

San José State University
College of Applied Sciences and Arts
JS 105-Research Methods, Spring '11

Instructor: Dr. Cynthia Baroodly-Hart
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Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30-11:30 am
Wednesday 4:00-5:00 pm
Thursday 7:30-8:30 am
Virtual Office hours: Sunday 3:00-4:00pm
OR BY APPOINTMENT
Phone contact preferred
Class Days/Time: Wednesdays 6:00pm to 8:45pm
Classroom: MacQuarrie Hall 520
Prerequisites: Advanced standing
Webpage <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/hart>

Course Description

Justice Systems Research explores the intersection of theory, research and practice in the justice process; purpose and limits of research; introduction of basic research design and methods of inquiry, social statistics, sampling and ethical issues in preparation of research reports.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

1. To introduce the student to principles of research.
2. To introduce the students to research design.
3. To introduce the student to a variety of research methods.
4. To explore the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of research.
5. To identify various data sources for developing answers questions relevant to the criminal justice system.
6. To introduce the student to the basics of qualitative and quantitative analysis of data.

This course is a general survey course of research methods. The course introduces the student to methods of inquiry, basic research design, sampling and statistical analysis. It is separated into four seemingly distinct, but interrelated parts. The first part of the course will deal with criminal justice and scientific inquiry. The second will deal with a brief overview of the research process, conceptualization, operationalization and measurement. The third part deals with sampling, survey research, field research, as well the use of secondary sources of data. The final part will deal with statistical data analysis.

REQUIRED READING:

Maxfield M. and Babbie E (2009) Basics of Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology 2ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

The book is available at the Spartan Bookstore as well as Roberts Bookstore.

GRADING:

The basic requirements for the course consist of adequate performance (in line with the university requirements) on four examinations. The format of the exams will be a combination of multiple choice & essay. The examinations will reflect (1) required readings (2) lectures (3) class discussion and (4) films used in class. Each examination is worth 100 points and represents 25% of the final grade. You are NOT allowed to leave the room during an exam.

EXAM #1	25%
EXAM #2	25%
EXAM #3	25%
EXAM #4	25%
Total	100%

Grade	GPA
A+. A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0
WU	0.0

Each student is required to schedule an initial conference with the instructor EARLY in the semester. I would like to see students on a regular basis-don't hesitate to come by. If your schedule does not fit well with my office hours, please CALL for an appointment. I am frequently around at times other than the scheduled office hours. You are welcome to come by anytime.

Classroom Protocol

(REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR THIS CLASS. The nature of the material is cumulative. Attendance is not required but is suggested, STRONGLY. You are expected to have read the assigned material and be on time for class. Once an exam has started you may NOT leave the room for any reason. As in any class you are expected to be respectful to one another.

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://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbggen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbggen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf). 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://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 (ADA)

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.

JS 105 Tentative Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/26/2011	Introduction and Logistics
2	2/ 2/ 2011	Criminal Justice and Scientific Inquiry Chapter 1
3	2/ 9/2011	Ethics and Criminal Justice Research Chapter 2 Review
4	2/16/2011	EXAM 1 FEB. 16
5	2/23/2011	General Issues of Research Design Chapter 3
6	3/ 2/2011	Concepts Operationalization and Measurement Chapter 4
7	3/ 9/2011	Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Design Chapter 5 Review
8	3/16/2011	EXAM 2 MARCH 16
9	3/23/2011	Sampling Chapters 6
SPRING BREAK 3/28-4/1		
10	4/6/2011	Survey Research Chapter 7
11	4/ 13/2011	Field Research Chapter 8
12	4/20/2011	Agency Records, Content Analysis, Secondary Data Chapter 9 Review
13	4/27/2011	EXAM 3 APRIL 27
14	5/4/2011	Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis Chapter 10
15	5/11/2011	Interpreting Data Chapter 11 Review
Final	5/25/2011	Wednesday 5:15 – 7:30 a.m FINAL EXAM