

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 114-05 Research Methods in Justice Studies, Fall 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dina M. Kameda, M.S., M.A.
Office Location:	MacQuarrie Hall 508
Telephone:	(408) 832-9939 (cell phone – emergency only)
Email:	dina.kameda@sjsu.edu (preferred/best method of contact)
Office Hours:	Tuesdays, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM, or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall 523
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing; JS 10, 12, 25, or FS 11; JS100W with a grade of "C" or better; JS 15 or Stat 95 or equivalent with a "C" or better

Course Format

The mode of instruction for this course is in person with online supplements. Reliable access to a computer and the internet will be required. All written assignments will be submitted via Canvas, and must be in Microsoft Word (*.doc or *.docx) or Rich Text Format (*.rtf). For students with Macs, if you do not have access to Microsoft Word, it is suggested that you download OpenOffice (<https://www.openoffice.org/>), which will allow you to create and save word processing documents in Microsoft Word format without any issues.

Canvas Course Page and E-mail

Copies of course materials will be posted on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking your e-mail and Canvas regarding announcements, reminders, and any additional course materials. All course materials will be posted in Adobe PDF format; if you choose to download them, you will need Adobe Reader to view the documents. There is no cost to download Adobe Reader (<http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>).

E-mail Policy

Feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check several times per day); 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., JS114, Your Name, subject). 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. E-mailed inquiries should be relatively short in nature. Students should make an appointment to meet with me to discuss more extensive inquiries. Students will be referred to the course syllabus with respect to questions that are addressed by simply reading the syllabus.

Course Description

Introduction to quantitative research methods used in Justice Studies. Includes relationship of theory to empirical evidence; logic underlying methods of inquiry; ethics in conducting empirical research; and methodological design, operationalization, and data analysis.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to [CLO1-4]:

CLO1 demonstrate a detailed understanding of the quantitative research methods commonly utilized to conduct empirical research in the areas of social and criminal justice.

CLO2 write a research report in the area of social or criminal justice that applies proper research methodology.

CLO3 understand core concepts and competencies in criminological and justice research including ethical research, empiricism, problem identification, hypothesis formation and testing, sampling, observation, measurement, data analysis, causality, and report writing.

CLO4 Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

Required Texts/Readings

Required Textbook (Available at the Spartan Bookstore; ISBN: 978-1-4522-7640-3)

Remler, D. K., & Van Ryzin, G. G. (2015). *Research methods in practice: Strategies for description and Causation* (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Other Readings/Materials

Additional reading may be assigned based on progression of the course. Students will need to purchase (1) scantron (Form 882-E available at the Spartan Bookstore) for the Final Exam.

Library Liaison

Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu

(408) 808-2118

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

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Out-of-Class Written Assignments

General formatting requirements for written assignments include a cover page, page numbering, 1" margins, strict double-spacing, and Times New Roman 12pt. font. All assignments must be written in formal English, with college-level writing mechanics and APA-style formatting, inclusive of in-text citations and references. Out-of-class written assignments must be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Written assignments uploaded to Canvas must be in one of the following word processing file formats: Microsoft Word (*.doc or *.docx) or Rich Text Format (*.rtf). Late assignment submissions will not be accepted without a documented, verifiable, and valid reason.

Quizzes on Canvas

Students should complete the readings prior to the date by which they appear on the syllabus. Quizzes will be completed online via Canvas and will be available for specific windows of time. Once a student begins a quiz, a limited amount of time will be given to complete it. See the course agenda for more information. [CLO1]

Assignment #1: Outline of Proposed Research Study

This assignment will 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). [CLO1, CLO2 and CLO3]

Assignment #2: Outline of Research Design, Sampling/Recruitment, and Procedure (Methodology)

This assignment will require you to provide extensive detail regarding: (1) your chosen research design; (2) your study sample; (3) the recruitment of subjects; (4) 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. [CLO1, CLO2 and CLO3]

Assignment #3: 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. [CLO1, CLO2 and CLO3]

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 #3, and include a literature review. In order to receive a top grade on the research proposal, attention to detail, corrections of errors on assignments #1 through #3, and precise formatting will be required. [CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, and CLO4]

Exam

Students will be required to complete a comprehensive multiple choice-style final exam. [CLO1 and CLO3]

Grading Policy

Assignments/Exam	Exam/Due Date	Weight
Quizzes on Canvas	See schedule	10%
Assignment #1	September 21 st	10%
Assignment #2	November 10 th	25%
Research Proposal (Includes Assignment #3)	December 4 th	35%
Final Exam	December 16 th	20%
		<hr/>
		100%

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 comprehension of the course material, 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 documented, verifiable, and valid reason.

A grade of “C” (i.e., at least 73%) is required to pass this course.

Department of Justice Studies Course Grade Determination

Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade
98.0 to 100	A plus	80.0 to 82.99	B minus	63 to 67.99	D
93.0 to 97.99	A	78 to 79.99	C plus	00.0 to 62.99	F
90.0 to 92.99	A minus	73.0 to 77.99	C		
88.0 to 89.99	B plus	70 .0 to 72.99	C minus		
83 to 87.99	B	68.00 to 69.99	D plus		

Department of Justice Studies Reading and Writing Philosophy

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

Overview of Participation – What constitutes participation?

In order to participate, one must be in attendance. Attendance per se; however, is not considered to be participation, and cannot be factored into the course grade. In-class comments based on the identification of discussion topics, presentations which exemplify knowledge of the subject matter, and the asking of probing questions are considered to be participation. Beyond the completion of assigned readings, sufficient time must be spent contemplating the material for the purpose of being prepared to participate in class discussions, and to complete in-class assignments and quizzes.

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. As neither a laptop nor tablet is required in class for the course, use of them is strictly limited to note taking. Students caught using such items for other non-class purposes will be prohibited from bringing them back to class, will be dismissed from class, and allowed to return the next class meeting. Students will also be dismissed from class for cell phone use of any kind during class time, unless expressly permitted by the instructor.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See **University Policy S90-5** at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the **SJSU catalog**, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's **Catalog Policies** section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the **Academic Calendars webpage** at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The **Late Drop 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.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the **Advising Hub** at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The **University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2** at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires 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** is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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** at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities

requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab 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 DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](#) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

JS114-05 / Research Methods in Justice Studies, Fall 2015 Course Schedule

The following course schedule is subject to change; advance notice of any changes will be provided via Canvas and/or in-class as early as possible.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
1	Monday 8/24	Agenda/Topics: Course introduction/review of syllabus; discussion about expectations; Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct contract Reading for today: Syllabus
	Wednesday 8/26	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 1 discussion Reading for today: Ch. 1
2	Monday 8/31	Agenda/Topics: Assignment #1 Review Reading for today: Academic Integrity and Student Conduct policies Due today: Signed Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Contract
	Wednesday 9/2	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 2 discussion (Part 1) Reading for today: Ch. 2
3	Monday 9/7	Labor Day - No Class
	Wednesday 9/9	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 2 discussion (Part 2) Reading for today: Ch. 2
4	Monday 9/14	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 11 discussion (Part 1) Reading for today: Ch. 11
	Wednesday 9/16	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 11 discussion (Part 2) Reading for today: Ch. 11 Canvas Quiz: Quiz #1 (Ch. 2 and 11): Open from 9/17 (12:01 AM) through 9/17 (11:59 PM) .
5	Monday 9/21	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 4 discussion (Part 1) Reading for today: Ch. 4 Due today: Assignment #1 (upload to Canvas)
	Wednesday 9/23	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 4 discussion (Part 2) Reading for today: Ch. 4

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
6	Monday 9/28	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 12 discussion (Part 1) Reading for today: Ch. 12
	Wednesday 9/30	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 12 discussion (Part 2) Reading for today: Ch. 12 Canvas Quiz: Quiz #2 (Ch. 4 and 12): Open from 10/1 (12:01 AM) through 10/1 (11:59 PM) .
7	Monday 10/5	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 14 discussion (Part 1) Reading for today: Ch. 14
	Wednesday 10/7	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 14 discussion (Part 2) Reading for today: Ch. 14
8	Monday 10/12	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 15 discussion (Part 1) Reading for today: Ch. 15
	Wednesday 10/14	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 15 discussion (Part 2) Reading for today: Ch. 15 Canvas Quiz: Quiz #3 (Ch. 14-15): Open from 10/15 (12:01 AM) through 10/15 (11:59 PM) .
9	Monday 10/19	Agenda/Topics: Assignment #2 Review
	Wednesday 10/21	
10	Monday 10/26	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 5 discussion (Part 1) Reading for today: Ch. 5
	Wednesday 10/28	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 5 discussion (Part 2) Reading for today: Ch. 5
11	Monday 11/2	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 6 discussion Reading for today: Ch. 6
	Wednesday 11/4	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 7 discussion (Part 1) Reading for today: Ch. 7

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
12	Monday 11/9	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 7 discussion (Part 2) Reading for today: Ch. 7 Canvas Quiz: Quiz #4 (Ch. 5, 6, and 7): Open from 11/10 (12:01 AM) through 11/10 (11:59 PM) .
	Tuesday 11/10	Due today: Assignment #2 (Upload to Canvas)
	Wednesday 11/11	Veteran's Day - No Class
13	Monday 11/16	Agenda/Topics: Assignment #3 Review
	Wednesday 11/18	Agenda/Topics: Assignment #3 Review (continued)
14	Monday 11/23	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 8 discussion (Part 1) Reading for today: Ch. 8
	Wednesday 11/25	No class
15	Monday 11/30	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 8 discussion (Part 2) Reading for today: Ch. 8
	Wednesday 12/2	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 9 and 10 discussion (Part 1) Reading for today: Ch. 9 and 10
	Friday 12/4	Due today: Final Research Proposal (Upload to Canvas)
16	Monday 12/7	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 9 and 10 discussion (Part 2) Reading for today: Ch. 9 and 10 Canvas Quiz: Quiz #5 (Ch. 8-10): Open from 12/8 (12:01 AM) through 12/8 (11:59 PM) .
Final Exam: Wednesday, December 16th 7:15 AM - 9:30 AM (Note different time!)		