

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS105-03 Research Methods, Fall 2010

Instructor:	Dina M. Kameda, M.S., M.A.
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Office Hours:	Mondays, 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM Wednesdays, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays, 5:30 PM – 8:15 PM
Classroom:	MH 520
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing; STAT 95 or equivalent

Faculty Web Page and E-mail

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and ancillary materials may be found on my faculty web site at: <http://www.justice-studies.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking your e-mail regarding announcements, reminders, and any additional course materials. All course materials are posted in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format; you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the PDF documents. A link to the program's download site is available on the home page of the instructor's web site; there is not cost to download Adobe Acrobat Reader.

E-mail Policy

Please feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check often); however, please adhere to the e-mail guidelines below:

1. Please include in the "subject line" the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS105-03, Your Name, 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 (*.doc or *.docx), Microsoft Works (*.wps), or in rich text format (*.rtf). Please **do not** copy and paste any assignments into an e-mail, they will not be accepted. Always retain a copy of any e-mail with an assignment attached as proof of submission.

Course Description and Overview

This course will systematically cover the basic elements of social science research methodology. You 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, developing a hypothesis, selecting an appropriate method to test that hypothesis, designing a research study, ethical issues faced when conducting social science research, and how to make sense of research findings.

Turnitin.com

Students will be required to register on <http://www.turnitin.com>, and submit all written assignments to turnitin.com prior to submission to the instructor. Registration information will be provided on the first night of class.

Required Texts/Additional Readings/Other Materials

Textbook (Available at the Spartan Bookstore; ISBN: 978-1412960526)

Bachman, R., & Schutt, R. K. (2008). *Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.

Other Materials

Students will need to purchase (1) scantron (Form 882-E available at the Spartan Bookstore) for the Final Exam.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- LO1** Identify, locate, read, critique and utilize scholarly published research on criminal justice and related social science issues. Satisfaction of this objective will be measured through the evaluation of an article critique requiring an online literature search of academic databases.
- LO2** Understand which methods are appropriate for different kinds of research questions. Satisfaction of this objective will be measured through the evaluation of assignments addressing the various components of a proposed research study, and an objective final examination.
- LO3** Pose a hypothesis, and design an appropriate study to test that hypothesis. Satisfaction of this objective will be measured through the evaluation of assignments addressing the various components of a proposed research study, and the preparation of a research proposal term project.

Library Liaison

Nyle Monday, <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

(408) 808-2041; Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/2103/>. Information about late drop is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Classroom Protocol

1. Students are expected to: attend all class meetings, arrive on time, stay for the duration of the class period.
2. Students are responsible for all missed notes, materials and announcements due to absence (i.e., do not e-mail the instructor asking about what you missed). You are encouraged to exchange contact information with someone in class just in case.
3. Review the **Student Expectations** page of the instructor's web site carefully (<http://www.justice-studies.com>) for further details regarding proper classroom etiquette.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Assignment/Exam	Due Date	Percentage of Final Grade
Assignment #1	September 29	10%
Assignment #2	October 18	10%
Assignment #3	October 27	10%
Assignment #4	November 3	10%
Assignment #5	November 24	10%
Research Proposal	December 10	40%
In-class Final Exam	December 17	10%
		<hr/>
		100%

General 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 proposal project that will be a compilation of several interrelated assignments throughout the semester
3. Take a cumulative final examination

Assignment Completion and Submission

Students will work in pairs on all assignments, with the exception of the final exam. The determination of student pairs will be established on the first night of class. All assignments will be submitted via e-mail to the instructor, and to www.turnitin.com. E-mail submissions of assignments must include the following in the file name (i.e., the name you provide for the document you are working on): (1) the first and last name of both parties; and (2) the name of the assignment. For example, the full file name (including the file extension) might look like: JoeJohnson&JohnSmith_Assignment1.docx

Due dates for all assignments are firm deadlines, unless formally changed by the instructor via an e-mail or in-class announcement. 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 credible documentation is provided regarding an unavoidable extenuating circumstance. The instructor reserves the discretion to deduct points for each day an assignment is late, or assign zero points. Regardless of whether points are awarded for an assignment, all assignments must be completed and submitted in order to pass the course.

Assignments #1 - #5

General formatting requirements for written assignments include page numbering, 1” margins, single-spacing (except for APA references, which are double-spaced), and Times New Roman font. All assignments must be written in formal English, with college-level writing mechanics and APA-style formatting where appropriate, inclusive of in-text citations and references. Each written assignment must be submitted to www.turnitin.com prior to submission to the instructor. Written assignments are to be submitted via e-mail as an attachment in one of the following formats: MS Works (*.wps), MS Word (*.doc or *.docx), or Rich Text Format (*.rtf). Copied and pasted assignments, into the body of an e-mail, will not be accepted.

Assignment #1: Outline of Proposed Research Study

This assignment will outline the initial components of your proposed research study, including: statement of a research topic; (2) theoretical proposition(s); (3) term definitions; (4) at least one empirical hypothesis that describes a clear comparison and proposed outcome; and (5) variables (i.e., independent, dependent, and background). This assignment will have a point value of 10 (i.e., 10% of the final course grade). [LO2 and LO3]

Assignment #2: Outline of Research Design (Methodology, Part 1)

This portion of your methodology is the first part of your complete methodology. This assignment will require you to provide extensive details regarding your chosen research design. This assignment will have a point value of 10 (i.e., 10% of the final course grade). [LO2 and LO3]

Assignment #3: Outline of Sampling/Recruitment of Subjects (Methodology, Part 2)

This portion of your methodology is the second part of your complete methodology. This assignment will require you to provide extensive details regarding the following: (1) your study sample; and (2) the recruitment of subjects. This assignment will have a point value of 10 (i.e., 10% of the final course grade). [LO2 and LO3]

Assignment #4: Outline of Procedure (Methodology, Part 3)

This portion of your methodology is the third part of your complete methodology. This assignment will require you to provide extensive details regarding the procedures that would have to be followed in order to carry out your proposed study. Additionally, you will be required to develop a data collection instrument (e.g., a questionnaire, a list of interview questions, or a coding form) that must be submitted in “ready to use” form. This assignment will have a point value of 10 (i.e., 10% of the final course grade). [LO2 and LO3]

Assignment #5: Outline of Data Analysis Plan

This assignment will outline a data analysis plan that will include all of your proposed variables determined at the beginning of the semester. There will be three required sections: descriptive statistics, bivariate analysis, and test(s) of the hypothesis/hypotheses. This assignment will have a point value of 10 (i.e., 10% of the final course grade). [LO2 and LO3]

Final Research Proposal

The Final Research Proposal will be your culminating project for the course. It will incorporate work from previously completed proposal assignments #1 through #5, and include an article critique. In order to receive a top grade on the research proposal, attention to detail, corrections of errors on assignments #1 through #5, and precise formatting will be required. An in-class review of formatting requirements will be presented towards the end of the semester (see the course schedule).

In-class Final Exam: The final exam will be comprehensive, and a combination of True/False and multiple choice items – 50 items. The final exam will have a point value of 10 (i.e., 10% of the final course grade). A scantron (Form 882-E) and a #2 pencil will be needed. [Chapters 1 – 8 and 10: LO2]

Grading Policy and Determination of Course Grades

Written assignments will primarily be graded on content; however, poor writing mechanics and APA formatting will result in a moderate point deduction. Assistance with APA can be found at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

In order to demonstrate your comprehension of the course material, and knowledgeable application of research methods, one must be able to write in a clear and effective manner. Always carefully proofread your assignments before submitting them. A grade of “C minus” is required to pass this course.

Final Examination Policy

The final exam can only be made up if a legitimate reason can be substantiated. Only under extreme and unavoidable emergency circumstances will you be able to make up the final exam if you have not provided a legitimate excuse prior to the examination date. A make-up final exam will be administered on an agreed upon date and time (generally the day following the end of the final examination period), and will be different from the original.

Course Grade Determination

Course grades will be based on effort, participation, proposal assignments #1 through #5, performance on the final exam, and preparation of the final research proposal. As students will be working in pairs throughout the semester, it is expected that students will contribute equally to submitted assignments. Each student pair will rate each other’s effort and participation for proposal assignments #1 through #5, and the final research proposal. A rating form will be provided by the instructor. Students are expected to diligently keep track of contributions, and will be required to submit the rating forms at the end of the semester. Students are not to share their rating forms with anyone else, including their partner.

Total Points	Grade
98 to 100	A plus
94 to 97	A
90 to 93	A minus
87 to 89	B plus
84 to 86	B
80 to 83	B minus
77 to 79	C plus
74 to 76	C
70 to 73	C minus
67 to 69	D plus
64 to 66	D
60 to 63	D minus
59 or less	F

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/students/academic_integrity.html. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require 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 website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/students/student_conduct_code.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make 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 DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

SJSU Writing Center

The Writing Center in Clark Hall 126 offers tutoring services to San Jose State students in all courses. Writing Specialists assist in all areas of the writing process, including grammar, organization, paragraph development, coherence, syntax, and documentation styles. For more information, visit the Writing Center website at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter> or call 924-2308.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

JS105-03 / Research Methods, Fall 2010 Course Schedule

The following course schedule is subject to change; advance notice of any changes will be provided via e-mail as early as possible.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Handouts, Homework/Assignments, Readings, Exams and Deadlines
1	Tuesday 8/31	<p>Agenda/Topics: Course introduction; review of syllabus; discussion of expectations; discuss Research Proposal Assignment; discuss Assignment #1; determine student pairs</p> <p>Handouts: Research Proposal Assignment Overview handout; Assignment #1; Example Assignment #1 (to be provided)</p> <p>Homework/Assignments: Bring documentation of upper-division standing (at least junior class status) and documentation of successful completion of a statistics course; register on www.turnitin.com by Friday, 9/3; review Chapter 1 power point posted online; begin discussing a potential research topic</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 1</p>
2	Tuesday 9/7	<p>Agenda/Topics: Lecture - Chapter 2, The Process and Problems of Criminological Research; discussion of potential topics; begin working in pairs on Assignment #1</p> <p>Homework/Assignments: Finalize a research topic</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 2</p>
3	Tuesday 9/14	<p>Agenda/Topics: Lecture - Chapter 3, Conceptualization and Measurement; discuss research topics and hypotheses; work in pairs on Assignment #1</p> <p>Homework/Assignments: Complete Assignment #1</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 3</p>
4	Tuesday 9/21	<p>Agenda/Topics: Discuss variables; work in pairs on Assignment #1</p> <p>Homework/Assignments: Assignment #1 due via e-mail by midnight</p>
5	Tuesday 9/28	<p>Agenda/Topics: Lecture - Chapter 5, Causation and Research Design</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 5</p>

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Handouts, Homework/Assignments, Readings, Exams and Deadlines
6	Tuesday 10/5	<p>Agenda/Topics: Lecture - Chapter 4, Sampling; return and discuss Assignment #1; discuss Assignment #2; begin working in pairs on Assignment #2 (time permitting)</p> <p>Handout: Assignment #2; Example Assignment #2 (bring both to class today)</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 4</p>
7	Tuesday 10/12	<p>Agenda/Topics: Lecture - Chapter 6, Survey Research; work in pairs on Assignment #2</p> <p>Homework/Assignments: Complete Assignment #2</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 6</p>
8	Tuesday 10/19	<p>Agenda/Topics: Lecture - Chapter 7, Qualitative Methods and Data Analysis; discuss Assignment #3</p> <p>Handout: Assignment #3; Example Assignment #3 (bring both to class today)</p> <p>Homework/Assignments: Assignment #2 due via e-mail by midnight tonight as an attachment; review Chapter 8 power point posted online</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 7</p>
9	Tuesday 10/26	<p>Agenda/Topics: Return and discuss Assignment #2; work in pairs on Assignment #3</p> <p>Homework/Assignments: Complete Assignment #3</p>
10	Tuesday 11/2	<p>Agenda/Topics: Discuss Assignment #4 and data collection instrument; begin working in pairs on Assignment #4 and data collection instrument</p> <p>Handout: Assignment #4; Example Assignment #4 (bring both to class today)</p> <p>Homework/Assignments: Assignment #3 due via e-mail by midnight tonight as an attachment</p>
11	Tuesday 11/9	<p>Agenda/Topics: Return and discuss Assignment #3; work in pairs on Assignment #4 and data collection instrument</p> <p>Homework/Assignments: Complete Assignment #4</p>

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Handouts, Homework/Assignments, Readings, Exams and Deadlines
12	Tuesday 11/16	<p>Agenda/Topics: Lecture - Chapter 10, Quantitative Analysis; discuss Variable Information List assignment; return and discuss Assignment #4 + data collection instruments; discuss Article Critique for final research proposal; discuss APA style citations and references</p> <p>Homework/Assignments: Assignment #4 + data collection instrument(s) due via e-mail by midnight tonight as an attachment</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 10</p>
13	Tuesday 11/23	<p>Agenda/Topics: Discuss Assignment #5 instructions and guidelines; in-class Assignment #5 workshop</p> <p>Handout: Assignment #5 (bring to class today); Example Assignment #5 to be provided in class</p> <p>Homework/Assignments: Complete Assignment #5</p>
14	Tuesday 11/30	<p>Agenda/Topics: SOTES; Review research proposal format/requirements for submission; discussion about final exam</p> <p>Handouts: Final exam study guide (to be provided in class only)</p> <p>Homework/Assignments: Assignment #5 due via e-mail by midnight tonight as an attachment</p>
15	Tuesday 12/7	<p>Agenda/Topics: Return and discuss Assignment #5; additional help with Final Research Proposals (remaining class time)</p> <p>Homework/Assignments: Complete Final Research Proposal, due via e-mail on Wednesday, 12/15 by midnight as an attachment</p>
Final Exam	Tuesday 12/14	<p>Location: MH520</p> <p>Time: 5:15 PM – 7:30 PM</p> <p>Items needed: Scantron (see syllabus for correct form), #2 pencil, textbook, printed or handwritten lecture notes/assignment handouts</p> <p>Items not permitted: Electronic devices (e.g., laptops/netbooks, or cell phones)</p>