

**San José State University, Fall 2010**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS202 Research Methods, Design, & Evaluation**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Danielle A Harris PhD
<b>Office Location:</b>	MacQuarrie Hall TBA
<b>Telephone:</b>	408 924 2968
<b>Email:</b>	dharris@casa.sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays 1:00 – 4:00 pm
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Thursdays 4:00 pm – 6:45 pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	MacQuarrie Hall TBA

**Course Description**

The nature of criminal justice and criminology necessitates a wide range of methodological approaches in both quantitative and qualitative research. This course has three main objectives. The first goal is to review and expand upon JS105, ensuring that students are comfortable with the basic processes of traditional sociological research. The second goal is to familiarize the student with the methods of program evaluation and policy analysis. Finally, the class will require the student to participate in the design and preparation of a research project in accordance with either of these methods. In the following semester, JS 203 will build upon the foundations provided in this class and focus more specifically on data analysis using statistical techniques.

**Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbooks**

APA (6<sup>th</sup> edition) *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*

Berk & Rossi (1998; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed) *Thinking About Program Evaluation*, Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Donaldson, Christie, & Mark (2009) *What Counts as Credible Evidence?* Sage.

Kapp & Anderson (2010) *Agency based program evaluation*, Sage.

Rossi, Freeman, & Lipsey (2004; 7<sup>th</sup> ed) *Evaluation. A systematic approach*, Sage.

Weiss (1998; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed) *Evaluation*, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

## **Recommended Reading**

Maxfield & Babbie (2006) Basics of Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

## **Other Readings**

PDFs of journal articles will be distributed electronically as required.

## **Classroom Protocol**

### **Instructor's Note on Communication**

As you know, graduate school is a significant undertaking and requires a high level of commitment, time management, organization, and initiative. Thus, it is in your best interest to stay on top of the readings and keep in touch with the instructor. *The best way to keep in touch is in-person, during office hours*, or at another time by appointment. If you cannot meet with me in person, I prefer that you email me. Emails will be responded to during business hours (9am-5pm) only. Please include a phone number and availability in all email communication, if you wish for me to call you.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

Tardiness will not be tolerated. I understand that many of you work, but I also understand that you have enrolled in graduate school and are aware of the demands of that commitment. Please arrange with your employer/child care/other to arrive in time for class to begin promptly at 4:00pm on Thursdays. Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, PDA's or any other electronic device. The use of anything that beeps or vibrates during class is disruptive and will not be tolerated. If you are caught using a telephone (even silently, e.g. texting), you will be asked to leave the classroom. Students are expected to be courteous during class. Any student engaging in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave. Examples of disruptive behavior include: arriving late to class, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom without authorization, persisting in speaking without being recognized, the use of cell phones and beepers, use of personal stereo systems, reading outside material, doing crossword puzzles, and sleeping.

## **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, academic renewal, etc. Refer to the current semester's [catalog policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html> for any add/drop deadlines, policies, and procedures section and specific registration information. [Late drop policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Instructors may drop students who do not attend the first day of class

## **Assignments and Grading Policy**

In order to receive a grade for this course, **all** course requirements must be met. Failure to complete any one of them may result in a failing grade for the course.

Deadlines are firm. Papers will not be accepted via email, late papers will not be accepted at all, and presentations will not be rescheduled (without extenuating personal circumstances due to own or family health; or other university recognized excuse). Plagiarism will not be tolerated on **any** piece of assessment, under any circumstances. Students found to be guilty of plagiarism will be referred to the University's Honor Council.

Article Critiques (20%): Students will be required to critique four existing studies as reported in various journal articles. This will help the student become familiar with the nature of traditional and evaluative research conducted in justice related fields. It will also enable students to practice APA style (writing and referencing) in preparation for their final papers. Articles will be pre-selected by the instructor and critiques will be due throughout the semester.

In class participation/field observation (10%): Critical reading, thinking, and writing involve a number of practical skills. These skills must be practiced to be developed and maintained. Graduate students are expected to keep up with class reading, and to attend all class meetings well prepared to contribute to the classroom exchange of ideas and information. Therefore, attendance and participation is essential in order to pass JS202. This is especially true at the graduate level and is particularly important given that the class meets only once a week. Students will also be required to conduct field observations during the semester and report their results to the class.

Midterm Exam (20%): A closed book, short answer and essay style exam will be held during class in week 7.

Research Paper (30%): Students are required to write a research proposal to evaluate a program or agency of their choosing. Consider that funding is unlimited, but, (obviously) it must be ethical, reasonable, possible, and timely. This assignment observes that writing is a process. Thus, it will be achieved in four parts. (1) An outline of your paper, along with a reference list of at least five empirical, peer reviewed journal articles that you intend to use in your paper, will be submitted in week 4. (2) Each student will peer review a classmate's rough draft during week 9. (3) You will have the opportunity to meet with the instructor individually during week 8 or 9 (by appointment) to discuss your draft and to receive feedback from the peer review. (4) The final paper will be due in class in week 15.

Presentation (20%): Students are required to present their research project proposal to the class during the dates specified in the schedule below. Please note that all JS faculty will be invited to these presentations. Your presentation is a chance to discuss your project with the rest of the class and practice your public speaking skills. An outline of your presentation should be provided to the instructor and the presentation should be limited to no more than 20 minutes (about 15 slides of content).

**THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT IN THIS COURSE**

## **University Policies**

### **Academic integrity**

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html) is available at [http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial\\_affairs/faculty\\_and\\_staff/academic\\_integrity/index.html](http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.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 [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at [http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial\\_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.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 [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

### **Learning Assistance Resource Center**

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The [LARC website](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>.

### **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

# JS202 Research Methods, Design, & Evaluation,

## Fall, 2010 Course Schedule

The Class Schedule below is tentative. The dynamics and abilities of the individual class often dictate the amount of time spent on classroom discussions and so on. This usually means that it is necessary to adjust some activities or materials as the semester progresses. This makes it particularly important to come to class on time (to receive those announcements) and to check in with the instructor after any absences.

**Table 1 Course Schedule**

Week	Date	Topic	Assessment due	Reading
1	08/26/10	Overview of course, introductions, relevance to future careers, distinction between policy evaluation and research methods, “what is grad school?” what is evaluation?		<i>Weiss: 1, 2</i> <i>Rossi: 1, 12</i> <i>Kapp: 1</i> <i>Donaldson: 2, 7</i>
2	09/02/10	Article Critique feedback, IRB presentation, how to write an IRB application, research ethics and integrity, ethical challenges, conducting evaluations with cultural competency, agencies and academics in a political context	Article critique 1	<i>Kapp: 3, 4, 5, 6</i> <i>Weiss: 14</i> <i>Donaldson: 9</i>
3	09/09/10	Policy analysis and evaluative research: purpose, description, examples, process v outcome studies, understanding programs, criminal justice, and social inquiry.		<i>Berk/Rossi: 1, 2</i> <i>Weiss: 2</i>
4	09/16/10	Key concepts and terminology of evaluations, issues in research design; understanding, planning, designing and testing new and ongoing programs, role of the evaluator	Paper outline and references  Article critique 2	<i>Weiss: 3, 4, 5, 8, 10</i> <i>Kapp: 2, 7, 8, 10</i> <i>Rossi: 3, 6, 7</i> <i>Holden: 2, 4</i> <i>Donaldson: 6</i>
5	09/23/10	Units of analysis, data collection, operationalization and measurement of concepts, testing new and ongoing programs, sampling, developing measures, validity and reliability,		<i>Weiss: 6, 7</i> <i>Berk/ Rossi: 3, 4</i>
6	09/30/10	Experimental and quasi-experimental design, randomized experiments, validity and reliability	Article critique 3	<i>Weiss: 9</i> <i>Donaldson: 4</i> <i>Rossi: 8, 9</i>
7	10/07/10	MIDTERM EXAM		
8	10/14/10	Qualitative methods: field research (participant observation, interview, case study), surveys, content analysis		<i>Kapp: 11</i> <i>Weiss: 11</i>

<b>9</b>	<b>10/21/10</b>	<b>Peer Review of classmate's rough draft in lieu of class</b>		
10	10/28/10	Coding survey responses, data entry (of survey responses), collect and collate observation and survey results, introduction to interpreting data, preliminary analysis	Article critique 4	<i>Rossi: 10</i> <i>Holden: 7</i> <i>Weiss: 12</i>
11	11/04/10	Univariate descriptive statistics, results, conclusions, telling the story, limitations. Introduction to 203, Demonstration of a conference presentation, guide for paper and presentation, APA style etc.		<i>Kapp: 13</i> <i>Weiss: 13</i>
<b>12</b>	<b>11/11/10</b>	<b>No class - Veteran's Day</b>		
<b>13</b>	<b>11/18/10</b>	<b>No class – ASC</b>		
<b>14</b>	<b>11/25/10</b>	<b>No class – Thanksgiving</b>		
15	12/02/10	Presentations	Papers due	
16	12/09/10	Presentations		