

San José State University
College of Health and Human Sciences/Department of Justice Studies
JS 114, Research Methods, Section 80, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Megan Schlegel
Office Location:	MacQuarrie Hall
Telephone:	512-956-5803 (Personal number)
Email:	megan.schlegel@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Fridays 12-2pm or by appointment; Office Hours will be conducted online via Google Hangouts with your SJSU account
Class Days/Time:	Online only; No set meeting hours
Classroom:	Canvas (online); https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1269687
Prerequisites:	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.

Course Format

Online Courses

This course is conducted solely online, including lectures, exams, office hours appointments and assignments. In order to complete this course, students must have access to a computer that is connected to the internet. You'll also be required to use SPSS, computer software for statistics.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

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. The goal of this course is to introduce students to research methods in the justice studies. In this course, students will explore the underlying theoretical assumptions about social research and the ethical and social implications of doing research with human subjects in a variety of social settings. Students will learn the basic skills necessary to collect, process, and analyze social phenomena using both qualitative and quantitative methods, including descriptive and inferential

statistics, and simple measures of association. To do this, students will conduct basic data analysis, review literature, and summarize their findings in a short research paper.

Course Goals (Optional)

My learning objectives are modest: to train students to observe, interpret, and interact with the world through the lens of a research scientist. These will be achieved through the Justice Studies learning objectives for JS 114:

- 1. Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the quantitative research methods commonly utilized to conduct empirical research in the areas of social and criminal justice.*
- 2. Write a research paper in the area of social or criminal justice that applies proper research methodology.*
- 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.*
- 4. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.*

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Making Sense of the Social World, Fifth Edition, by Daniel F. Chambliss and Russell K. Schutt (ISBN 978-1-4522-1771-0)

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Students will need access to a computer that is connected to the internet. Additionally, students will be required to use SPSS, which can be downloaded for free at <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/research-tools/spss/>. Alternatively, you may purchase a copy of the software for your own use. This software is also available in several computer labs on campus.

Library Liaison for Justice Studies

Silke Higgins Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu (408) 808-2118.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Learning in this online section of JS 114 is accomplished primarily through reading assigned material and PowerPoint presentations, and by writing a research paper. Everything except the textbook and SPSS is acquired and/or turned in via the course website on Canvas.

Work in this course is centered on two things: 1) Lessons about data collection strategies and data analysis, and 2) A research paper that is written incrementally over the semester. The first focus is assessed primarily through quizzes and exams. The second is assessed by grades for written assignments. To be successful, students should balance their work between these two substantially different course foci.

Timed Quizzes: Course reading materials (book, online, and PPT) form the cornerstone of this online course. Reading should be completed in a timely manner by the dates indicated on the course schedule. To encourage students to read and keep up with the course, there will be **8 short timed quizzes (the two lowest scores will be dropped when grading). The top-6-quiz average will be 20% of the final grade.**

The quizzes will consist of questions that are intended to gauge whether students understand key aspects of the readings that precede them on the syllabus. Poor performance on a quiz is an indicator that more studying is needed for the topics that the quiz covered.

Quizzes will open a day before they are due, and they should be completed before midnight of the date assigned on the course schedule. **Read all book, online, and PowerPoint material before starting a quiz.** *Quiz time limits were established to prevent students from looking up answers in the book and the notes.* This is because the quizzes are intended to encourage students to read at a proper pace. Nonetheless, the amount of time given to take the quiz is about three times as long as the typical student will need.

CAUTION: Students who do not check in with this course on a daily basis often do poorly on or miss quizzes because they forget the assigned dates. The resulting low scores that result from rushing to take a quiz before the deadline or getting a zero from missing the quiz (one cannot make them up) can severely lower the final grade.

Projects and Research Paper: Research is an active process that is learned through “doing,” and that culminates in a written document. For this reason, students will create a research paper over the term. The paper-writing process includes completing two (2) “approval forms” and two (2) written projects. The approval forms must be completed and approved prior to writing the projects. This structure is literally intended to help students out--It prevents them from doing futile work that cannot be used in the paper.

Project 1: Project 1 helps students understand ways to build a research-based argument that results in hypotheses. It leads to writing an introduction, literature review, and references. The Variable Approval Form must be completed prior to doing this project.

Project 2: The second project helps students conduct statistical tests of their hypotheses. This work leads to writing methods, results, and conclusions. The Analysis Approval Form must be completed prior to doing this project.

Final Paper: When doing the projects, students are also writing the final paper. Pieced together and revised according to feedback, the two projects form the final paper.

Grading Information and Determination of Grades

The projects and paper form an integral strand of the learning process in this course. **Students should expect to work on the projects and paper for a few hours each day, even when the course schedule does not prompt it.** The final course grade will be based on weighted contributions for each section of grades: Projects, Paper, Quizzes, and Exams. The final scale adds to 100 points. Extra credit from participation will be applied after calculating the final grade. **There will be NO other opportunities for extra credit, per Departmental policy.** The course grade is not curved, so it is theoretically possible for everyone to earn an A.

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The instructor will not assign ‘I’ grades except in the most extreme emergencies or grave unforeseen circumstances, and 75% of the graded material must have been turned in. Missing a quiz deadline results in a grade of zero regardless of the reason. Exams and papers may only be turned in late when there is a documented University or medical excuse. Otherwise, missing deadlines results in a zero for the assignment. If students encounter a technological problem while submitting papers or taking quizzes or exams, they should contact the instructor immediately via email or some other channel of communication. While I cannot fix technical issues (contact Academic Technology), I can make adjustments to work around them.

The grading scale is:

A+ 100 - 97	A 96 - 93	A- 92 - 90
B+ 89 - 87	B 86 - 83	B- 82 - 80
C+ 79 - 77	C 76 - 73	
Not acceptable in JS:	C- 72 - 70	
D+ 69 - 67	D 66 - 63	D- 62 - 60
F 59 and below		

Grades are based on:

Project 1	10 points
Project 2	10 points
Final Paper	30 points
Top 6 Quizzes	20 points
Midterm Exam	15 points
Final Exam	15 points

Approval form, project, and ungraded project draft due dates are on the course schedule. **Each project will be worth 10% of the final grade and the final paper will be worth 30% of the final grade.** The assigned grade for each of these may be affected by quality demonstrated in approval forms and drafts. Forms, projects, and the research paper must be turned in using the online “submit” function associated with each one.

Students may work in groups of two or three persons on the projects and paper. Students are allowed to change group membership (or work alone) at any point in the semester. Group members are required to send a pledge of equitable contribution, and consent to take the assigned grade, each time an assignment is turned in. **Substantiated complaints against a group member for violating the pledge will result in a grade reduction for the violator.** Each group member will receive a grade based on each product turned in. That grade is final, except for those deemed violators; their grade will be reduced.

Exams: There will be two exams. **Each will contribute 15% of the final grade.** These will be completed online. *The second exam may not be taken early for any reason.*

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final exam will be given online, beginning at 8am on Wednesday December 12th and ending at 11:59pm on Saturday December 15th. This exam may not be taken early for any reason. It will be cumulative, focusing on concepts from the lectures, quizzes and other course content. It will be completed via Canvas.

University Policies (Required)

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/>

CONDUCT

Students are expected to behave in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. The university's Academic Integrity Policy requires students to be honest in all academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. A few students get into trouble because they are unaware of what constitutes academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, interference (e.g., stealing another student's work), violating course rules, and facilitating academic dishonesty. Academic misconduct could result in failure for an assignment (typically a grade of zero) or for the course or even in expulsion from the university. The academic integrity policy can be found at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct>. My punishments will be in accordance with university policies—I will not tolerate academic misconduct.

Students are also expected to respect the right of their fellow students to learn. In all course activities, students must maintain a respectful demeanor toward fellow students regardless of personal assessments of them.

Failure to act according to the standards set forth here will have consequences. For example, students may be dismissed from the course, and a complaint made to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development.

DISABILITIES

I believe strongly in the right of everyone to have equal access to learning. If you have a specific disability that may be addressed with academic accommodations, please notify me as soon as possible. I will work with you to ensure that you have a positive learning experience. You should inform me of necessary course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with AEC to establish a record of their disability. This office is located in Administration Building, Room 110. I am inclined, however, to address other needs that may not be verifiable disabilities. Therefore, if you are not registered with AEC, you should still discuss your issues to see if I may help. Many disabilities require extended time for exams; my policy is to *always allow extended time for all students on all exams—this is why exams have ample time.*

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. Computers are also available for checkout in the CASA Student Success Center and in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. It is my understanding that all of the computers listed above have SPSS installed on them. 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, monitors, and AV adapters for Mac computers.

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. Looking for academic advice or maybe just some tips about how to navigate around SJSU? Check out the CASA Student Success Center! It's also a great place to study, and students can check out laptops.

Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MH) 533 – top floor of MacQuarrie Hall. Contact information: [408.924.2910](tel:408.924.2910).
Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/>.

SJSU Writing Center: The SJSU Writing Center is available to help students improve their writing. It is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the 7 SJSU colleges. The writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>.

Peer Connections: The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) and the Peer Mentor Program have merged to become Peer Connections. Peer Connections is the new campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring. Our staff is here to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. Students are encouraged to take advantage of our services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, campus resource referrals, and to speak with a peer who has been trained to assist other students going through the college experience.

Services: In addition to offering appointments for small group and individual tutoring (same day appointments are often available) 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 college success related topics. A computer lab is also available for student use in Room 600 of the Student Services Center (SSC).

Locations: They are located in SSC 600 (the 10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando St.), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. The peer connections website is located at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu>.

Accommodation to students' religious holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed.

Dropping and Adding: Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, and so forth. Students should also be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes. Policies for adding classes are available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-1800.html>. Policies for dropping classes are found at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web->

dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-1809.html, and information about late drops is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/>. Finally, deadlines for adding and dropping classes are listed on the registration calendar available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/>.

JS 114 – Research Methods, Fall 2018

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (PPT Lectures Online; C&S- Textbook; Assignments; Quizzes/Exams)
1	8/21- 8/24	Introductions; Syllabus Introductions to Research Methods and SPSS C&S: Chapter 1, Chapter 12, and Appendix A; PPT: #1
2	8/27- 8/31	Introduction to Research and Ethics C&S: Chapters 2-3; PPT: #2 Quiz #1**
3	9/4- 9/7	Experimental Design and Scientific Thinking C&S: Chapter 6; PPT: #3 Variables Approval Form Due Quiz #2
4	9/10- 9/14	Concepts and Measurement C&S: Chapter 4; PPT: #4 Quiz #3
5	9/17- 9/21	All you ever wanted to know about surveys C&S: Chapter 7; PPT: #5 Quiz #4
6	9/24- 9/28	Sampling C&S: Chapter 5; PPT: #6 Project #1 Due
7	10/1- 10/5	Data Analysis Part 1 – Analysis, Tables and Writing Results C&S: Chapter 8; PPT: #7 Quiz #5
8	10/8- 10/12	Data Analysis Part 2 – Statistical Tests C&S: None (can you believe it??); PPT: #8 Quiz #6
9	10/15- 10/19	Midterm Exam*** Readings – Methods section in online GSS codebook
10	10/22- 10/26	Readings – Selected pages in GSS 2012 codebook (available on course website) Analysis Approval Form due Quiz #7
11	10/29- 11/2	Evaluation Research C&S: Chapter 11; PPT: #9 Quiz #8 Project #2 due
12	11/5- 11/9	Meetings with Professor for Final Paper review (optional; to be scheduled by students)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (PPT Lectures Online; C&S- Textbook; Assignments; Quizzes/Exams)
13	11/13-11/16	Final Exam Review (available on Canvas)
14	11/19-11/20	THANKSGIVING BREAK – No Classes – Enjoy a well deserved break!!!
15	11/26-11/30	Meetings with Professor for Final Paper review (optional; to be scheduled by students)
16	12/3-12/7	Final Paper Due
Final Exam	12/12-12/15	Available on Canvas

*Notes about the course schedule: I reserve the right to change the due dates listed above, but only in a manner that benefits students (e.g., due dates can only be pushed back, never moved forward). This is because I want to make sure everyone is understanding the material and is able to move forward with the class.

**Notes about quizzes – Quizzes are based on the reading material that is due the week of the quiz. For example, Quiz #1 will be based on Chapters 2&3 and PPT #2. You will have approximately 2 days to complete a quiz (the quizzes will open every Wednesday at 8am and close on Thursday at 11:59pm). If you have an extenuating circumstance as to why you cannot make a quiz, it's okay. You get to drop your 2 lowest scores!

***Notes about exams – The exams in this course are cumulative, meaning all of the material learned prior to the midterm is fair game for the exam. All material learned throughout the semester is fair game for the final. You will have 4 full days to complete an exam (the first exam will open on a Monday at 8am and close on Thursday at 11:59pm; the final exam will open on a Thursday at 8am and close on Sunday at 11:59pm). If you need any accommodations, please speak to me ASAP.