

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

Instructor:	Dina M. Kameda, M.S., M.A.
Office Location:	MH 324 (temporary)
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Office Hours:	Wednesdays, 8:45 PM – 9:45 PM (subject to change)
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:00 PM – 8:45 PM
Classroom:	MH 324
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, 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 a small group exercise requiring an online literature search of academic databases. The exercise will culminate in an open discussion about the utility of published research.
- LO2** Understand which methods are appropriate for different kinds of research questions. Satisfaction of this objective will be measured through the evaluation of small group 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 small group assignments addressing the various components of a proposed research study.

Library Liaison

Nyle Monday (Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu)

(408) 808-2041

<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

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, complete all readings and assignments in accordance with the dates on the course schedule.
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	July 16 th	15%
Literature Search/References	July 19 th	5%
Assignment #2	July 23 rd	15%
Assignment #3	July 30 th	15%
Assignment #4	July 30 th	15%
Assignment #5	August 6 th	15%
In-class Final Exam	August 11 th	20%
		100%

Assignments/Exam

General formatting requirements for written assignments include a cover page, 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 Completion

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.

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 15 (i.e., 15% of the final course grade). [LO2 and LO3]

Literature Search and APA: Reference list of relevant extant literature

[**Note: Double-space references**] This assignment is designed to provide you with practical literature search experience, and proper APA formatting of sources. You will be required to locate four empirical scholarly journal articles relevant to your chosen research topic, and put together a properly formatted APA-style references page. This assignment will have a point value of 5 (i.e., 5% of the final course grade). [LO1]

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 15 (i.e., 15% of the final course grade). [LO2 and LO3]

Note: Assignment #3 and Assignment #4 will be completed simultaneously.

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 15 (i.e., 15% 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 survey, 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 15 (i.e., 15% 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 15 (i.e., 15% of the final course grade). [LO2 and LO3]

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 20 (i.e., 20% 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 Late Submissions

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. Late assignment submissions will not be accepted without a valid excuse which can be documented and substantiated in a timely manner.

A grade of “C minus” is required to pass this course.

Course Grade Determination

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.

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.

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 is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/>.

JS105-03 / Research Methods, Summer 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	Topics, Readings, Assignments, and Deadlines
1	Monday 07.12.10	Topic(s): Course introduction; overview of Assignment #1 and Literature Search/References List; Ch. 1 and Ch. 2 lecture Reading(s): Ch. 1 and 2
	Wednesday 07.14.10	* NOTE: CLASS WILL BEGIN AT 5:30 PM THIS EVENING * Topic(s): Ch. 3 lecture Group Work: Assignment #1 Reading(s): Ch. 3
	Friday 07.16.10	Assignment #1: due via e-mail by midnight
2	Monday 07.19.10	Topics(s): Overview of Assignment #2; Ch. 4 and Ch. 5 lecture Reading(s): Ch. 4 and 5 References: References list due via e-mail by midnight
	Wednesday 07.21.10	Topic(s): Ch. 6 lecture Group Work: Assignment #2 Reading(s): Ch. 6
	Friday 07.23.10	Assignment #2: due via e-mail by midnight
3	Monday 07.26.10	Topic(s): Overview of Assignment #3 and #4; Ch. 7 and Ch. 8 lecture Reading(s): Ch. 7 and 8
	Wednesday 07.28.10	Group Work: Assignment #3 and #4
	Friday 07.30.10	Assignment #3 and #4: due via e-mail by midnight

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, and Deadlines
4	Monday 08.02.10	Topic(s): Ch. 10 lecture; Overview of Assignment #5; Assignment #5 in-class workshop Reading(s): Ch. 10
	Wednesday 08.04.10	Handout: Final exam study guide Group Work: Assignment #5
	Friday 08.06.10	Assignment #5: due via e-mail by midnight
5	Monday 08.09.10	Discussion: Importance of understanding research and having research skills
	Wednesday 08.11.10	IN CLASS FINAL EXAM (scantron and #2 pencil needed) MH 324 5:00 PM – 7:15 PM