San José State University
Justice Studies
JS 114 (80), Research Methods, Fall 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	(Sambuddha Ghatak, Ph.D.)
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Office Hours:	Phone number: 865 985 6885 (This is my cell phone number. Please call only in emergency) The best way to contact me is through email. By appointment
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	Canvas

Course Format: Online

Course Description (Required)

Introduction to quantitative research methods used in Justice Studies includes exploring relationship of theory to empirical evidence and logic underlying methods of inquiry and ethics in conducting empirical research. Methodological design, operationalization, and data analysis are integral parts of this course.

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. Note that SJSU classes are designed in a way 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 a unit per week), including preparation for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments and so on.

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.

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 meaningful research questions, reviewing literature, and conducting data collection and basic analysis. 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 "Do juvenile smokers commit more delinquent acts than nonsmokers?" or "Do higher levels of patrols by law enforcement officials decrease crime?" 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. 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, follow power-point siles, and ask questions through email if you are unsure about a topic.

Please note that this is an online course in which students will 1) watch videos of my course lectures that have been posted on Canvas, and 2) take online quiz, submit paper critiques and research note, and complete assignments that, as noted above, will also be posted on Canvas. Hence this course is essentially located on Canvas, to which enrolled students automatically have access through their SJSUOne account. All course material, except for the course book, will be available through Canvas. (A word to the wise: Students who do not watch the course lectures in sequential order as the semester progresses, or do not take notes on the contents, or do not do the required course readings will find it impossible to get a good grade and may well end up failing this course. Cutting corners, which is never a good idea for students who are serious about learning, is likely to lead to disaster in an online course!) To reiterate, course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc., can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) (Required)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will 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: Identify and frame a meaningful research question.

SLO 3: Understand causality as opposed to correlation.

SLO 4: Summarize three fundamental features of social science: theory, data collection, and data analysis; describe how theory and public policy can be closely linked.

SLO 5: Recognize how criminal justice research is shaped by ethical considerations.

SLO 6: Understand how the logic of probability sampling makes it possible to represent large populations with small subsets of those populations.

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

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

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

Textbook

Maxfield, M. G., & Babbie, E. R. (2015). Research methods for criminal justice and criminology (Seventh Edition). Cengage Learning.

https://www.amazon.com/Research-Methods-Criminal-Justice-Criminology-ebook-dp-B00H7HT6JA/dp/B00H7HT6JA/ref=mt_kindle?_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=

Other Readings

Other required readings will be posted on Canvas. The readings are subject to change by instructor.

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

Requirements: (1) You are required to read all books, reading materials and articles in advance. (2) Your grade is based on class participation, homework, Midterm and final exam.

1. **Homework:** There will be weekly homework (8 in total) and those will be posted on Canvas. The assignments are based on previous weeks' readings. Homework will be assigned on Fridays. Completed homework must be submitted online the following Mondays by 8 am. No late submission will be accepted.

2. **Mid Term Exam**: Final exam is scheduled on . The exam will be posted 24 hours before the submission deadline.

3. **Final Exam**: Final exam is scheduled on . The final will be posted 24 hours before the submission deadline.

4. **Participation.** Participation includes but is not limited to: reading the assign book/articles, following the power-points and completing assignments. Class Exercises/Activities. As part of your participation grade, you will also complete various class exercises and activities, if any, during the course. The objective of the exercises is to practice the concepts needed to write your applied research projects in future. Some of these class activities/exercises will be submitted, and others will be for your personal enrichment.

Grading Information (Required)

Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence

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

Determination of Grades

Homework: 40%
Midterm Exam 25%
Final Exam: 30%
Class participation: 5%

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/"

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.

JS 114-80 / Research Methods, Fall 2019, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice and the notice will be made available by email.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	August 21-23	Introduction: There is assigned reading. *Please collect the book.
2	Aug. 26-30	Chapter 1: Crime, Criminal Justice and Scientific Inquiry • Basic ideas • Identifying research question • Designing research
3	Sept. 2-6	Chapter 2: Foundation of Criminal Justice Research • Deductive and Inductive logic • Causality • Hypothesis • Variables Homework # 1 assigned
4	Sept. 9-13	Chapter 3: Ethics and Criminal Justice Research IRB • Homework # 2 assigned
5	Sept. 16-20	Chapter 4: General Issues in Research Design • Validity • Unit of Analysis • Data • Homework # 3 assigned
3	Sept. 23-27	Chapter 5: Concept, Operationalization and Measurement Descriptive Statistics – Counting data • Frequency distribution • Reading: TBD • Mean, Median, More

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		• Homework # 4 assigned
3	Sept. 30 - Oct. 4	Chapter 6: Measuring Crime Examples Evaluated
3	Oct. 7-11	Chapter 7: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs ## Midterm Posted ##
Mid-term Exam	October 14	**October 14, Monday morning**
	Oct. 15-18	Chapter 8: Sampling • Random Sample • Sampling Errors • Logic of normal curve
	Oct. 21-25	Chapter 9: Survey Research • Survey Research - data analysis
	Oct. 28-Nov. 1	Survey Research - data analysis • Cross tabs • Reading: TBD • Homework # 5 assigned
	Nov. 4-8	Hypothesis Testing Reading: TBD • Homework # 6 assigned
	Nov. 11-15	Chapter 10: Qualitative Interview
	Nov. 18-22	Chapter 14: Interpreting data • Bivariate Analysis • Univariate Inferences • Additional Reading TBD • Homework # 7

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Thanksgiving Break
	Dec. 2-6	Chapter 14: Interpreting data • Multivariate Analysis • Introduction to OLS • Homework # 8
	Dec 9-13	**Final Exam Due on Dec. 13 Midnight**