

JS 105
Justice System Research
Spring 2007
Justice Studies, San José State University
T, 1:30-4:15pm

Instructor's Name-Sang Kil	Phone Number- 408-924-2946
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Webpage: http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/faculty/lecturers/shkil/index.html	

**For students with special abilities and needs, please talk to the instructor as soon as possible so appropriate accommodations can be made to enhance classroom accessibility and learning.

Course Description:

This is an undergraduate course designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of social science research within a justice framework. Students will learn how to formulate a research question, create appropriate measures, choose a unit of analysis, and design a research proposal.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be able to locate, analyze, and apply scholarly publications related to justice studies research. Students will also learn how to conceptualize their topic, do library research, and write their own research proposal. Students will present their ideas and research in a clear, effective manner in writing and in oral presentations.

Class Format: Class sessions will include group discussions, peer reviews, lectures, in-class reading and writing assignments and oral presentations. We will also perform a range of exercises in analysis, interpretation, revision, editing, and outlining.

Prerequisites: For JS 105, elementary statistics is the pre-requisite. A community college equivalent or STAT 95, BUS 90, SocSci 15, HS 67.

Required Texts and Materials:

Michael G. Maxfield and Earl R. Babbie, "Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology" (with CD-ROM and InfoTrac), Fourth Edition.

Additional materials can be found on the web. Url address will be provided at a later date.

Daily writing assignments: These writings will demonstrate to me that the student has read the assignments from start to finish. These writings will also help the student perform well on their final exam as students will be permitted to consult these summaries during the exam. Generally, the student should identify the main points, key terms, and

germane examples of the readings. Assignments must be typed. If you need more room, you can print on the front and back of the one page, but I will not look or grade past one physical page (so I should never see a staple or paper clip with these assignments). If you intend to miss class, you must email me the assignment before class. If you turn in the assignment late, I will give you the full credit of your deserving grade with a documented explanation or I will give you half credit otherwise. **Assignments are due each class period.**

In-class reading and writing assignments: These assignments are designed to help the student identify parts of research like theory, method, measures, and analysis. One of these exercises will be a small group project and the other will be an individual effort. The dates of these assignments will be announced later in the semester.

Final Research Paper: This paper proposal will show me that the student can apply the tools of social science research onto a specific research topic of her/his choice that relates to the field of justice studies. (Requirements- 8 page limit, duplex printing, double space, 12 Font, and standard margins, APA citation style).

Presentation: This presentation will allow the student to share her/his research proposal with the class in a manner that is clear, cohesive, critical and engaging. Length of presentation is contingent upon class size and time constraints.

Class Participation: Full attendance is required (do not arrive late or leave early) as well as thoughtful participation (do not dominate discussion, do not remain persistently silent, but do share developed insights). You are allowed to miss one class without it affecting your grade, any more than this and I will dock one grade letter for each additional day.

Grading: Assignments will be graded as described below:

A/A- (excellent): The paper or project contains no grammatical, spelling, or typographical errors. It is outstanding in clarity, style, and organization. The depth and accuracy of the information covered are appropriate for the assignment. The style and format of the paper are appropriate for the assignment.

B+/B/B- (very good/good): The paper or project may contain a few minor grammatical errors, but should contain few or no typographical or spelling errors. For the most part, the paper is clearly written and logically organized. The topic is covered in reasonable depth and the information presented is accurate. The style and format of the paper are appropriate for the assignment.

C+/C (average): The paper or project may contain some minor grammatical, typographical, or spelling errors. For the most part, it is clearly written and logically organized. For the most part, the depth of coverage of the topic is appropriate and the information is accurate. For the most part, the style and format of the paper are appropriate for the assignment.

C-/D+/D/D- (below average/unacceptable): One of these grades will be received for ANY of the following reasons, with the specific grade assigned depending on the severity of the problems. The paper or project contains significant or serious grammatical, typographical, or spelling errors. It is not clearly written or logically organized. The train

of thought is difficult to follow. The depth of coverage of the topic is not adequate. The information presented is inaccurate. The style and/or format of the paper are not appropriate to the assignment.

F (unacceptable): A paper or project will receive an F if two or more of the following conditions are satisfied: The paper contains significant or serious grammatical, typographical, or spelling errors; it is not clearly written or logically organized; the train of thought is difficult to follow; the depth of coverage of the topic is not adequate; the information presented is inaccurate; the style and/or format of the paper are not appropriate to the assignment. The paper will also receive an F if some or all parts of the paper have been plagiarized.

Honor code:

The student is expected not to cheat and to be honest in her/his learning process. Do the work yourself.

Cell Phones:

Students will turn their cell phones off or put them on vibrate mode while in class. They will not answer their phones in class unless it is an emergency (in this case, please leave and take that call outside the classroom).

Assignment Weight:

Assignment:	% of Grade
Daily writing assignments	15
Pop quizzes	10
In-class reading/writing assignments	10
Final research project	25
Oral presentation	10
Final exam	15
Class participation	15
Total	100

Course Schedule:

Reading assignments below are to be completed by the date listed. Changes to the schedule are at the instructor's discretion.

Date	Discussion/Activities	Reading	Due	Notes
1/30	Hello! Introductions			
2/6		Part One: AN INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE INQUIRY. 1. Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry.		

2/13		2. Theory and Criminal Justice Research.		Start researching a topic
2/20		3. Ethics and Criminal Justice Research.	Choose your topic	
2/27		Part Two: STRUCTURING CRIMINAL JUSTICE INQUIRY. 4. General Issues in Research Design.		Continue researching your topic
3/6		5. Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement.	Turn in your research question	
3/13		6. Measuring Crime.	Theoretical perspective due	
3/20		7. Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs.	Type of methodology due	
Spring Break	Enjoy!	Refresh!	Renew!	
4/3		8. Overview of Data Collections and Sampling.		
4/10		9. Survey Research and Other Ways of Asking Questions.	Introduction due	
4/17		10. Field Research.	Outline due	
4/24		11. Agency Records, Content Analysis, and Secondary Data.		
5/1		Part Four: APPLICATION AND ANALYSIS. 12. Evaluation Research and Policy Analysis.	Rough draft due	
5/8		13. Interpreting Data.	Research Proposal due	
5/15			Oral	

			presentations	
5/22 12:15- 2:30pm.			Final exam	

University Policy:
Class Attendance

"Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading." (University policy F69-24)

Campus Policy in Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act:

"If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the SJSU Disability Resource Center to establish a record of their disability."

Policies and Procedures

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, withdrawal, etc. found at http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct. It is your responsibility to know and observe these policies. However, if there is something about a policy that you don't understand, please feel free to ask! You can also find answers to many questions at the Student Advising Center (<http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/>)

Academic Integrity Statement (from Office of Judicial Affairs)

"Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The policy on academic integrity can be found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

Academic Integrity Policy

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's language, images, data, or ideas without proper credit. It is a very serious offense in both academic and professional environments. In essence, plagiarism is both theft and lying: you have stolen someone else's ideas, and then lied by implying that they are your own.

Plagiarism will lead to grade penalties. It might also result in you failing the course and/or having the incident permanently noted in your SJSU student records.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to educate yourself, or ask for clarification, before you hand in written work.

Learning when to cite a source, and when not to, is an art, not a science. However, here are some examples of plagiarism that you should be careful to avoid:

If you use a sentence (or even a part of a sentence) that someone else wrote and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.

If you paraphrase somebody else's theory or idea and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.

If you use a picture or table from a web page or book and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.

If your paper incorporates data that someone else has collected and you do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.

The SJSU library has a tutorial that explains how to identify and avoid plagiarism, available at: <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm>.

In addition, the University of Indiana has developed a very helpful website with concrete examples about proper paraphrasing and quotation. See, in particular, the following three pages:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/overview.html>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html>

<http://education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/item1.html>

If you have questions about the official SJSU policy on plagiarism, please read the "Academic Integrity Policy" at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-369.html>.