

Spring 2004

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 105  
RESEARCH METHODS

Instructor: Mona Lynch  
office / phone: MH 513 / 924-2958  
e-mail: mlynch@email.sjsu.edu  
Class meetings: T-Th. 9:00-10:15 AM, MH 324  
Office hours: T 12:30-3:00 PM; Th. 12:30-2:30 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to participating in the class discussions and activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays, you need to: complete the required readings prior to the class for which they are assigned; complete a cumulative research project proposal that will be the compilation of several interrelated assignments done throughout the semester, and take 1 in-class quiz and two in-class objective format exams which will cover the readings and lecture materials. The required projects can be on any of a range of topics, depending upon your interests.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Maxfield, Michael and Earl Babbie. Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology, 3rd Edition. West/Wadsworth Publishing.

GRADING, MISSED EXAM & LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

Only legitimately excused missed exams can be made up. My policy for what constitutes legitimate excuses generally include the following: your own serious illness or injury (documented by a physician); a documented death in your immediate family; unavoidable, documented, schedule conflict for SCHOOL related purposes (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 for a legitimate excuse if you have NOT given notice of your

absence before the actual scheduled exam period. You may only make up 1 scheduled test during the semester, so if you are not in attendance for more than 1 scheduled exam or quiz, you will receive zero points for any additional missed exams. Missed quizzes and midterms will be taken on the final scheduled day of class during the class period. The make-up tests may be in a different format than the original exams. The missed final period will be arranged if necessary, and may also be in a different format than the original final.

The assignment deadlines are FIRM deadlines. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED** unless there is a documented emergency which prevents you from turning it in. Computer / printer breakdowns are generally NOT legitimate emergencies. The final project will be graded down 10% for each CALENDAR day late. You are responsible for knowing any schedule changes for exams or assignment due dates that were announced in class, even if you were not in attendance.

Please familiarize yourself with the SJSU policy on academic dishonesty, available in pdf format at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/academic.html>. It is also published in the SJSU print catalog. Use those rules and definitions to guide your conduct in this class.

Your final grade for the course will be based upon your performances on the in-class exams, the assignments, and the final project, as follows:

Quiz:	50 points maximum
Midterm:	200 points maximum
Final:	200 points maximum
Assignments:	200 points maximum (5 assignments x 40 pts.)
Final project:	150 points maximum
Total possible:	800 points

A range = 720 points or above

B range = 640-719 points

C range = 560-639 points

D range = 480-559 points

F = 479 points or below

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS / ASSIGNMENTS / DUE DATES (subject to change if necessary):

WEEK 1 (January 29): Introduction to course.

WEEK 2 (February 3-5): Asking and answering research questions; reading social science research.

**Read:** By Tuesday: Chapter 1; online article: Payne, Brian K. and Robert Riedel Jr. (2002). Gun control attitudes and the criminal justice student: Do differences exist? College Student Journal, 36, 314-323. Available in full text on Expanded Academic Index.

**Read:** By Thursday: Chapter 2.

WEEK 3 (February 10-12): Theory and causation.

**Read:** By Tuesday: Chapter 3.

**Assignment #1-- answers to questions about online article due Tuesday, February 10**

WEEK 4 (February 17-19): Introduction to research design.

**Read:** By Tuesday: Chapter 4.

**Assignment #2--your research question--due Tuesday, February 17.**

**Quiz: Thursday, February 19.**

WEEK 5 (February 24-26): From concepts to measures.

**Read:** By Tuesday: Chapter 5.

WEEK 6 (March 2-4): Measurement issues in criminal justice research.

**Read:** By Tuesday: Chapter 6.

WEEK 7 (March 9-11): Ethics and research.

**Read:** By Thursday: Chapter 8 (note switch in chapter order).

**Assignment #3--the relevant literature list--due Tuesday, March 9**

**BRING ONE RESEARCH ARTICLE TO CLASS, Tuesday, 3-9**

WEEK 8 (March 16-18): Introduction to data collection and experimental designs.

**Read:** By Tuesday: Chapter 9 up to page 218 (note switch in chapter order).

**MIDTERM: Thursday, March 18**

WEEK 9 (March 23-25): Experimental designs.

**Read:** By Thursday: Chapter 7 (note switch in chapter order).

**Assignment #4—single article summary--due Tuesday, March 23.**

WEEK 10 (March 30-April 1): SPRING BREAK!

WEEK 11 (April 6-8) Probability sampling; survey research.

**Read:** By Tuesday: page 218-238 in ch. 9 & Chapter 10.

WEEK 12 (April 13-15): Nonprobability sampling; field research.

**Read:** By Tuesday: p. 238-242 of ch. 9

**READ:** By Thursday: Chapter 11.

WEEK 13 (April 20-22): Research methods consultations; independent work

WEEK 14 (April 27-29): Unobtrusive methods

**Read:** By Tuesday: Chapter 12.

**Assignment #5—your method and design—is due Tuesday, April 27.**

WEEK 15 (May 4-6): Program evaluation and policy analysis.

**Read:** By Tuesday: Chapter 13.

WEEK 16 (May 11-13):

Making sense of findings; Communicating research findings.

**Read:** By Tuesday: Chapter 14.

WEEK 17 (May 18): QUIZ/MIDTERM MAKE-UPS; FINAL PROJECTS

**FINAL PROJECT DUE: Tuesday, May 18 in class.**

**Final exam during scheduled exam period: Monday, May 24, 8:15-9:30 AM.**

**NOTE LATER STARTING TIME!**

SPRING 2003/04

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 105  
RESEARCH METHODS

Instructor: Brian Colwell

e-mail: [bcolwell@stanford.edu](mailto:bcolwell@stanford.edu) (I'm good about checking it.)

Class meetings: MW. 7:30-8:45 AM

Office hours: M and W 8:45-9:30 AM (or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:

This course will systematically cover the basic elements of social science research and 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to participating in the class discussions and activities on Mondays and Wednesdays, you need to: complete the required readings prior to the class for which they are assigned; complete a cumulative research project proposal that will be the compilation of several interrelated assignments done throughout the semester, and take 1 in-class quiz and two in-class objective format exams which will cover the readings and lecture materials. The required projects can be on any of a range of topics, depending upon your interests.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Maxfield, Michael and Earl Babbie. Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology, 3rd Edition. West/Wadsworth Publishing.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Calculator (Later in Semester)

GRADING, MISSED EXAM & LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

Only legitimately excused missed exams can be made up. My policy for what constitutes legitimate excuses generally include the following: your own serious illness or injury (documented by a physician); a documented death in your immediate family; unavoidable, documented, schedule conflict for SCHOOL related purposes (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 for a legitimate excuse if you have NOT given notice of your absence before the actual scheduled exam period. You may only make up 1 scheduled test during the semester, so if you are not in attendance for more than 1 scheduled exam, you will receive zero points for any additional missed exams. Missed quizzes and midterms will be taken on the final scheduled day of class during the class period. The make-up tests may be in a different format than the original exams. The missed final period will be arranged if necessary, and may also be in a different format than the original final.

The assignment deadlines are FIRM deadlines. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED unless there is a documented emergency (see above). Computer / printer breakdowns are NOT legitimate emergencies. The final project will be graded down 10% for each CALENDAR day late. You are responsible for knowing any schedule changes for exams or assignment due dates that were announced in class, even if you were not in attendance. Changes do tend to occur, so make sure you don't miss anything.

Please familiarize yourself with the SJSU policy on academic dishonesty, available in pdf format at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/academic.html>. It is also published in the SJSU print catalog. Use those rules and definitions to guide your conduct in this class.

Your final grade for the course will be based upon your performances on the in-class exams, the assignments, and the final project, as follows:

Quiz:	25 points maximum
Midterm:	100 points maximum
Final:	125 points maximum
Assignments:	100 points maximum (5 assignments x 20 pts.)
Final project:	150 points maximum
Total possible:	500 points

A range = 450 points or above

B range = 400-449 points

C range = 350-399points

D range = 300-349 points

F = 299 points or below

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS / ASSIGNMENTS / DUE DATES (subject to change if necessary):

WEEK 1 (Feb 2-4): Introduction to asking and answering research questions.

Read: By Monday: Chapter 1.

**Library Orientation. Wednesday Feb 4th.**

WEEK 2 (Feb. 9-11): Theory and causation; reading social science research.

Read: By Monday: Chapter 2.

Read: By Wednesday: Chapter 3.

**Assignment #1—single article summary--due Wednesday, February 11th.**

WEEK 3 (Feb. 16-18): Introduction to research design.

Read: By Monday: Chapter 4.

**Assignment #2--your research question--due Wednesday, February 18.**

WEEK 4 (Feb. 23-25): From concepts to measures.

Read: By Monday: Chapter 5.

**Quiz: Wednesday, February 25.**

WEEK 5 (March. 1-3): Measurement issues in criminal justice research.

Read: By Monday: Chapter 6.

**Assignment #3--the relevant literature list--due Wednesday, March 3rd.**

**BRING ONE RESEARCH ARTICLE TO CLASS, Wednesday, March 3rd**

WEEK 6 (March 8-10): Ethics and research.

Read: By Wednesday: Chapter 8 (note switch in chapter order).

WEEK 7 (March 15-17): Introduction to data collection and experimental designs.

Read: By Monday: Chapter 9 up to page 218 (note switch in chapter order).

Read: By Wednesday: Chapter 7 (note switch in chapter order).

WEEK 8 (March 22-24): Experimental designs and Brief Midterm Review (Mon)

**MIDTERM: Wednesday, March 24th**

**MARCH 29-31 SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS**

WEEK 10 (April 5-7): Probability sampling; survey research.

Read: By Monday: page 218-238 in ch. 9 & Chapter 10.

**Assignment #4--the relevant literature synthesis--due Wednesday April 7th**

WEEK 11 (April 12-14 ): Nonprobability sampling; field research.

**Read:** By Monday: p. 238-242 of ch. 9 & Chapter 11.

WEEK 12 (April 19-21): Individual Meetings/Independent Work

Monday: Individual Meetings

Wednesday: Individual Meetings

WEEK 13 (April 26-28): Unobtrusive methods.

**Read:** By Monday: Chapter 12..

**Assignment #5--the research design--due Wednesday, April 28th.**

WEEK 14 (May 3-4): Making sense of findings; Communicating research findings.

**Read:** By Monday: Chapter 14.

WEEK 15 (May 10-12): Program evaluation & policy analysis.

**Read:** By Wednesday: Chapter 13.

WEEK 16 (May 17): QUIZ/MIDTERM MAKE-UPS; FINAL PROJECTS

**FINAL PROJECT DUE: Monday, May 17th in class.**

**Final exam during scheduled exam period: Wednesday, May 26, 7:15-9:30 AM**

**NOTE EARLIER STARTING TIME!**