

**San José State University**  
**CASA/Justice Studies**  
**JS 114-03**

**Research Methods Spring 2017**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Victor Thompson
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Thursday 2:00-3:00pm; Friday 9:00-10:00am; or by appt.
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-10:15am
<b>Classroom:</b>	MQH 223
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Prerequisite: JS 10, 12, 25, or FS 11; JS 100W with a grade of "C" or better; JS15 or Stat 95 or equivalent with a "C" or better; Upper Division Standing; Restricted to JS majors and minors. Note: A grade of "C" or better is required for Justice Studies majors.

*“Common sense is nothing more than a deposit of prejudices laid down by the mind before you reach eighteen.”*

-Albert Einstein

**Course Format**

This course is a hybrid course. We will meet in person most of the time but about half of the course will be conducted in an online format. This means students will need access to a computer. On most Tuesdays, I will be hosting an online lecture weekly where students may ask questions and participate online using the Conference function in Canvas. Thursdays will be in class sessions where we can work on issues related to course content and data analysis/research. If you have any questions or concerns about this format, please let me know asap.

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

*Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MYSJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.*

## **Course Description**

Introduction to quantitative research methods used in Justice Studies. Includes relationship of theory to empirical evidence; logic underlying methods of inquiry; ethics in conducting empirical research; and methodological design, operationalization, and data analysis. The goal of this course is to introduce students to research methods in the justice studies. In this course, students will explore the underlying theoretical assumptions about social research and the ethical and social implications of doing research with human subjects in a variety of social settings. Students will learn the basic skills necessary to collect, process, and analyze social phenomena using both qualitative and quantitative methods, including descriptive and inferential statistics, and simple measures of association. To do this, students will conduct basic data analysis, review literature, and summarize their findings in a short research paper.

## **Student Learning Objectives:**

SLO 1: Understand why knowledge of research methods is valuable to criminal justice professionals and how to conduct a review of research literature, write a research proposal, design a research project.

SLO 2: Summarize three fundamental features of social science: theory, data collection, and data analysis; describe how theory and public policy can be closely linked.

SLO 3: Recognize how criminal justice research is shaped by ethical considerations.

SLO 4: Understand how the logic of probability sampling makes it possible to represent large populations with small subsets of those populations.

SLO 5: Understand that survey research involves the administration of questionnaires in a systematic way to a sample of respondents selected from some population

SLO 6: Recognize when to use qualitative interviewing as a data-gathering tool.

SLO 7: Recognize that public organizations produce statistics and data that are often useful for criminal justice researchers.

SLO 8: Understand the differences between EDA and CFA. For example, descriptive statistics are used to summarize data under study.

SLO 9: Understand that tests of statistical significance make assumptions about data and methods that are rarely satisfied completely in social science research.

## **Required Texts/Readings (Required)**

Maxfield, M. G., & Babbie, E. R. 2014. *Research methods for criminal justice and criminology*. Nelson Education.

Babbie, Earl, Halley, Fred S., Wagner, William E. III, and Jeanne Zaino. 2012. *Adventures in Social Research: Data Analysis Using IBM SPSS Statistics*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

## **Other technology requirements / equipment / material**

*SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences): Make sure you get this asap!*

**Course Requirements and Assignments:** The points in this course are distributed across several assignments. Therefore, you have plenty of opportunities to do well in the course. Should you perform poorly in one area, there is no reason to expect that you are in danger of failing. However, a large percentage of this course is devoted to your research projects and therefore is cumulative in nature. I will have intermediate assignments related to your projects to ensure you are keeping up, but ultimately you must devote at least a small amount of time to your projects on a weekly basis beyond these assignments to excel in this course.

Part of learning to do research is learning the language of research. Thus, there will be two tests in this course to gauge your understanding of the basic concepts discussed in class and in the readings. These tests should act as a way for both you and I to see any weaknesses that need addressed or ideas that need further developed as we go through the course. If you do all of your readings and pay attention in class you will do fine on these tests. The midterm will occur early in the course and not at the middle of the semester so we can tend to any issues that arise before we get too involved in our research projects.

**Midterm: 10%:** The midterm will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions

**Final: 10%:** The final is a similar in nature to the midterm. (**FINAL: 5/23 @ 07:15-9:30 AM**)

**Class Participation: 10%:** This is based on your class attendance, both online and in person, and your participation in class. Should be an easy grade if you just show up and pay attention.

### **2 Meetings with Instructor (5%)**

You are required to schedule one meeting with the instructor during weeks 5-6 and again in weeks 13-14. You should come prepared to discuss your progress and timeline for finishing your assignment. I will expect a short paragraph or two outlining your progress and detailing what you have left to do prior to the second meeting. I will post a sign-up sheet online in the second week of class. These will be in small groups.

### **Lab Exercises: (25%)**

At the end of each chapter in SPSS (beginning in Chapter 4) are Lab Exercises that you will complete and hand in on the Thursday of the week the readings are assigned. These are easy to follow exercises and we will go over them in class on Tuesday before they are due so you shouldn't have any problems completing them.

### **Research Paper: 25%**

The most important part of this course is learning to do research. By the end of this course you will have completed a mixed methods research paper that integrates both quantitative and qualitative methods in to a short

paper. Do not get frustrated. I will grade this based on the effort you put in to it and whether or not you are incorporating feedback in to your drafts and final paper.

### **Research proposal sections (15%)**

The research paper will be a “work in progress” over the entire course. The following sections will be turned in prior to a final draft that integrates all of these sections in to a final paper.

- Research topic
- Literature review
- Thesis and Hypotheses
- Qualitative methods draft
- Quantitative methods draft

### **Grading Information**

A+	100-96%
A	95-93%
A-	92-90%
B+	89-86%
B	85-83%
B-	82-80%
C+	79-76%
C	75-73%
C-	72-70%
D	69-66%
D	65-63%
D-	62-60%
F	59-0%

### **Justice Studies Department Reading and Writing Philosophy**

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives– personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

### **University Policies**

**Dropping and Adding:** Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>. 5

**Academic integrity:** Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

**Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at [http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD\\_1997-03.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu.aec> to establish a record of their disability.

In 2013, the Disability Resource Center changed its name to be known as the Accessible Education Center, to incorporate a philosophy of accessible education for students with disabilities. The new name change reflects the broad scope of attention and support to SJSU students with disabilities and the University's continued advocacy and commitment to increasing accessibility and inclusivity on campus.

**Student Technology Resources:** Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

**Learning Assistance Resource Center:** The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning 6 assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>.

**SJSU Peer Connections:** Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory,

alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

**SJSU Writing Center:** The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)



**SJSU Counseling Services:** The SJSU, Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

## JS 114 / Research Methods, Spring 2017, TTH 9:00-10:15am.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/26	Ch. 1: Crime, Criminal Justice and Scientific Inquiry SPSS: Ch 1
2	<b>1/31-OL</b>	Ch. 2: Foundations of Criminal Justice Research
2	2/2-OL	Ch. 2: Foundations of Criminal Justice Research SPSS: Ch 2
3	2/7-OL	Ch. 3: Ethics and Criminal Justice Research <b>Movie: <i>Stanford Prison Experiment</i></b>
3	2/9	Ch. 3: Ethics and Criminal Justice Research SPSS: Ch 3 <b>DUE: Research Topic</b>
4	2/14-OL	Ch. 4: General Issues in Research Design
4	2/16	Ch. 4: General Issues in Research Design SPSS: Ch 4-5 ( <b>Beginning here, worksheets always due on Thursdays!</b> )
5	2/21-OL	Ch. 5: Concepts, Operationalization and Measurement
5	2/23	Ch. 5: Concepts, Operationalization and Measurement SPSS: Ch 6-7 <b>DUE: Literature Review</b> <b>INSTRUCTOR MEETINGS begin this week (Small groups)</b>
6	2/28-OL	Ch. 6: Measuring Crime SPSS: Ch 8
6	3/2	Ch. 6: Measuring Crime <b>DUE: Literature Review</b>
7	3/7-OL	Review for Midterm
7	3/9-OL	<b>MIDTERM</b>
8	3/14	Quantitative Research (Excerpts from <i>The Practice of Research</i> ) SPSS: Ch 10-11

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
8	3/16	Quantitative Research (Excerpts from <i>The Practice of Research</i> ) <b>Practice doing SPSS</b> <b>DUE: Thesis and Hypothesis</b>
9	3/21-OL	Ch. 7: Experimental and Quasi-experimental Designs
9	3/23-OL	Ch. 7: Experimental and Quasi-experimental Designs
10	4/4-OL	Ch. 8: Sampling
10	4/6	Ch. 8: Sampling <b>SPSS: CH 13</b>
11	4/11-OL	Ch. 9: Survey Research
11	4/13	Ch. 9: Survey Research <b>DUE: Quantitative Methods</b>
12	4/18-OL	Ch. 10: Qualitative Interviewing
12	4/20	Ch. 10: Qualitative Interviewing <b>SPSS: Ch 14-15</b>
13	4/25-OL	Ch. 11: Field Observation
13	4/27-OL	Ch. 11: Field Observation
14	5/2	Ch. 12: Agency Records, Content Analysis and Secondary Data <b>INSTRUCTOR MEETINGS this week (Small groups)</b>
14	5/4	Ch. 12: Agency Records, Content Analysis and Secondary Data <b>DUE: Qualitative Methods</b>
15	5/9	CH. 13: Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis
15	5/11	Ch. 14: Interpreting Data
16	5/16	Ch. 14: Interpreting Data <b>DUE: FINAL PAPER</b>