

105sy03a-day.doc
Spring, 2003
MW 7:30-8:45
MacQuarrie Hall 520

Dr. C. Wong
Office: MH529, 924-2950
Office Hours: M: 8:45-9:45
M: 1:15-3:15, 8:15pm-8:45pm sec 3
W: 8:45-9:45, 1:15-1:45
sec 1

SYLLABUS
AJ105 JUSTICE SYSTEMS RESEARCH

COURSES DESCRIPTION:

This course provides students with the major principles of research methods applied to the field of administration of justice. It discusses the relationships among theory, research and practice in the justice process. The course will introduce students to basic research designs, methods of inquiry, sampling, statistics, and ethical issues in research.

The course is divided into three major parts:

1. The first part covers: the beginning stages of the research process: logic of research, choosing a research topic, developing hypotheses, defining variables, and choosing a research design.
2. The second part introduces students to the basic processes of scientific research: measuring variables and sampling techniques.
3. The third part discusses the various data collection methods, such as survey research, observations, experiments and document research.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To appreciate the need for knowledge based on scientific research data in the field of criminal justice.
2. To understand the logic and principles of research methods.
3. To understand advantages and limitations of various research methods in order to become an intelligent and critical reader of research reports.
4. To be able to evaluate and use research findings appropriately for improvements of justice systems and programs.
5. To develop a basic competency in research design, sampling, data collection and data analysis in order to provide empirical data for reports, planning, interventions and innovations in the field of administration of justice.

COURSE TEXTS:

REQUIRED: Fitzgerald, Jack and Steven M. Cox. RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

RECOMMENDED: Maxfield and Babbie, RESEARCH METHODS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CRIMINOLOGY.

GRADING SYSTEM:

1. **THREE EXAMINATION:**

There will be three required exams in this class. The exams will consist of true-false and multiple choice. All three exams must be taken in order to pass the course. The three examinations are weighted equally.

First Examination	1/3
Second Examination	1/3
Third Examination	1/3

The final letter grade will be based on the following distribution:

A+ = 100-97, A = 96-93, A- = 92-90
B+ = 89-87, B = 86-83, B- = 82-80
C+ = 79-76, C = 75-68, C- = 67-65
D+ = 64-62, D = 61-53, D- = 52-50
and (F = 49-0)

2. MAKE-UP EXAM:

The department policy for make-up examinations will be followed. ONE make-up examination is allowed under extreme circumstances, only for students who have valid reasons. Permission to take a make-up examination has to be obtained prior to that particular exam. The student has to provide the proper documentation. This make-up examination will be taken during the last exam.

3. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Regular attendance is extremely important for this class. If you have to miss a class, you should borrow notes. Due to the nature of the materials in this course, it is very difficult to understand new information presented in lectures and discussions without sufficient background knowledge.

Do not hesitate to ask questions either in class or during my office hours. Class participation is strongly encouraged. Excellence in class participation can serve as extra credit for raising your final letter grade by half a grade, e.g., from B+ to A-.

4. RESEARCH PROPOSAL:

Every student can submit a research proposal for extra credit. It must be typed and submitted by May 5, 2003. A good proposal can serve as extra credit for raising your final letter grade by half a grade, e.g., from B+ to A-.

TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS

I. LOGIC OF RESEARCH AND CHOOSING A RESEARCH PROBLEM

INTRODUCTION

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|--------|---|
| Week 1 | 1. Research and Criminal Justice
Fitzgerald & Cox, Ch. 1 |
| Week 2 | 2. Scientific Research, Perspectives and Ethics
Fitzgerald & Cox, Ch. 2 |

II. INITIAL STAGES OF DEDUCTIVE PROCESS

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| Week 3, 4 | 1. Theories, Hypotheses, and Variables
Fitzgerald & Cox, Ch. 3, pp. 62-68

a. Choosing a Research Topic
b. Identifying Units of Analysis
c. Identifying Theories and Hypotheses
d. Defining Concepts and Variables
e. Measuring Variables
f. Validity, Reliability and Precision |
| Week 5, 6 | 2. Research Designs: Exploratory Research, Descriptive Research,
Explanatory Research, and Prediction.
Fitzgerald & Cox, Ch. 3, pp. 68-77, 88-90. |

