
JS 105, Sec. 3: Research Methods in Justice Studies – Spring 2010
Class Meeting Time and Room: Mondays, 5:30 PM – 8:15 PM, MH 526

Instructor: Dina M. Kameda, M.S., M.A.
E-mail: dkamedasjsu@aol.com (**preferred**)
Cell Phone: (408) 832-9939 (Urgent only: 11 AM – 8 PM)
Office Hours (MH 527): Tuesdays, 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM and Wednesdays, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM
Course Materials: <http://www.justice-studies.com>
JS Department Web Site: <http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

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.

Prerequisites: (1) UPPER DIVISION STANDING, AND (2) COMPLETION OF 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; and (4) take a cumulative final exam. Students will also be required to register on www.turnitin.com.

Attendance will be taken at the start of every class meeting, and you should always bring your textbook to class.

Required Text & Materials:

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

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first two scheduled class meetings, and who fail to inform the instructor, prior to the second class meeting, of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. However, please note that instructors are not required to drop a student from their course.

It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. Friday, February 5, 2010 is the drop deadline. If you decide that you wish to drop the course, please be sure to do so prior to the drop deadline. Students who remain on the class roster, but discontinue coming to class, will receive either a "Withdrawal Unauthorized – WU" or an "F" for the course depending on the circumstances and timing of departure.

Academic integrity:

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

Final Examination Policy:

The final exam can only be made up if a legitimate reason 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 the final exam if you have not provided a legitimate excuse prior to the examination date. A make-up final exam will be made up on agreed upon date and time, and will be a different from the original.

Submission of Proposal Assignments and the Final Research Proposal Policy:

E-mail submissions of assignments must include the following in the file name of the document: (1) Your first and last name, and (2) the name of the assignment (For example: DinaKameda_Assignment#1.docx). 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 credible documentation is provided. The instructor has the discretion to deduct points for each day an assignment is late, or assign zero points.

Determination of Grades:

Your final grade for the course will be based upon: participation, performance on the individual proposal assignments, performance on the final exam, and your final research proposal. A "C-" is required to pass the course. The Proposal Assignments (#1 - #5), 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)

Participation (see below):	50 points maximum - (10%)
Proposal Assignments (#1-5):	150 points maximum (5 @ 30 points each) – (30%)
In Class Final Exam: (1 scantron)	50 points maximum – (10%)
Final Proposal:	250 points maximum (includes an article critique) – (50%)
Total Possible:	500 points

Participation: While students may not be graded on attendance per se, class participation requires class attendance. Points will be deducted based upon missed participation opportunities as follows:

- 1st missed class: 10 point deduction
- 2nd missed class: 15 point deduction
- 3rd missed class: 25 point deduction

Estimated Grade Point Ranges (subject to change):

C RANGE: 350 – 399 POINTS

D RANGE: 300 – 349 POINTS

A RANGE: 450+ POINTS

B RANGE: 400 – 449 POINTS

F: 299 AND BELOW

Descriptions of Proposal Assignments #1-5, Final Research Proposal, and Final Exam

- **ASSIGNMENT #1: OUTLINE OF PROPOSED RESEARCH STUDY**
 THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DESIGNED TO OUTLINE THE INITIAL COMPONENTS OF YOUR PROPOSED RESEARCH STUDY, INCLUDING: (1) 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)
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 SURVEY, A LIST OF INTERVIEW QUESTIONS, OR A CODING FORM) THAT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN "READY TO USE" FORM.
- **ASSIGNMENT #5: OUTLINE OF DATA ANALYSIS PLAN**
 THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DESIGNED TO 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.
- **FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL**
 THE FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL WILL BE YOUR CULMINATING PROJECT FOR THE COURSE. IT WILL INCORPORATE WORK FROM PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED PROPOSAL ASSIGNMENTS (#1-5), AND INCLUDE AN ARTICLE CRITIQUE. IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A TOP GRADE ON YOUR RESEARCH PROPOSAL ATTENTION TO DETAIL, CORRECTIONS OF ERRORS IN ASSIGNMENTS #1-5, AND PRECISE FORMATTING WILL BE REQUIRED.
- **FINAL EXAM (CHAPTERS 1-8 AND 10)**
 THE FINAL WILL BE BASED UPON (50) TRUE/FALSE AND MULTIPLE CHOICE ITEMS, A STUDY GUIDE WILL BE PROVIDED.

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR POINTS!

<u>ASSIGNMENTS</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
ASSIGNMENT #1: OUTLINE OF PROPOSED RESEARCH STUDY (30 POINTS POSSIBLE)	MARCH 1 ST	_____
ASSIGNMENT #2: OUTLINE OF RESEARCH DESIGN (30 POINTS POSSIBLE)	MARCH 15 TH	_____
ASSIGNMENT #3: OUTLINE OF SAMPLING/RECRUITMENT OF SUBJECTS (30 POINTS POSSIBLE)	MARCH 22 ND	_____
ASSIGNMENT #4: OUTLINE OF PROCEDURE (30 POINTS POSSIBLE)	APRIL 5 TH	_____
ASSIGNMENT #5: OUTLINE OF DATA ANALYSIS PLAN (30 POINTS POSSIBLE)	APRIL 26 TH	_____
FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL (250 POINTS POSSIBLE)	MAY 12 TH	_____
FINAL EXAM: CHAPTERS #1-8 AND #10 (50 POINTS POSSIBLE)	MAY 24 TH	_____

PARTICIPATION (50 POINTS POSSIBLE): PERFECT ATTENDANCE

MISSSED CLASSES (POINTS DEDUCTED) 1ST _____(10) 2ND _____(15) 3RD _____(25) TOTAL POINTS DEDUCTED: (_____)

Total Points for the Course: _____

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 and section, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS105 section 1, 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 (*.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.
- (3) **ALWAYS RETAIN A COPY OF ANY E-MAIL WITH AN ASSIGNMENT ATTACHED AS PROOF OF SUBMISSION!**

	Tentative Class Schedule	Items Due/Needed	Homework assignment(s)	Due Date
Week 1				
Feb. 1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the course (review greensheet in class) Discussion: Research Proposal (RP) and Assignment #1 (handouts provided) Video: <i>ABC Primetime</i> + brief discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation of upper-division standing Documentation of successful completion of a statistics course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Download: Greensheet 	02.01.10
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory registration on www.turnitin.com Be sure to register using a valid e-mail address that you will check regularly. There will be a (15) point penalty for failing to register on time. 	02.05.10
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Ch. 1 and Ch. 2 	02.08.10
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Ch. 1 Power Point (posted online) Write-up list of (3) potential research topics + specific research questions (see handout on line) 	02.22.10
Week 2				
Feb. 8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Ch. 2 <i>The Process and Problems of Criminological Research</i> Research topic check-in 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on List of Research Topics and Questions 	02.22.10
Week 3				
Feb. 15th	MANDATED FURLOUGH DAY - NO CONTACT WITH THE INSTRUCTOR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Ch. 3; Appen. A (A1-A17); & Appen. B (B1-B3) Complete List of Research Topics and Questions Bring a printed copy of your list to class next week. 	02.22.10 02.22.10
Week 4				
Feb. 22nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Ch. 3 <i>Conceptualization and Measurement</i> Discuss and collect List of research topics and questions Research topic check-in + Q & A about Assignment #1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of research topics and questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Ch. 5 Complete Assignment #1 (submission via e-mail) 	03.01.10 03.01.10
Week 5				
Mar. 1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Ch. 5 <i>Causation and Research Design</i> Submission of Assignment #1 via e-mail prior to midnight tonight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment #1 (via e-mail) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Ch. 4; Appendix C (C1-C27) Download: Assignment #2 (bring to class) Download: Example Assignment #2 (bring to class) 	03.08.10 03.08.10 03.08.10
Week 6				
Mar. 8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture: Ch. 4 <i>Sampling</i> Discuss Assignment #2 (Research Design) Return and discuss Assignment #1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handouts for Assignment #2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Ch. 6 Complete Assignment #2 (submission via e-mail) Download: Assignment #3 (bring to class) Download: Example Assignment #3 (bring to class) 	03.15.10 03.15.10 03.15.10 03.15.10

	Tentative Class Schedule	Items Due/Needed	Homework assignment(s)	Due Date
Week 7				
Mar. 15th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Ch. 6 Survey Research • Submission of Assignment #2 via e-mail prior to midnight tonight • Discuss: Assignment #3 (Sampling and Recruitment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handouts for Assignment #3 • Assignment #2 (via e-mail) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch.7 • Complete Assignment #3 (submission via e-mail) • Download: Assignment #4 (bring to class) • Download: Example Assignment #4 (bring to class) 	03.22.10 03.22.10 03.22.10 03.22.10
Week 8				
Mar. 22nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Ch. 7 Qualitative Methods and Data Analysis • Return and discuss Assignment #2 • Submission of Assignment #3 via e-mail prior to midnight tonight • Discuss: Assignment #4 (Procedure and Data Collection Instrument) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handouts for Assignment #4 • Assignment #3 (via e-mail) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 8 • Review: Ch. 8 Power Point (posted online) • Work on Assignment #4 	04.05.10 04.05.10 04.05.10
Week 9				
Mar. 29th	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS THIS WEEK		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Assignment #4 (submission via e-mail) • Download and review Power Point for Ch. 8 • Download: Article Critique handout (bring to class) 	04.05.10 04.05.10 04.05.10
Week 10				
Apr. 5th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Article Critique for Final Research Proposal • Return and discuss Assignment #3 • Submission of Assignment #4 via e-mail prior to midnight tonight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout for Article Critique • Assignment #4 (via e-mail) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 10 • Download Variable Information Worksheet (bring to class) 	04.12.10 04.12.10
Week 11				
Apr. 12th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: Ch. 10 Quantitative Data Analysis • Discussion: Variable Information Worksheet • Return and discuss Assignment #4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout for Variable Information Worksheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Variable Information Worksheet • Download: Assignment #5 (bring to class) Ex. Assignment #5 available day of workshop 	04.19.10 04.19.10
Week 12				
Apr. 19th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Assignment #5 instructions and guidelines • Assignment #5: In-class workshop on Data Analysis Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout for Assignment #5 • Variable Info. Worksheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Assignment #5 (submission via e-mail) 	04.26.10
Week 13				
Apr. 26th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Research Proposal format/requirements for submission • Individual help • Submission of Assignment #5 via e-mail prior to midnight tonight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #5 (via e-mail) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on Research Proposal 	05.12.10

	Tentative Class Schedule	Items Due/Needed	Homework assignment(s)	Due Date
Week 14				
May 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOTES • Return and discuss Assignment #5 • Handout + Discussion: Final Exam Study Guide 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on Research Proposal • Study for your Final Exam 	05.12.10
Week 15				
May 10th	Individual help appointments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Research Proposal! • Study for your Final Exam 	05.12.10
Week 16				
May 17th	Final Exam Study Day			

FINAL EXAM INFORMATION**DATE: MAY 24, 2010****TIME: 5:15 PM - 7:30 PM****LOCATION: MH 526****BRING: Scantron (Form 882-E); #2 pencil; textbook; printed lecture notes/handouts****ITEMS NOT ALLOWED: laptops/netbooks, "smart phones", any other electronic devices**

