

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 114, Research Methods, Sec 02, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Judith Randle
Office Location:	MH 508
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Email:	judith.randle@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	R 10:30 - 11:45am
Class Days/Time:	TR 9:00 -10:15am
Classroom:	MH 526

Course Description

Note: Must achieve a grade of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

CLO 1: Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the qualitative and quantitative research methods commonly utilized to conduct empirical research in the areas of social and criminal justice.

CLO 2: Write a research report in the area of social or criminal justice that applies proper research methodology

CLO 3: 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.

Required Materials

Textbooks

Chambliss & Schutt (2015). Making Sense of the Social World (5th Ed). Sage. ISBN: 9781483383781

Other Readings

Journal articles, news articles and book excerpts are listed on the Course Schedule below and posted on the CANVAS website.

Campus Resources

CASA Student Success Center

The Student Success Center in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) provides advising for undergraduate students majoring or wanting to major in programs offered in CASA Departments and Schools. All CASA students and students who would like to be in CASA are invited to stop by the Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. If you are looking for academic advice or even tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU, check out the CASA Student Success Center. Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MQH) 533 - top floor of MacQuarrie Hall. Contact information: [408.924.2910](tel:408.924.2910). Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/>. The CASA Student Success Center also provides study space and laptops for checkout.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, [408-808-2118](tel:408-808-2118), silke.higgins@sjsu.edu

Department's 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.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Your grade is derived from work in four (4) categories:

Homework Assignments (16) -- Homework assignments (HW) help enhance your learning of the week's topic by: reviewing key information, learning new details about a topic, practicing the application of a rule, and/or making connections among concepts and readings. Homework assignments are completed at home and are designed so that you can complete them without having attended lecture. You must bring a hard copy to class on the assigned due date and upload an electronic copy to CANVAS before midnight on the assigned date. If you do not attend lecture, you must upload the homework to CANVAS by 12pm on the due date. Electronic-only submissions will incur a 10% penalty. Late submissions will incur a 10% penalty for each day late; after 12pm on the due date counts as day one. Each homework is worth approximately 12 points.

Class Exercises (10) -- Class Exercises (CE) are designed to help enhance your learning of the week's topic by reviewing key information, learning new details about a topic, practicing the application of a rule, and/or making connections among concepts and readings. They include activities such as listing facts or concepts and completing charts and tables. Class Exercises are distributed and completed in class on the scheduled lecture period. If you do not attend lecture, you cannot receive credit for the assignment. While you can receive and complete the in-class assignment later for study purposes, you cannot make up these lost points. Each in-class assignment is worth approximately 10 points. (CLOs 1, 2, 3)

Quizzes (3) -- Quizzes test your comprehension of a topic and typically consist of a mix of short answer (less than one paragraph), multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. You are permitted to reference your Homework Assignments and In-class Assignments during each quiz. There is a quiz at the end of Units 1, 2, and 3. Please contact me ASAP if you have school, work, or other obligations, or experience an emergency, and need to reschedule an exam. You will have to provide proof of interference and you may take an alternative version of the exam given in class. Each quiz is worth approximately 25 points. (Quiz 1 – CLOs 1 & 2; Quiz 2 – CLO 2; Quiz 3: CLOs 2 & 3)

Mini-Projects (4) -- Mini-projects are 5-7 page sections of larger research projects. Each mini-project focuses on a distinct stage of a larger research project: writing a literature review, operationalizing variables, gathering data, and analyzing data. Each mini-project is worth 50 points.

Grading Information: Point and Percentage Values (Approximate and Subject to Minor Changes)

Homework	200 (35%)
In-Class Assignments	100 (17%)
Quizzes	75 (13%)
Mini-Projects	200 (35%)
Total	575 (100%)

Grading Scale (Percentages)

A-plus: (98 – 100)	B-plus: (88 – 89)	C-plus: (78 – 79)	D-plus: (68 – 69)	F : (\leq 59)
A: (93 – 97)	B: (83 – 87)	C: (73 – 77)	D: (63 – 67)	
A-minus: (90 – 92)	B-minus: (80 – 82)	C-minus: (72 – 70)	D-minus: (60 – 62)	

Classroom Protocol

Attendance -- You must attend lecture in order to complete all assignments. Your grade will suffer if you do not attend lecture.

Materials -- Bring your textbook to class. Bring a pencil or pen and a notebook with which to complete in-class assignments and take notes.

Cell phones -- Cell phones must be in silent mode and not accessed during the lecture period.

Communication outside of class -- Check your university email account at least once daily for messages related to the course. I encourage regular communication with me over email and in office hours to clarify and enrich your understanding of the course material. **To ensure confidentiality, I am required to communicate with you using only your university account.**

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

JS 114 Sec 02/ Research Methods / Fall 2018 Course Schedule

* The schedule is subject to change with fair notice by the Announcements section on the website and emails to your University account.

(Week) 1	T 8/21	<u>Introduction to the Course</u> CANVAS Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus
1	R 8/23	<u>Everyday Reasoning versus Social Science Research</u> MSSW: Ch. 1 CANVAS Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Proposition 62 (2016) In Class: CA1
2	T 8/28	<u>Formulating Research Questions</u> MSSW: Ch. 2 @ beginning – p. 28 (stop at “What is the Design?”) Due: HW1
2	R 8/30	<u>Research Design</u> MSSW: Ch. 2 @ p. 28 – end (start at “What is the Design?”) In Class: CA2
3	T 9/4	<u>Reviewing the Literature</u> CANVAS Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “How to Read (and Understand) a Social Science Journal Article” (ICPSR) Due: HW2
3	R 9/6	<u>Reviewing the Literature</u> Due: HW3 MSSW: Ch. 13 @ beginning – p. 321 (stop at “Proposing New Research”)
4	T 9/11	<u>Framing Research Proposals</u> MSSW: Ch. 13 @ p. 321 – end (start at “Proposing New Research”) Due: HW4
4	R 9/13	<u>Ethics in Research</u> MSSW: Ch. 3 In Class: CA3
5	T 9/18	<u>Individual Meetings</u> Due: HW5
5	R 9/20	<u>Quiz 1</u>
6	T 9/25	<u>Conceptualization and Measurement</u> MSSW: Ch. 4 Due: Mini-Project #1
6	R 9/27	<u>Conceptualization and Measurement</u> Due: HW6 In Class: CA4
7	T 10/2	<u>Sampling and Generalizability</u> MSSW: Ch. 5 Due: HW7

7	R 10/4	<u>Field Day: Location TBD</u> In-Class: CA5
8	T 10/9	<u>Survey Research</u> MSSW: Ch. 7 Due: HW8
8	R 10/11	<u>Survey Research</u> In Class: CA6
9	T 10/16	<u>Individual Meetings</u>
9	R 10/18	<u>Quiz 2 – ONLINE</u> Due: Mini-Project #2
10	T 10/23	<u>Causation and Experimental Design</u> MSSW: Ch. 6 CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “In Town with Little Water, Coca-Cola is Everywhere. So is Diabetes” (Lopez & Jacobs) • “Discrimination and Instructional Comprehension” (Lynch & Haney) Due: HW9
10	R 10/25	<u>Evaluation Research</u> MSSW: Ch. 12 CANVAS Reading: Literature Review (Randle) In Class: CA7
11	T 10/30	<u>Evaluation Research</u> Due: HW10
11	R 11/1	<u>Quantitative Data Analysis</u> MSSW: Ch. 8
12	T 11/6	<u>Quantitative Data Analysis</u> Due: HW11
12	R 11/8	<u>Quantitative Data Analysis</u> In Class: CA8
13	T 11/13	<u>Quiz 3</u>
13	R 11/15	<u>Qualitative Methods</u> MSSW: Ch. 9 In Class: CA9 Due: Mini-Project #3
14	T 11/20	<u>Unobtrusive Methods</u> MSSW: Ch. 11 Due: HW13
14	R 11/22	<u>THANKSGIVING DAY – NO LECTURE</u>
15	T 11/27	<u>FIELD DAY</u> Due: HW14
15	R 11/29	<u>Qualitative Data Analysis</u> MSSW: Ch. 10

		Due: HW15
16	T 12/4	<u>Qualitative Data Analysis</u> Due: HW16
16	R 12/6	<u>Qualitative Data Analysis</u> In Class: CA10
FINAL EXAM	F 12/14	Due: Mini-Project #4 9:45am – 12pm