

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

Office: MH 527
Office Hours: Mon 4 – 5 PM; Fri 3:15 – 4:15 PM
Office Phone: (408) 924-3225
Cell Phone: (408) 832-9939 (10 AM – 8 PM)

JS 105: Research Methods in Justice Studies, Sec. 3 – Fall 2008
Class Meeting Time and Room: Mondays, 5:30 PM – 8:15 PM, MH 526

Course Description:

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 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.

NOTE: Attendance will be taken at every class meeting, and you should always bring your textbook to class.

Required Text & Materials:

- 1) Bachman, R., & Schutt, R. K. (2007). *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice* (3rd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.
- 2) Two Scantrons (Form 882-E available @ the Spartan Bookstore)

Additional Readings and Handouts:

Additional readings and handouts will be announced in class, sent via e-mail, and/or may be 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. Friday, September 5, 2008 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 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, or at the latest upon your return to class. Missed exams will be made up on **Friday, December 19th** at a time to be announced, and will be a different format than the original.

E-mail submissions of assignments must include the following in the file name of the document: (1) Your first and last name, (2) the name of the assignment (i.e., Assignment#1), and (3) if it is a revision (i.e., Assignment #1 rev).

Due dates for all assignments, including the final project, are firm deadlines unless formally changed by the instructor via e-mail and/or 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, 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 (submission of a complete assignment)

NOTE: Revised proposal assignments will only be accepted if the original assignment was complete!

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:	500 points

Estimated Grade Point Ranges (subject to change):

A RANGE: 450 POINTS OR ABOVE	D RANGE: 329 – 364 POINTS
B RANGE: 405 – 449 POINTS	F: 363 AND BELOW
C RANGE: 365 – 404 POINTS	

Keep Track of Your Points!

ASSIGN. #1 (DUE SEPT 15 TH): _____	MIDTERM (OCT 13 TH): _____
ASSIGN. #1 REV. (DUE SEPT 29 TH): _____	FINAL PROPOSAL (DUE DEC 8 TH): _____
ASSIGN. #2 (DUE OCT 6 TH): _____	FINAL EXAM (DEC 15 TH): _____
ASSIGN. #3 (DUE NOV 3 RD): _____	
ASSIGN. #3 REV. (DUE NOV 17 TH): _____	
ASSIGN. #4 (DUE NOV 26 TH): _____	

E-mail Policy:

Please feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check e-mail often); however, the e-mail guidelines are as follows:

- (1) 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). The instructor **will not** respond to “**no subject**” e-mails, or any e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.
- (2) 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, they will not be accepted.
- (3) **ALWAYS RETAIN A COPY OF ANY E-MAIL WITH AN ASSIGNMENT ATTACHED AS PROOF OF SUBMISSION!**

Date	In Class	Homework
Week 1		
Aug 25 th	Handout(s): Greensheet/schedule; overview of research proposal (term project); Ch. 1 outline; and Assignment #1 instructions Discussion of Assignment #1 Video: <i>ABC Primetime, The Milgram Experiment Revisted</i> + brief discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read: Ch. 1 and 2 - Type up (3) potential research topics and more specific research questions, bring to class on 9/8/08 - E-mail the instructor (dkamedasjsu@aol.com) with your first and last name + the e-mail address you wish to use throughout the semester no later than 8/29/08!
Week 2		
Sept. 1 st	Labor Day – No Class	- See homework from the previous week, get it done!
Week 3		
Sept. 8 th	Research topic check-in Lecture #1: <i>Ch. 1 Science, Society, and Criminological Research</i> Lecture #2: <i>Ch. 2 The Process & Problems of Criminological Research</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read: Ch. 3; Appendix A (A1-17); Appendix B (B1-3) - Finish up Assignment #1: due via e-mail next week, 9/15/08
Week 4		
Sept. 15 th	Lecture #3: <i>Ch. 3 Conceptualization and Measurement</i> Handout(s): Scholarly articles and APA format, Assignment #2, Part A instructions Discussion of Assignment #2, Part A Presentation of MLK Library resources (time permitting) Assignment #1: due via e-mail tonight by midnight!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read: Ch. 4; Appendix C (C1-31) - List of (8) scholarly journal articles related to your topic/hypothesis: due via e-mail on 9/22/08 by midnight, with full APA reference citations
Week 5		
Sept. 22 nd	Lecture #4: <i>Ch. 4 Sampling</i> Return and discuss Assignment #1 List of (10) scholarly journal articles: due via e-mail by midnight!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read: Ch. 5 - Complete Assignment #1 revision: due via e-mail next week, 9/29/08
Week 6		
Sept. 29 th	Lecture #5: <i>Ch. 5 Causation and Research Design</i> Brief Discussion: Appendix C <i>How to Read a Research Article</i> Return lists of journal articles with general comments/advice Handout: Midterm Study Guide Assignment #1 revision: due via e-mail tonight by midnight!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read: Ch. 6 - Finish Assignment #2, Part A: due 10/6/08 via e-mail

Date	In Class	Homework
Week 7		
Oct. 6 th	Lecture #6: Ch. 6 Experimental Designs Return and briefly discuss Assignment #1 revisions Assignment #2, Part A: due via e-mail tonight by midnight	- Study for your MIDTERM next week! - Make sure to pick up a scantron, form 882-E, for next week
Week 8		
Oct. 13 th	In-class MIDTERM (scantron form 882-E needed) Handout + discussion of: Assignment #3	- Read: Ch. 7 - Start working on Assignment #3! Do not procrastinate. Due 04/14/08
Week 9		
Oct. 20 th	Lecture #7: Ch. 7 Survey Research Return and discuss Assignment #2, Part A Handout(s) + discussion: Assignment #2, Part B (for final proposal)	- Read: Ch. 8 and Ch. 10 - Keep working on Assignment #3!
Week 10		
Oct. 27 th	Lecture #8: Ch. 8 Qualitative Methods Lecture #9: Ch. 10 Analyzing Content	- Read: Ch. 9 and Ch. 12 - Finish up Assignment #3! Due next week, 11/3/08 via e-mail
Week 11		
Nov. 3 rd	Lecture #10: Ch. 12 Quantitative Data Analysis Lecture #11: Ch. 9 Qualitative Data Analysis Assignment #3: due via e-mail tonight by midnight!	- Take this time to keep working on your Literature Review! Remember, you will need (5) scholarly research articles for that section of your Final Research Proposal.
Week 12		
Nov. 10 th	Return and discuss Assignment #3 Handout(s): variable information worksheet; Assignment #4 instructions	- Assignment #3 revision: due 11/17/08 via e-mail
Week 13		
Nov. 17 th	Handout(s): research proposal format Assignment #4: In-class, step-by-step workshop on data analysis plan Assignment #3 revisions: due via e-mail tonight by midnight!	- Complete variable information worksheet for next week (11/24/08), bring to class!
Week 14		
Nov. 24 th	Return Assignment #3 revisions Assignment #4: In-class workshop to finalize data analysis plan	- Assignment #4: due via e-mail on Wednesday, 11/26/08 by midnight

Date	In Class	Homework
Week 15		
Dec. 1 st	SOTES Review of Research Proposal format for submission Return Assignment #4 Individual help	- Finish up your Research Proposals
Week 16		
Dec. 8 th	Handout: Final Exam Study Guide Wrap-up Q&A + last minute help Final Research Proposal due via e-mail tonight by midnight!	- Study for your FINAL EXAM!

Final Exam Information

Date: Monday, December 15, 2008

Time: 5:15 PM – 7:30 PM

Location: MH 526

Materials to bring: (1) scantron, (2) #2 pencil or mechanical pencil with HB lead, textbook, handout(s) related to Assignment #4