

Instructor: Dina Kameda
E-mail: dkamedasjsu@aol.com
Course Materials: <http://www.justice-studies.com>
JS Department Web Site: <http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Office: MH 527
Office Hours: Wed 4 – 5 PM; Fri 3 – 4 PM
Office Phone: (408) 924-3225
Cell Phone: (408) 832-9939

JUSTICE STUDIES 105, SECTION 3
RESEARCH METHODS
SPRING 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) complete chapter vocabulary; (3) complete a cumulative research project proposal that will be the compilation of several interrelated assignments throughout the semester; (4) take 1 midterm exam; (5) write an article critique; (6) take a non-cumulative final exam; and (7) give an oral presentation on your project.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Maxfield, M., & Babbie, E. (2005). *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology* (4th Ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Thompson Learning.

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.***

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 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. You will only be allowed to make up one exam during the semester. Missed exams will be made up on Thursday, May 24th 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 a ½ grade 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, performance on proposal assignments, performance on article critique, performance the midterm and final exams, and your presentation.

Vocabulary:	60 points maximum (12 @ 5 points each)
Proposal Assignments:	200 points maximum (4 @ 50 points each)
Article Critique:	100 points maximum
Take Home Midterm:	100 points maximum
Final Proposal:	200 points maximum
Presentation:	100 points maximum
In Class Final Exam:	100 points maximum
Total Possible:	860 points

GRADE RANGES:

A RANGE: 774 POINTS OR ABOVE

B RANGE: 688 – 773 POINTS

C RANGE: 602 – 687 POINTS

D RANGE: 516 – 601 POINTS

F: 515 AND BELOW

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR POINTS!

ASSIGNMENT #1 (DUE FEB. 7 TH):	_____	VOC#1: _____	VOC#10: _____
ASSIGNMENT #2 (DUE FEB 28 TH):	_____	VOC#2: _____	VOC#11: _____
MIDTERM (DUE MAR 7 TH):	_____	VOC#3: _____	VOC#12: _____
ARTICLE CRITIQUE (DUE MAR 7 TH):	_____	VOC#4: _____	
ASSIGNMENT #3 (DUE APR 4 TH):	_____	VOC#5: _____	
ASSIGNMENT #4 (DUE APR 18 TH):	_____	VOC#6: _____	
PRESENTATION (MAY 2 ND OR 9 TH):	_____	VOC#7: _____	
FINAL EXAM (MAY 23 RD):	_____	VOC#8: _____	
PROPOSAL PROJECT (DUE MAY 15 TH):	_____	VOC#9: _____	

E-MAIL POLICY:

Please feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check my e-mail often); however, the “subject line” must contain the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS105, Dina Kameda, research question). Do not e-mail the instructor attachments without prior notification; unsolicited attachments will be deleted upon receipt.

Date	In Class	Homework
Jan 24	Introductions Handouts: Greensheet, Research Proposal, Ch. 1 Outline Pre-test Utility of research exercise & discussion Lec #1: Ch. 1 Crime, Criminal Justice, & Scientific Inquiry	Read: Ch. 1 & 2 (3) potential research topics and questions (typed) Vocab #1 (Ch. 1 & 2)
Jan 31	Collect Vocab #1 Utilizing MLK Library resources to find literature Scholarly Articles & APA presentation Potential research topics check-in; Brief discussion of Assign. #1 Lec #2: Ch. 2 Theory & Criminal Justice Research	Read: Ch. 3 Begin literature review Vocab #2 (Ch. 3) Assignment #1: Topic, Proposition, hypothesis, definitions, variables, and list of (3) scholarly references in APA style
Feb 7	Collect Vocab #2 Video: <i>Quiet Rage</i> (Stanford Prison Experiment)+ Discussion Lec #3: Ch. 3 Ethics & Criminal Justice Research Assignment #1 Due!	Read : Ch. 4 Vocab #3 (Ch. 4)
Feb 14	Collect Vocab #3 Return Assignment #1 Lec #4: Ch. 4 General Issues in Research Design	Read: Ch. 5 & 6 Vocab #4 (Ch. 5 & 6) Assignment #2: Brief Literature Review (5 scholarly articles)
Feb 21	Collect Vocab #4 Lec #5: Ch. 5 Concepts, Operationalization, & Measurement Lec #6: Ch. 6 Measuring Crime	Read: Ch. 7 Vocab #5 (Ch. 7)
Feb 28	Collect Vocab #5 Assignment #2 Due! Lec # 7: Ch. 7 Experimental & Quasi-Experimental Designs Midterm Review Article Critique explanation	Take Home Midterm (Ch. 1 – 6 + Article Critique)
Mar 7	Midterm & Article Critique Due! In class exercise & discussion	Read: Ch. 8 Vocab #6 (Ch. 8) Assignment #3: Research Methodology
Mar 14	Collect Vocab #6 Lec #8: Ch. 8 Overview of Data Collection and Sampling Return and discuss Midterm and Article Critique	Read: Ch. 9 & 10 Vocab #7 (Ch. 9 & 10)
Mar 21	Collect Vocab #7 Lec #9: Ch. 9 Survey Research & Other Ways of Asking Questions Lec #10: Ch. 10 Field Research	Read: Ch. 11 Vocab #8 (Ch. 11)

SPRING BREAK

Date	In Class	Homework
Apr 4	Collect Vocab #8 <i>Assignment #3 Due!</i> Lec #11: Ch. 11 Agency Records, Content Analysis, & Secondary Data	Read: Ch. 13 Vocab #9 (Ch. 13) <i>Assignment #4: Analysis Plan</i>
Apr 11	Collect Vocab #9 Lec #12: Ch. 13 Interpreting Data Post-test, correct in class, presentation of Pre-test vs. Post-test scores	<i>Final Exam Review handout available online</i> - <i>Assignment #4 Due via email by Wed., April 18th @ 5:30PM</i> - <i>Assignment #4 will be returned with comments on April 25th via email.</i>
Apr 18	Individual Project Meetings	
Apr 25	Individual Project Meetings	
May 2	Student Presentations	
May 9	Student Presentations SOTES Evaluations	
May 15	<i>FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE!</i> - <i>Due in my box by 5:00 PM</i> - <i>If you cannot make to campus by 5:00 PM, you may leave it in a manila envelope under my office door up until 8:00 PM May 15th. The manila envelope must have: JS105 Research Proposal, Your Name, and my name on it in large print.</i>	
May 23	IN CLASS FINAL EXAM 5:15 PM – 7:30 PM	