachment: Microsoft Word (*.doc or *.docx), Microsoft Works (*.wps), or in rich text format (*.rtf). Please **do not** copy and paste any assignments into an e-mail, they will not be accepted.
- (3) **ALWAYS RETAIN A COPY OF ANY E-MAIL WITH AN ASSIGNMENT ATTACHED AS PROOF OF SUBMISSION!**

Tentative Class Schedule + <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Item(s) Due/Needed		Homework assignment(s) for following week(s)
Week 1		
Aug. 28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the course (review greensheet in class) Handouts: Overview of research proposal (term project) and Assignment #1 Discussion about research proposal and Assignment #1 Video: ABC Primetime + brief discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Ch. 1 and Ch. 2 Type up (3) potential research topics and more specific research questions discuss and turn in on 09.04.09 Review Ch. 1 Power Point (posted online - see instructor web site) <p>Mandatory registration on www.turnitin.com by Saturday, August 29th. Be sure to register using a valid e-mail address that you will check regularly. There will be a (15) point penalty for failing to register on time.</p>
Week 2		
Sept. 4th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Ch. 2 The Process and Problems of Criminological Research Research Topic check-in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Ch. 3; Appendix A (A1-A17); and Appendix B (B1-B3) Complete List of Research Topics and Questions, due next week on 09.11.09 <p>Bring a printed copy of your list to class next week.</p>
Week 3		
Sept. 11th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Ch. 3 Conceptualization and Measurement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> List of research topics and questions due Research topic check-in + Q & A about Assignment #1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Ch. 4; Appendix C (C1-C27)
Week 4		
Sept. 18th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Ch. 4 Sampling Research topic check-in + Q & A about Assignment #1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Ch. 5 Complete Assignment #1 - Due via e-mail on 09.25.09
Week 5		
Sept. 25th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Ch. 5 Causation and Research Design Handout: Assignment #2 instructions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment #1 due via e-mail by midnight tonight! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Ch. 6 Begin working on Assignment #2 - Due 10.16.09

Tentative Class Schedule + <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Item(s) Due/Needed		Homework assignment(s) for following week(s)
Week 6		
Oct. 2nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Ch. 6 Survey Research • Return and briefly discuss Assignment #1 revisions • Handout: Assignment #3 instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch.7 • Begin working on Assignment #3 - Due 10.23.09 • Write down any questions you have about Assignment #2 & #3 for next week
Week 7		
Oct. 9th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Ch. 7 Qualitative Methods and Data Analysis • Q & A about Assignment #2 and #3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Ch. 8, Power Point for Ch. 8 will be posted for you to review • Read Ch. 10 • Complete Assignment #2 - Due via e-mail next week, 10.16.09
Week 8		
Oct. 16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Ch. 10 Quantitative Data Analysis • Discussion: Article Critique for Final Research Proposal • Review of Research Proposal format and requirements for submission • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment #2 (Sample and Procedure): Due via e-mail by midnight tonight! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Assignment #3 - Due via e-mail next week, 10.23.09
Week 9		
Oct. 23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return and discuss Assignment #2 • Handout: Variable Information Worksheet • Handout: Assignment #4 instructions and guidelines • Explanation and overview of Assignment #4 • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment #3 (Research Design and Data Collection Instrument): Due via e-mail by midnight tonight! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Assignment #4 instructions and guidelines • Complete Variable Information Worksheet for 10.30.09 (required)
Week 10		
Oct. 30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #4: In-class workshop on data analysis plan • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Printed copy of Assignment #4 instructions and guidelines • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Variable information worksheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Assignment #4 - Due via e-mail next week, 11.06.09
Week 11		
Nov. 6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return and discuss Assignment #3 • Individual help • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment #4 due via e-mail by midnight tonight! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on putting together your Research Proposal

Tentative Class Schedule + <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Item(s) Due/Needed		Homework assignment(s) for following week(s)
Week 12		
Nov. 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FURLOUGH DAY - NO CLASS • NO CONTACT WITH THE INSTRUCTOR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on putting together your Research Proposal
Week 13		
Nov. 20th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return and discuss Assignment #4 • Handout + Discussion: Final Exam Study Guide • Individual help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for your Final Exam - Do not forget to pick up a scantron! Form 882-E available @ the Spartan Bookstore • Final Research Proposal due on Friday, December 4th via e-mail by midnight!
Week 14		
Nov. 27th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOLIDAY - NO CLASS 	
Week 15		
Dec. 4th	SOTES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual help drop-in (MH 527) • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final Research Proposal due tonight via e-mail by midnight! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Proposals with feedback will be returned via e-mail

FINAL EXAM INFORMATION

Date: Thursday, December 10th, 2009

Time and Location: 12:15 - 2:30 PM, MH 324

Materials to bring:

- scantron (Form 882-E) - make sure it stays in good condition or it will not feed through the scantron machine for grading
- #2 pencil or mechanical pencil with HB lead (some mechanical pencils will be available)
- textbook
- printed lecture notes (no laptops or use of "smart phones" allowed), and any handout related to Assignment #4