

**San José State University
Justice Studies Department
Fall 2016
JS 114 Research Methods**

Contact Information

Instructor: Yue Yuan Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Class Days/Time: MW, 10:30 - 11:45 am

Classroom: MacQuarrie Hall 520

MYSJSU Messaging

You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU. Course materials including syllabus, notes, assignment, and journal articles can be found on the Canvas website.

Course Description

Catalog 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. Prerequisite: JS 10, 12, 25, or FS 11; JS 100W with a grade of "C" or better; JS15 or Stat 95 or equivalent with a "C" or better; Upper Division Standing; Restricted to JS majors and minors. Note: A grade of "C" or better is required for Justice Studies majors.

This course will cover philosophy of science, fundamental techniques and procedures, research ethics, and methods of data collection and data analysis in criminal justice and criminological research, with emphasis on quantitative analysis.

Course Goals

Students will leave this course with a firm understanding of different research designs in criminal justice and criminological research. In addition, students will be able to initiate and conduct an independent research project, including proposing meaning research questions, reviewing literature, and conducting data collection and analysis, etc. It is useful to think of research methods as tools that can be used to answer questions about the social world. For example, social scientists have relied on statistics to answer questions such as “Has the level of violent crime in American cities increased over the past decade?” or “Do juvenile smokers commit more delinquent acts than nonsmokers?” During this course, you will learn some of these research methods and statistical techniques and how to use them to answer questions commonly confronted by social scientists. That said, it is important that you do not fall behind in this class. As we move through the course material, you will find that an understanding of a given topic builds on what has been covered previously. Thus, it is in your best interest to stay current on the readings, take detailed notes, and ask questions if you are unsure about a topic.

Student Learning Objectives are as follows:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

SLO 1: Understand why knowledge of research methods is valuable to criminal justice professionals and how to conduct a review of research literature, write a research proposal, design a research project.

SLO 2: Summarize three fundamental features of social science: theory, data collection, and data analysis; describe how theory and public policy can be closely linked.

SLO 3: Recognize how criminal justice research is shaped by ethical considerations.

SLO 4: Understand how the logic of probability sampling makes it possible to represent large populations with small subsets of those populations.

SLO 5: Understand that survey research involves the administration of questionnaires in a systematic way to a sample of respondents selected from some population

SLO 6: Recognize when to use qualitative interviewing as a data-gathering tool.

SLO 7: Recognize that public organizations produce statistics and data that are often useful for criminal justice researchers.

SLO 8: Understand the differences between EDA and CFA. For example, descriptive statistics are used to summarize data under study.

SLO 9: Understand that tests of statistical significance make assumptions about data and methods that are rarely satisfied completely in social science research.

Required Texts

Maxfield, M. G., & Babbie, E. R. (2014). *Research methods for criminal justice and criminology*. Nelson Education.

Other Readings

- Richlin-Klonsky, J., Strenski, E., & Giarrusso, R. (2001). *A guide to writing sociology papers*. Macmillan.
- Galvan, J. L. (2006). Writing literature reviews. *A guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences (3rd ed.)*. Glendale, CA: Pyrczak.

- Articles on Canvas

Required Software:

SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences)

Course Requirements and Assignments

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.

Requirements:

- (1) You are required to read all books, book chapters, and articles in advance.
- (2) Your grade is based on class participation, homework, midterm, research paper, research presentation and final exam.

Homework

There will be five homework and they will be posted on Canvas.

Participation

Success in this class is predicated on regular attendance. If you do not attend regularly, your grade will certainly suffer. The primary format for this course will be lecture and in class practice. Class time will also be used to go over problem sets and to discuss the results of exams and homework problems.

Research Paper: The paper is due Wednesday, November 30, 16

Midterm and Final Examination:

Midterm is scheduled on Wednesday, October 5 and Final exam is scheduled on Wednesday, December 14.

Grading Information

You will not be able to drop the class after the official DROP Day except when you have medical emergency with your doctor's note. There will be no make-ups for your missed exams. There will be only one exception to this policy. Those students who provide written notice in advance who must miss class for university business will have special tests arranged usually before the scheduled test. A final grade of incomplete (I) will be reserved for emergency situation only with your doctor's note.

Final Grade (total points possible: 100 points)

The point totals break down as follows:

Class participation	10 points
Homework	10 points
Midterm	20 points
Final exam	20 points
Research paper presentation	10 points
Research paper	30 points
Total	100 points

Total Points Possible: 100 points (There is no possibility of extra credit)

Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence

A plus = 100-96%	A = 95-93%	A minus = 92-90%
B plus = 89-86%	B = 85-83%	B minus = 82-80%
C plus = 79-76%	C = 75-73%	C minus = 72-70%
D plus = 69-66%	D = 65-63%	D minus = 62-60%
F = 59-0% 0-179		

Justice Studies Department 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.

University Policies

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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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 your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 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](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) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

In 2013, the Disability Resource Center changed its name to be known as the Accessible Education Center, to incorporate a philosophy of accessible education for students with disabilities. The new name change reflects the broad scope of attention and support to SJSU students with disabilities and the University's continued advocacy and commitment to increasing accessibility and inclusivity on campus.

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.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning

assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. [The LARC website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/.](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/)

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](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>.

**JS 114 Research Methods
Fall 2016
Course Schedule**

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Wednesday, August 24, 16	Introduction Chapter 1: Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry
2	Monday, August 29, 16	Chapter 1: Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry
	Wednesday, August 31, 16	Chapter 2: Foundations of Criminal Justice Research
3	Monday, September 5, 16	Labor Day – No class
	Wednesday, September 7, 16	Chapter 3: Ethics and Criminal Justice Research
4	Monday, September 12, 16	Chapter 3: Ethics and Criminal Justice Research
	Wednesday, September 14, 16	Chapter 4: General Issues in Research Design
5	Monday, September 19, 16	Chapter 4: General Issues in Research Design
	Wednesday, September 21, 16	Chapter 5: Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement
6	Monday, September 26, 16	Chapter 5: Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement
	Wednesday, September 28, 16	Chapter 6: Measuring Crime
7	Monday, October 3, 16	Chapter 6: Measuring Crime
	Wednesday, October 5, 16	Mid-term
8	Monday, October 10, 16	Chapter 7: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs
	Wednesday, October 12, 16	Chapter 7: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs
9	Monday, October 17, 16	Chapter 8: Sampling
	Wednesday, October 19, 16	Chapter 8: Sampling
10	Monday, October 24, 16	Chapter 9: Survey Research
	Wednesday, October 26, 16	Chapter 9: Survey Research
11	Monday, October 31, 16	Chapter 10: Qualitative Interviewing
	Wednesday, November 2, 16	Chapter 10: Qualitative Interviewing
12	Monday, November 7, 16	Chapter 11: Field Observation
	Wednesday, November 9, 16	Chapter 11: Field Observation
13	Monday, November 14, 16	Chapter 12: Agency Records, Content Analysis, and Secondary Data
	Wednesday, November 16, 16	No class, Conference Week
14	Monday, November 21, 16	Chapter 13: Evaluation Research and Problem

		Analysis
	Wednesday, November 23, 16	<i>Non-Instructional Day</i>
15	Monday, November 28, 16	Chapter 13: Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis
	Wednesday, November 30, 16	Chapter 14: Interpreting Data
16	Monday, December 5, 16	Chapter 14: Interpreting Data
	Wednesday, December 7, 16	Presentation Part One
17	Monday, December 12, 16	Presentation Part Two
	Wednesday, December 14, 16	<i>Final Exam</i>