

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 114, Research Methods, Sec 3, Fall 2019**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Judith Randle
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	R 10:30 - 11:45am
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	W 9:00 - 11:45am
<b>Classroom:</b>	DBH 225

**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.

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 (5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 (10)* -- 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 upload an electronic copy to CANVAS by 9am on the assigned date. Late submissions will incur a 10% penalty for each day late; after 9am on the due date counts as day one.

*Class Exercises (12)* -- 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. (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. Each quiz is worth approximately 25 points. All quizzes are completed online by 11:59pm on the due date. (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.

*Discussion Posts (2)* -- The week of 9/11 you must post two responses to prompts on the course website.

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

Homework	100	(20%)
In-Class Assignments	100	(20%)
Quizzes	80	(15%)
Mini-Projects	200	(40%)
Ethics Discussion Posts (2)	20	(5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>(100%)</b>

**Grading Scale (Percentages)**

A-plus: (98 – 100)	B-plus: (88 – 89)	C-plus: (78 – 79)	D-plus: (68 – 69)	F : (≤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 2019 Course Schedule

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

1	W 8/21	<b><u>Introduction to Social Science Research</u></b> MSSW: Ch. 1 In Class: CA1
2	W 8/28	<b><u>Formulating Research Questions; Research Design</u></b> MSSW: Ch. 2 In Class: CA2 Due: HW1
3	W 9/4	<b><u>Framing Research Proposals &amp; Reviewing the Literature</u></b> MSSW: Ch. 13 CANVAS Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “How to Read (and Understand) a Social Science Journal Article” (ICPSR)</li></ul> In Class: CA3 Due: HW2
4	W 9/11	<b><u>Ethics in Research -- NO LECTURE</u></b> <b><u>Quiz 1 -- ONLINE</u></b> MSSW: Ch. 3 CANVAS Video: SPE Due: Discussion Posts
5	W 9/18	<b><u>Conceptualization and Measurement</u></b> MSSW: Ch. 4 In Class: CA4 Due: Mini-Project #1 Due: HW3
6	W 9/25	<b><u>Sampling and Generalizability</u></b> MSSW: Ch. 5 In-Class: CA5 Due: HW4
7	W 10/2	<b><u>FIELD DAY -- NO LECTURE</u></b>
8	W 10/9	<b><u>Survey Research</u></b> MSSW: Ch. 7 In Class: CA6

		Due: HW5
9	W 10/16	<p><b><u>Causation and Experimental Design</u></b>  MSSW: Ch. 6  CANVAS Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “In Town with Little Water, Coca-Cola is Everywhere. So is Diabetes”  (Lopez &amp; Jacobs)</li> </ul> <p>In Class: CA7  Due: HW6  Due: Mini-Project #2  <b><u>Quiz 2 – ONLINE</u></b></p>
10	W 10/23	<p><b><u>Evaluation Research; Quantitative Data Analysis</u></b>  MSSW: Chs. 8 &amp; 12  CANVAS Reading: Literature Review (Randle)  In Class: CA8  Due: HW7</p>
11	W 10/30	<p><b><u>Quantitative Data Analysis</u></b>  Due: HW8  In Class: CA9</p>
12	W 11/6	<p><b><u>FIELD DAY -- NO LECTURE</u></b>  <b><u>Quiz 3 – ONLINE</u></b>  Due: Mini Project #3</p>
13	W 11/13	<p><b><u>Qualitative &amp; Unobtrusive Methods</u></b>  MSSW: Chs. 9 &amp; 11  In Class: CA10  Due: HW9</p>
14	W 11/20	<p><b><u>Qualitative Data Analysis</u></b>  MSSW: Ch. 10  Due: HW10  In Class: CA11</p>
15	W 11/27	<b><u>THANKSGIVING WEEK -- NO LECTURE</u></b>
16	W 12/4	<p><b><u>Qualitative Data Analysis</u></b>  In Class: CA12</p>
FINAL EXAM	F 12/14	<p>Due: Mini-Project #4  <b>9:45am – 12pm</b></p>