

SPRING 2007

JUSTICE STUDIES 105
RESEARCH METHODS

Instructor: Brian Colwell

e-mail: 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 of and presenting 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 introduction to the fundamentals of data analysis.

PREREQUISITE: Bus 90 or Stat 95 or SocS 15 or Soci 102 (or equivalent) or instructor consent.

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, 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

A Scantron is required to take the Quiz, Midterm and Final Exam. (Although non-multiple choice questions will also be included)

REQUIRED TEXT:

Maxfield, Michael and Earl Babbie. Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology, 4th Edition. West/Wadsworth Publishing.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Calculator (I suggest a 'Scientific' calculator. It will not be needed until, roughly, the final 3 weeks of class)

COURSE DROP POLICY

I may drop any student that does not show up to the first two days of class. Beyond that, **it is your responsibility to make sure classes are dropped**. I will not assume your intentions and will grade any student, regardless of amount of days absent or work missed, according to the grading guidelines detailed below.

GRADING, MISSED EXAM & LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY, PLAGIARISM

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 assignment deadlines are FIRM. **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 happen, so make sure you don't miss anything.**

***EMAILED ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. ONLY HARDCOPIES.**

Your Please familiarize yourself with the SJSU policy on academic dishonesty, available in pdf format at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>. It is also published in the SJSU print catalog. Use those rules and definitions to guide your conduct in this class.

GRADING SCHEME

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:	100 points maximum
Assignments:	75 points maximum (3 assignments x 25 pts.)
Final project:	100 points maximum
Total possible:	400 points

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

WEEK 1 (Jan 24th): Introduction to asking and answering research questions.

Read: By Wednesday: Chapter 1.

WEEK 2 (Jan 29-Jan.31st): Theory; reading social science research.

Library Orientation. Monday January 29th 8am. Rm. 213 of the San Jose (MLK)

Library. We will walk over there from class at 7:45.

Read: By Wednesday: Chapter 2. (pgs. 29-44)

WEEK 3 (Feb 5-7): Research Ethics and Causation

Read: By Wednesday: Chapter 3 (pgs.51-69)

WEEK 4 (Feb 12-14): Causation and Causal Inference.

Read: By Monday: Review Chapter 1 (pgs 21-23), Chapter 4 (pgs. 78-86)

Quiz: Wednesday, Feb. 14th.

DUE Wednesday, Feb. 14th : Assignment #1 –Research Question and References

WEEK 5 (Feb. 19-21): The Research Endeavor.

Read: By Monday: Chapter 4. (pgs 90-111)

WEEK 6 (Feb 26- 28th) Concepts, Operationalization and Measurement

Read: By Monday: Chapter 5 (pgs.114-134)

WEEK 7 (March 5-7): Criminal Justice Measures

Read: By Monday: Chapter 6

WEEK 8 (March 12-14): Introduction to data collection

Read: By Monday: page 209-217 Chapter 8 (note switch in chapter order).

MIDTERM: Wednesday, March 14th

WEEK 9 (March 19-21): Project Meetings: Front End

Individual Project Seminars Monday and Wednesday

WEEK 10 : (March 26-28) **SPRING BREAK!!! NO CLASS!! SORRY FOLKS!!**

WEEK 11 (April 2th-4th): Experimental Designs.

Read: By Monday: Chapter 7 pgs. (174-199)

DUE Monday April 2nd: Assignment #2--Literature Review and Argument.

WEEK 12 (April 9-11): Probability sampling; Nonprobability sampling

Read: By Monday: page 217-237 in ch. 8.

Read: By Wednesday: page 237-242 in ch. 8

WEEK 13 (April 16-18): Survey Research and Design; Field Research.

Read: By Monday: Chapter 9 (pgs.245-273)

Read: By Wednesday: Chapter 10.

WEEK 14 (April 23-25): Group Project Meetings: Research Design

Monday/Wednesday: Group Meetings

WEEK 15 (April 30th – May 2nd.): Univariate Statistics and Chi-Square

DUE MON, April 30th. Assignment #3--Research Design

Read: By Monday: Chapter 13 pgs 393-405.

Read: By Wednesday: Chapter 13 pgs. 418-431

WEEK 16 (May 7th-9th): Lambda, Gamma and ANOVA

Read: By Monday: Chapter 13 pgs 405-418

WEEK 17: May 14th: EXAM MAKE-UP DAY

FINAL PROJECT DUE: MAY 14th

Final exam during scheduled exam period: Thursday, MAY 17th , 7:15-9:30 AM

**NOTE EARLIER STARTING TIME! BRING YOUR BOOK AND
CALCULATOR TO CLASS!**