

Instructor: Dina Kameda, M.S.

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Office Hours: Tues 4 – 5 PM; Fri 3 – 4 PM

Course Materials: <http://www.justice-studies.com>

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JUSTICE STUDIES 105, SECTION 3
RESEARCH METHODS
FALL 2007

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.

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to: identify, locate, read, and utilize scholarly published research on criminal justice and related social science issues; understand which methods are appropriate for different kinds of research questions; pose a research question, and design an appropriate study to answer that question; and evaluate and critique social science research.

PREREQUISITE: BUS 90, STAT 95, SOCS 15, OR SOCI 102 (OR EQUIVALENT) OR INSTRUCTOR CONSENT

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to participating in class discussions and activities, you will be required to: (1) complete the assigned readings prior to the class meeting for which they are assigned; (2) take two vocabulary quizzes; (3) complete a cumulative research project proposal that will be the compilation of several interrelated assignments throughout the semester; (4) take a midterm exam; and (5) take a non-cumulative final exam.

REQUIRED TEXT & MATERIALS:

- 1) Maxfield, M., & Babbie, E. (2005). *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology* (5th Ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Thompson Learning. (5th Ed. preferred, but 4th Ed. is acceptable)
- 2) Four Scantrons (Form 882 available @ the Spartan Bookstore)

ADDITIONAL READINGS AND HANDOUTS:

Additional readings and handouts will be announced in class and posted online.

COURSE DROP POLICY/ ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first two scheduled class meetings, and who fail to inform prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. However, instructors are not required to drop a student from their course. ***It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. Wednesday, September 5, 2007 is the drop deadline.***

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San Jose State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests or quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor, as well as damaging the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course, and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San Jose State University. Policies and procedures regarding add/drop, academic renewal, withdrawal, and academic integrity can be found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

ASSIGNMENTS POLICY & GRADING:

Missed quizzes and exams can only be made up if a legitimate absence can be substantiated. Legitimate excuses generally include the following: your own serious illness or injury (documented by a physician); a documented death in your immediate family; unavoidable and documented conflict that is school-related (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 if you have not provided a legitimate excuse **prior** to your absence. Missed quizzes and exams will be made up on Wednesday, December 19th at a time to be announced, and will be a different format than the original.

Due dates for all assignments, including the final project, are firm deadlines unless formally changed by the instructor and announced in class. Students are responsible for knowing when assignments are due, and for any schedule changes, even if you are absent. Late submissions will only be considered for full credit if the appropriate documentation is provided. The instructor has the discretion to deduct points for each day an assignment is late, or refuse to accept the assignment altogether.

Your final grade for the course will be based upon: weekly participation, vocabulary quizzes, performance on the individual proposal assignments, performance the midterm and final exams, and your final research proposal.

The Proposal Assignments (#1-4), and the Final Proposal will be graded based on the following criteria: (1) Following directions (proper format, timely submission); (2) College level grammar, punctuation, spelling, and APA in-text citations and references (where applicable); and (3) Content

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| Vocabulary Quizzes: (2 scantrons) | 60 points maximum (2 @ 30 points each) |
| Proposal Assignments: | 200 points maximum (4 @ 50 points each) |
| In Class Midterm: (1 scantron) | 50 points maximum |
| In Class Final Exam: (1 scantron) | 50 points maximum |
| Final Proposal: | 200 points maximum |
| Total Possible: | 560 points |

APPROXIMATE GRADE RANGES:

- A RANGE: 504 POINTS OR ABOVE
- B RANGE: 448 – 503 POINTS
- C RANGE: 392 – 447 POINTS
- D RANGE: 336 – 391 POINTS
- F: 335 AND BELOW

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR POINTS!

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| ASSIGNMENT #1 (DUE SEPT. 11 TH): | _____ | MIDTERM (OCT 16 TH): | _____ |
| ASSIGNMENT #1 REV. (DUE SEPT. 25 TH): | _____ | VOCAB. QUIZ #1 (OCT. 16 TH): | _____ |
| ASSIGNMENT #2 (DUE SEPT. 25 TH): | _____ | VOCAB. QUIZ #2 (DEC. 4 TH): | _____ |
| ASSIGNMENT #2 REV. (DUE OCT. 9 TH): | _____ | FINAL PROPOSAL (DUE DEC. 14 TH): | _____ |
| ASSIGNMENT #3 (DUE NOV. 13 TH): | _____ | FINALEXAM (DEC.18 TH): | _____ |
| ASSIGNMENT #3 REV. (DUE NOV. 27 TH): | _____ | | |
| ASSIGNMENT #4 (DUE NOV. 20 TH): | _____ | | |
| ASSIGNMENT #4 REV. (DUE DEC. 4 TH): | _____ | | |

E-MAIL POLICY:

Please feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check my e-mail often); however, please include in the “subject line” the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS105, Dina Kameda, research question). Any e-mailed assignments must be sent in one of the following formats as a separate attachment: Microsoft Word, Microsoft Works, or Word Perfect. Please **do not** copy and paste any assignments into an e-mail.

| Date | In Class | Homework |
|---------|---|---|
| Aug 28 | Introductions Handouts: Greensheet, Research Proposal, Ch. 1 Outline, and Assignment #1 Discussion of Assignment #1 Lec #1: Ch. 1 Crime, Criminal Justice, & Scientific Inquiry | - Read: Ch. 1 & 2 - (3) potential research topics and questions (typed) |
| Sept 4 | Utilizing MLK Library resources to find literature Scholarly Articles & APA presentation Potential research topics check-in Discussion of Assignment #2 (handout) Lec #2: Ch. 2 Theory & Criminal Justice Research | - Read: Ch. 3 - Assignment #1: Topic, Proposition, hypothesis, definitions, variables, and list of (3) scholarly references in APA style due next week! - Assignment #2: Start working on the assignment |
| Sept 11 | Video: <i>Quiet Rage</i> (Stanford Prison Experiment)+ Discussion Lec #3: Ch. 3 Ethics & Criminal Justice Research Assignment #1: Due in class (hard copy)! | - Read : Ch. 4 - Assignment #2: Keep working on the assignment |
| Sept 18 | Return and discuss Assignment #1 Revision of Assignment #1 protocol (2 copies of revision needed) Check-in on Assignment #2: questions, issues | - Assignment #1 Revision: Due next week with the first draft - Assignment #2: Brief Literature Review (5 scholarly articles) – <i>Finish it up, it's due next week!</i> |
| Sept 25 | Lec #4: Ch. 4 General Issues in Research Design Revision of Assignment #1 + first draft due in class (hard copies)! Assignment #2: Due via email by midnight! | - Read: Ch. 5 |
| Oct 2 | Return Assignment #1 Revisions Return and discuss Assignment #2 Lec #5: Ch. 5 Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement | - Read: Ch. 6 - Assignment #2 Revision: Due in class next week (hard copy) |
| Oct 9 | Revision of Assignment #2 due in class (hard copy) Midterm discussion + review handout Lec #6: Ch. 6 Measuring Crime | - Study for midterm and vocabulary quiz |
| Oct 16 | In class MIDTERM + Vocabulary quiz (Ch. 1 – 6) – 2 scantrons Discussion of Assignment #3 Return Assignment #2 Revisions | - Read: Ch. 7 - Assignment #3: Research Methodology (<i>Get started!</i>) |
| Oct 23 | Lec #7: Ch. 7 Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs | - Read: Ch. 8 & 9 - Assignment #3: Research Methodology (<i>Keep working!</i>) |
| Oct 30 | Lec #8: Ch. 8 Overview of Data Collection and Sampling Lec #9: Ch. 9 Survey Research & Other Ways of Asking Questions | - Read: Ch. 10 & 11 - Assignment #3: Research Methodology (<i>Keep working!</i>) |
| Nov 6 | Discuss Assignment #4 (handout) Lec #10: Ch. 10 Field Research Lec #11: Ch. 11 Agency Records, Content Analysis, & Secondary Data | - Read: Ch. 13 - Assignment #3: Research Methodology (<i>Finish it up! It's due next week!</i>) |

| Date | In Class | Homework |
|--------|---|--|
| Nov 13 | Discussion of Final Research Proposal (Requirements & Format) Lec #12: Ch. 13 Interpreting Data <i>Assignment #3 due via e-mail by midnight!</i> | - <i>Assignment #4</i> : Due via email next week! |
| Nov 20 | Return & Discuss Assignment #3 <i>Assignment #4 due via e-mail by midnight!</i> | - <i>Assignment #3 Revision</i> : Due via email next week! |
| Nov 27 | Return & Discuss Assignment #4 <i>Revision of Assignment #3 due via e-mail by midnight!</i> | - <i>Assignment #4 Revision</i> : Due via email next week! |
| Dec 4 | Vocabulary Quiz #2 (Ch. 7 – 11 & 13) – scantron needed <i>Revision of Assignment #4 due via e-mail by midnight!</i> Discuss Final Exam (review handout) Return Assignment #3 Revisions SOTES evaluation | - <i>Assignment #4 revisions will be returned via email with comments on Friday, 12/7/07</i> - <i>Study hard for your final exam!</i> <i>You will need a scantron!!!</i> |
| Dec 14 | <i>Final Research Proposal due via e-mail by midnight!</i> | |
| Dec 18 | In-class FINAL EXAM 5:15 PM – 7:30 PM – scantron needed Note earlier start time! Don't be late! | <i>Your Final Research Proposal will be returned to you via e-mail.</i> |