



San José State
UNIVERSITY

JS 202: Survey of Research Methods

Fall, 2015

M 4:30 – 7:15 PM

MacQuarrie Hall 526

Instructor:	Dr. Bryce Westlake
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Office Hours:	Monday 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm Friday 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Companion Website:	SJSU Canvas

JUSTICE STUDIES DEPARTMENT READING & 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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examination of research methods applied to solving problems and resolving issues in justice-related agencies, organizations and processes. Focuses on the application of the scientific method to problem-solving and program evaluation.

Prerequisite: STAT 95 or equivalent, JS 105 or equivalent, and graduate standing.

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STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- State a research question in terms of hypotheses.
- Evaluate various research designs through written and oral analyses and discussions.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methodology used in criminology and justice related fields.
- Design, administer, analyze, and present (orally and written) a survey.

TEXTBOOKS

REQUIRED

Frankfort-Nachmias, C., Nachmias, D., & DeWaard, J. (2015). *Research Methods in Social Sciences (8th Edition)*. New York: St. Martin's. ISBN13: 978-1429233002.

Weiss, C. H. (1998). *Evaluation: Methods for Studying Programs and Policies (2nd Edition)*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall. ISBN13: 978-0133097252.

OPTIONAL

Discovering Statistics Using SPSS, Andy Field (ISBN: 978-1446249185).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

ASSIGNMENTS

Critical Discussion (15%): All students are expected to take an active role in each class as both learners and teachers. You are expected to complete the weekly required readings prior to each class. You are going to benefit the most from class discussions, explanations, and activities if you have some knowledge about the concepts studied each week. In each class you should demonstrate that you have read the assigned materials ahead of time, raise and discuss issues, and fully engage with the class. Discussion will focus on both the readings and on your research projects.

Article Critiques (20%): Students will have to write two article critiques during the semester. Instructions about how to complete these assignments will be distributed at a later time. Each critique will be a review of a pre-selected article. Critiques aim for you to demonstrate your critical thinking skills and should be written with a focus on the methodological issues (design, sample, procedures, and measures) raised.

Survey Design (10%): Students will have the opportunity to design a survey, to be administered to classmates, on a topic of their choice. Your topic does not need to be explicitly "criminological"; the important thing is to find a research phenomenon that interests you, and about which/whom you would like to know more. The more you are sincerely curious about your research, the more enjoyable it will be for you, and the better your eventual report will be for

those who read it. However, your topic, and line of questioning, must be approved by me prior to beginning to design your survey. Options for projects will be discussed in class.

You can include previously validated questionnaires to supplement your survey, however, you will be required to design your own set of questions aimed at answering a specific research question. You will be graded on the proper format and construction of your survey, based on our class and textbook discussions of what makes an effective survey and what you should avoid. Several examples will be provided.

Final Paper (35%): Conducting research is an active process, one that is learned through “doing”. For this reason, students will design and administer their own survey. After collecting and analyzing (univariate and bivariate) data, you will complete a final paper, due during the scheduled final exam period. The paper will be 20-25 pages (excludes appendices, references, figures, and tables), double-spaced, in 12-point font Times New Roman OR 11-point font Arial. The paper is to follow APA format, including bibliography, abstract, cover page, etc. The purpose of this assignment is to learn how to design, administer, analyze, and report a survey. Therefore, your final grade will be based on these factors and **NOT** on the findings.

Oral Presentation (20%): Students will be required to present the findings of their survey to the class, and department, at the end of the semester (see schedule). The oral presentation provides you with a chance to discuss their projects with the rest of the class and practice public speaking skills. The length of the presentation will be determined later (expect approximately 20 minutes).

Grading

In order to receive a grade for this course, all course requirements must be met and every assignment must be completed. Failure to complete any one assignment may result in a failing grade for the course. Deadlines are firm. Late assignments/papers will not be accepted for full credit (without extenuating personal circumstances due to own or family health; or other university recognized excuse). In such cases, appropriate documentation must be shown to the instructor. **Late assignments/papers will lose 10% for every calendar day that they are late, including weekend days.**

97-100%	A+	77-79	C+
94-96	A	74-76	C
90-93	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
0-59	F		

The final course grade will be based on a 100-point scale. Since the grade is based on mastery of the material, it is theoretically possible for everyone to earn an A.

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

- (1) Turn off your cell phone or pager in class.
- (2) Do not come to class late or leave class early. If you have to arrive in class late regularly, I advise you not to take this course.
- (3) Do not chat with your classmates in class unless you are expected to have discussions in a small group.
- (4) Respect your classmates' ideas and opinions, even when they are different from yours.

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 and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- "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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) 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 \(AEC\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) 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.

LIBRARY LIAISON

Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu, (408) 808-2118
<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

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 Survey of Research Methods, JS 202, Fall, 2015

Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) 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. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)



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](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

SURVEY OF RESEARCH METHODS (JS 202)

FALL, 2015, COURSE SCHEDULE

This course schedule is subject to change with fair notice, at the instructor's discretion. All reading assignments listed should be completed prior to class on that date. Additional readings may be assigned.

Week	Date	Topics	Readings
1	August 24	Introduction	Nachmias (Ch. 1-3) Weiss (Ch. 2-4)
2	August 31	Research Problem (Scientific Approach, Conceptual Foundations, & Elements of Research)	
3	September 7	Labor Day (No Class)	
4	September 14	Ethics (IRB) & Development (Theory, Literature Review, & Hypothesis Development)	Nachmias (Ch. 4); Weiss (Ch. 5)
5	September 21	Data Collection	Nachmias (Ch. 5 & 6); Weiss (Ch. 7)
6	September 28	Levels of Measurement (Conceptualize, Operationalize, Validity, & Reliability) Article Critique #1 Due	Nachmias (Ch. 7); Weiss (Ch. 6)
7	October 5	Survey Research (Sampling Strategies & Generalizability)	Nachmias (Ch. 8 & 10)
8	October 12	Survey Research (Questionnaire Construction & Survey Types)	Nachmias (Ch. 11); Weiss (Ch. 8 & 10)
9	October 19	Survey Development Survey Design Assignment Due	
10	October 26	Observational Research	Nachmias (Ch. 9 & 13)
11	November 2	Data Analysis Interpretation	Nachmias (Ch. 14); Weiss (Ch. 12)
12	November 9	SPSS (Using Statistical Tools)	Nachmias (Ch. 15 & 16)
13	November 16	Data Analysis Presentation	Weiss (Chapter 13)
14	November 23	Critique Research Methods Article Critique #2 Due	Weiss (Chapter 14)
15	November 30	Class Presentations	
16	December 7	Class Presentation	
17	December 10	Final Paper Due	