

Fall 2004  
AJ 105, section 2  
T Th 9:00 - 10:15  
MacQuarrie Hall Rm. 520

Dr. Cynthia Baroody Hart  
Office: MacQuarrie Hall 511  
Phone: 924 - 2944  
Office Hours:  
TuTh: 7:30 - 8:30, 10:30 - 11:30  
Wed : 4:30 - 5:30

OR BY APPOINTMENT

AJ 105

### JUSTICE SYSTEMS RESEARCH

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Justice Systems Research explores the interaction of theory, research and practice in the justice process; purpose and limits of research; introduction to basic research design and methods of inquiry, social statistics, sampling and ethical issues in preparation of research reports.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce the student to the principles of research.
2. To introduce the student to research design.
3. To introduce the student to a variety of research methods.
4. To explore the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of research.
5. To identify various data sources for developing answers to questions relevant to the criminal justice system.
6. To introduce the student to the basics of quantitative analysis of data.

This course is a general survey course of research methods. The course introduces the student to basic research designs, methods of inquiry, sampling, and statistics. It is separated into three, SEEMINGLY distinct, but interrelated parts.

The first part of the course will deal with a brief overview of the research process and a study of the initial stages of the process: choosing a problem, developing hypotheses, and formulating a design.

The second part of the course involves the study of various data collection methods: survey research, field research, and experimentation.

The third section of the course concerns the study of data reduction techniques, data analysis and presentation. Depending on university resources, the students will also have a general introduction to computer usage and the use of a statistical packages such as SPSS and SAS.

#### REQUIRED BOOKS:

Discussion of research methods IS RELEVANT to the study of the criminal justice system. As illustration of this, examples of research in criminal justice will be used throughout the course. There are two required texts:

- (1) Fitzgerald, Jack D. and Steven M. Cox (2002) Research Methods in Criminal Justice: An Introduction 3rd ed. Chicago: Nelson-Hall.
- (2) Kenneth D. Bailey, Methods of Social Research. New York: Free Press, 1994.

Both books are available in the Spartan Bookstore as well as Robert's Bookstore.

#### GRADING:

The basic requirements for the course consist of adequate performance (in line with the university requirements) on three examinations and completion of homework assignments. The format of the exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, fill-ins, short answer essays, and problem solving questions. The examinations will reflect (1) required readings (2) lectures (3) class discussion and (4) films used in class. Each examination is worth 100 points and represents 30% of the final grade, the homework assignments represent 10% of the final grade. Each of the 5 homework assignments are worth 2 points.

EXAM #1	=	30%
EXAM #2	=	30%
EXAM #3	=	30%
HOMEWORK	=	10%
		100%

Each student is also required to conference with the instructor, at least three times during the course of the semester. This is a MINIMUM requirement. I would like to see students on a regular basis - my door is always open to you, don't hesitate to come by. PLEASE COME FOR AN INITIAL CONFERENCE EARLY IN THE SEMESTER. If your schedule does not fit well with my office hours, please call for an appointment. I am frequently around at times other than scheduled office hours. You are welcome to come by any time.

#### ATTENDANCE:

REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR THIS CLASS. The nature of the material is cumulative. Attendance is not required but is suggested, STRONGLY.

CLASS PARTICIPATION IS ALSO ENCOURAGED! While there is no clear formula for class participation, in cases where a final grade is between two grades attendance and class participation may help to enhance your grade. I will be keeping close track of class participation, tallying class participation and lack of participation. I reserve the right to increase a student's final grade based on class participation.

MAKE-UP POLICY:

The departmental policy will be followed regarding make-up examinations. The make-up exam will be given after the last scheduled examination. Make-ups are given in EXTREME CASES and only when APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION is provided.

AJ105

Tentative class schedule

Students are expected to HAVE THE MATERIAL READ FOR CLASS!!!!!!

1st week	8/26	Research and Criminal Justice	(F & C)* Chapter 1
2nd week	8/31	The Research Process	(B) Chapter 1
3rd week	9/7	Perspectives and Research	(F & C) Chapter 2
4th week	9/14	Methodology and Design	(F & C) Chapter 3
5th week	9/21	Measurement	(B) Chapter 4
EXAM 1	9/23		
6th week	9/28	Survey Research & Sampling	(B) Chapter 5 (F & C) Chapter 4
7th week	10/5	Questionnaire Construction	(B) Chapter 6
8th week	10/12	Interviewing	(B) Chapter 8
9th week	10/19	Nonsurvey Techniques	(F & C) Chapter 6
10th week	10/26	Nonsurvey Techniques	
EXAM 2	10/28		
11th week	11/ 2	Descriptive Statistics	(F & C) Chapter 7
12th week	11/9	Central Tendency	
13th week	11/16	Dispersion	
14th week	11/23	Bivariate Relationship Intro.	
		NO CLASS 11/25 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	11/25 - 26
15 <sup>th</sup> week	11/30	Inferential Statistics	(F & C) Chapter 10 & 11
16th week	12/7	Summary & Conclusion	(F & C) Chapter 10 & 11

LAST DAY OF CLASS 12/9

FINAL EXAM 12/17 7:15AM

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON !!!

(F & C)\* denotes Fitzgerald & Cox

(B) denotes Bailey