

202Gr941.SY5
Fall, 1993-94
M 5:30-8:15
MacQuarrie Hall 526
Administration of Justice Dept.
San Jose State University

Dr. Charlotte Yang
Office: MH529
Phone: 924-2950
Office Hours:
M: 1:20-2:20
WF: 1:20-3:20

SYLLABUS

AJ 202 SEMINAR IN JUSTICE SYSTEM RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
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Course Description

An examination of research methods applied to solving problems and resolving issues in criminal justice system components; focus will be on the application of the scientific method to problem solving and program evaluation. The course covers the principles and methodologies of various research designs and techniques, current empirical research findings, and future research strategies in the field of criminal justice. The course assumes that the student is familiar with introductory research methods and statistics.

(Prerequisites: AJ 105 and Stat 95)

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and skill in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting empirical data and in applying the research findings to program evaluation and problem solving in the field of administration of justice. A student is expected to achieve the following objective:

1. to master the fundamentals of the empirical research,
2. to identify significant research topics and specify the relevant theories,
3. to develop hypotheses and concepts,
4. to develop measurements for the variables,
5. to understand the fundamentals of computer applications in research, such as data entry and statistical computer programs,
6. to understand the compilation and presentation of data analysis,
7. to understand the application and interpretation of statistical techniques to the study of administration of justice,
8. to learn how to write a research proposal, and a research report,
9. to understand the fundamentals of program evaluations and program assessments, and

10. to apply research methods to policy making and problem solving in the fields of administration of justice.

TEXTS

REQUIRED TEXTS

Hagan, F.E. RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CRIMINOLOGY.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Babbie, THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH.

Rossi, Peter and Freeman, Howard, EVALUATION: A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH.

SPSS Inc., SPSS/PC+ BASE MANUAL.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Grading System:

The course grade will be based on:

Midterm Examination	40%
Research Paper	50%
Research Assignment	10%

The research paper must be typed, double-spaced, with no more than 30 pages.

There will be research assignments from time to time. They will constitute 10% of your grades.

2. Attendance and Participation:

Students are expected to attend classes regularly, and participate actively in class discussions. Students are expected to have read all the reading assignments prior to the class. Excellence in class participation will also result in raising your final grade by half a grade, e.g., from B+ to A-.

COURSE OUTLINE

- Aug. 30 **PART I. INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH**
1. Introduction

A. Scaling and Index Construction

Hagan, Chapter 10

PART III. DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

Nov. 8 1. Coding, Tabulation, and Data Presentation

Hagan, Chapter 11

2. Use of statistical computer packages

Hagan, Appendix C.

Recommended: Babbie, Appendix H.
SPSS Inc., SPSS/PC+ BASE MANUAL.

Nov. 15 3. Univariate and Bivariate Statistics

Hagan, Chapter 11, pp. 302-323
Chapter 12

Nov. 22 4. Multivariate Analysis

Hagan, Chapter 11, pp. 324-328.

Recommended: Babbie, Chapter 16

Nov. 29 5. Policy Research and Evaluative Research

Hagan, Chapter 13

Recommended: Rossi and Freeman,
EVALUATION

Students' Presentation of Tentative Computer
Analyses

Dec. 6 Students' Presentation of Final Computer Analyses

Dec. 13

RESEARCH PAPER IS DUE.

HAPPY HOLIDAY !!!