San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 114-01 Research Methods in Justice Studies, Fall 2019

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:	Mondays and Wednesdays 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM, or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM
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). If you do not currently own Microsoft Word, the software (both PC and Mac) is available for free to students: http://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/collaboration/software/instructions.php

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://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/students/index.html).

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.

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 Learning Outcomes

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

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 report 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.

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.

Library Liaison

Nyle.Monday
http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies

Course Requirements and Assignments

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. Written assignments must be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise noted by the instructor. **Students are 100% responsible for uploading the correct file when submitting an assignment. Failure to upload the correct file will result in a zero or an incomplete for the assignment depending on the grading structure.**

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: 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 previous assignments, 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 25th	10%
Assignment #2	November 13th	25%
Research Proposal (Includes Assignment #3)	December 9th	35%
Final Exam	December 16th	20%
		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.

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

University Policies: Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP's Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

JS114-01 Research Methods in Justice Studies, Fall 2019

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	08/21/19	Course introduction Review of syllabus **Reading for today:** Syllabus
2	08/26/19	Ch. 1 discussion **Reading for today:** Ch. 1
2	08/28/19	**Assignment #1 Review**
3	**09/02/19**	**Labor Day - No Class**
3	09/04/19	Ch. 2 discussion (Part 1) **Reading for today:** Ch. 2
4	09/09/19	Ch. 2 discussion (Part 2) **Reading for today:** Ch. 2
4	09/11/19	Ch. 11 discussion (Part 1) **Reading for today:** Ch. 11
5	09/16/19	Ch. 11 discussion (Part 2) **Reading for today:** Ch. 11 **Canvas Quiz**: Quiz #1 (Ch. 2 and 11): Open from **9/16 (12:00 AM**) through **9/17 (11:59 PM)**.
5	09/18/19	Ch. 4 discussion (Part 1) **Reading for today:** Ch. 4
6	09/23/19	Ch. 4 discussion (Part 2) **Reading for today:** Ch. 4
6	09/25/19	Ch. 12 discussion (Part 1) **Reading for today:** Ch. 12 **Due today**: **Assignment #1 (Upload to Canvas by 11:59 PM)**

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
7	09/30/19	Ch. 12 discussion (Part 2) **Reading for today:** Ch. 12 **Canvas Quiz**: Quiz #2 (Ch. 4 and12): Open from **09/30 (12:00 AM**) through **10/1 (11:59 PM)**.
7	10/02/19	Ch. 14 discussion (Part 1) **Reading for today:** Ch. 14
8	10/07/19	**Assignment #2 Review**
8	10/09/19	**Assignment #2 Review (continued)**
9	10/14/19	Ch. 14 discussion (Part 2) **Reading for today:** Ch. 14
9	10/16/19	Ch. 15 discussion (Part 1) **Reading for today:** Ch. 15
10	10/21/19	Ch. 15 discussion (Part 2) **Reading for today:** Ch. 15 **Canvas Quiz**: Quiz #3 (Ch. 14-15): Open from **10/21 (12:00 AM**) through **10/22 (11:59 PM)**.
10	10/23/19	Ch. 5 discussion (Part 1) **Reading for today:** Ch. 5
11	10/28/19	Ch. 5 discussion (Part 2) **Reading for today:** Ch. 5
11	10/30/19	Ch. 6 discussion **Reading for today:** Ch. 6
12	11/04/19	Ch. 7 discussion (Part 1) **Reading for today:** Ch. 7
12	11/06/19	Ch. 7 discussion (Part 2) **Reading for today:** Ch. 7 **Canvas Quiz**: Quiz #4 (Ch. 5 and 7): Open from **11/06 (12:00 AM**) through **11/07 (11:59 PM)**.

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
13	**11/11/19**	**Veteran's Day - No Class**
13	11/13/19	**Assignment #3 Review** **Due today**: **Assignment #2 (Upload to Canvas)**
14	11/18/19	**Assignment #3 Review (continued)**
14	11/20/19	Ch. 8 discussion (Part 1) **Reading for today:** Ch. 8
15	**11/25/19**	**Instructor Personal Holiday - No class**
15	**11/27/19**	**University Non-instructional Day – No Class**
16	12/02/19	Ch. 8 discussion (Part 2) **Reading for today:** Ch. 8
16	12/04/19	Ch. 9 discussion **Reading for today:** Ch. 9
17	12/09/19	Ch. 10 discussion **Reading for today:** Ch. 10 **Due today: Final Research Proposal (Upload to Canvas)**
Final	**12/16/19**	**MacQuarrie Hall 523, 2:45 PM – 5:00 PM**