

Criminal Justice 100

Introduction to Criminal Justice Research Methods

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REQUIRED READINGS:

Bachman, R., & Schutt, R. (2008). *Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Williams, F., & McShane, M. (2004). *Criminological theory*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

PREREQUISITE:

CRJ 1: Introduction to Criminal Justice and Society

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to research methodologies used in the social sciences, with a special emphasis on those methods most often used in the study of crime and criminal behavior, police/court systems, and correctional institutions, policies, and programs. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to understand, critically analyze and assess descriptive and quantitative research studies. Topics include the roles of theory and ethics in research, hypothesis testing, and research design.

COURSE PURPOSE:

This section of Criminal Justice 100 is designed to enable students to develop an understanding and appreciation of social scientific research methods as they are commonly applied to investigate criminal justice issues. As such, emphasis will be placed on understanding the basics of research methods as well as the application of research methodologies using examples from the criminal justice system. The knowledge gained in the course should help students become better consumers of criminal justice research and literature.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Use research terminology appropriately and apply research related concepts to the field of criminal justice.
2. Understand the relationship between theory and research including familiarity with the issues and process of theory construction.
3. Recognize a wide variety of research techniques and design issues that are relevant to the criminal justice field.
4. Identify ethical obstacles and dilemmas encountered in the process of research and develop an appreciation for ethical research.
5. Interpret and critically appraise research literature to develop an ability to discriminate between good and bad research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Quizzes (5% each; highest 6 of 7)	30%
Mid-term exam	25%
Research proposal sections (5)	10%
Research proposal	20%
Proposal Presentations	5%
Class participation	10%

FINAL GRADES:

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62

Quizzes will be based on the assigned chapter(s) and/or material presented in class. Quizzes will test your preparation for class (doing the readings or other preparatory assignments) and will be held **PRIOR** to the class section on each topic. Missed quizzes cannot be made-up at a later time.

The Research Proposal papers are due at the **BEGINNING** of the class session on the due date. Papers received after that time will be considered **LATE** and will **NOT** be accepted.

The Research Proposal section papers (denoted by 's' on the schedule) are due at the beginning of class. Each student is expected to bring a completed draft section for peer review. Students who do not bring the assigned section will not participate in the peer review process nor will they receive credit for that section.

The Mid-term exam will be based on information from the assigned chapters of the required text and any discussions and materials covered in class prior to the exam.

Exceptions will be made on missed exams and late papers under exceptional circumstances only. Those circumstances must be documented and verifiable.

DON'T CHEAT! Cheating on exams or quizzes will result in a score of zero! Don't look around, don't talk, don't do it!

DON'T PLAGIARIZE! If it's not your own words or idea, and it's not cited, it's plagiarism. Need a plagiarism tutorial? <http://library.csus.edu/content1.asp?pageID=353>.

COURSE PREPARATION:

BE PREPARED!!! Reading assignments are to be completed *before* class. Assignments are to be turned in at the *beginning* of the class when they are due.

SacCT You should set-up a SacCT account in order to access materials that may be posted there for this course.

ATTENDANCE:

Students absent from class more than 3 times will be dropped from the course. No reason is required for the first 3 absences. I suggest you do not plan to get married and go on a honeymoon, tour the pyramids or, engage in other pleasure travel that causes you to miss class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you are disabled and you require accommodation, provide disability documentation To Student Services With Disabilities, Lassen Hall 1008, 916.278.6955. Also, please discuss your accommodation needs with me early in the semester either after class or during office hours.

CELL PHONES:

Cell phones are a disruption to class. Turn off your phones before class and put them away, out of sight. Anyone receiving a call or texting in class will be asked to leave the classroom.

PORTABLE COMPUTERS:

Can be distracting to other students. If you use a computer to take notes, sit at the back of the room where nobody else can see your screen. However, if you choose to surf the net or read email during class, do not bother coming. You will be asked to leave the classroom.

SCHEDULE: (This schedule may change at any time).

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Due
1	Jan 26 Jan 28	Overview of course Introduction to research & creative analytics		
2	Feb 2 Feb 4	Overview of Article Review & Research Proposal papers Library Research: LIBRARY ROOM # 2024		PAPER TOPIC s
3	Feb 9 Feb 11	Research Proposal meetings – topics & searches Research Proposal meetings – topics & searches		
4	Feb 16 Feb 18	Criminological research & the scientific research process Theory & Ethics in research	1 2	Quiz #1 (Ch. 1 & 2)
5	Feb 23 Feb 25	Conceptualization, operationalization & measurement Peer Review: Reviewing Research	3	Quiz #2 (Ch. 3) RESEARCH REVIEW s
6	Mar 2 Mar 4	Populations & Sampling Peer Review: Conceptualizing a Research Project	4	Quiz #3 (Ch. 4) INTRODUCTION s
7	Mar 9 Mar 11	Causation & Experimental Design Peer Review: Reviewing Research	5	Quiz #4 (Ch. 5) RESEARCH REVIEW s
8	Mar 16 Mar 18	Surveys, scales, & interviewing Peer Review: Sampling & the Research Proposal	6	POP & SAMPLING s
9	Mar 23 Mar 25	Mid-term review MID-TERM EXAM		

	Mar 30 Apr 1	NO CLASSES SPRING RECESS
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10	Apr 6 Apr 8	Qualitative Research & Field Research Content & Secondary Analysis	7 8	
11	Apr 13 Apr 15	Policy Analysis & Program Evaluation Peer Review: Methods & the Research Proposal	9	Quiz #5 (Ch. 7, 8 & 9) METHOD s
12	Apr 20 Apr 22	Quantitative Data Analysis & Statistics Analysis & the Research Proposal	10	Quiz #6 (10)
13	Apr 27 Apr 29	Research Proposal meetings – finalizing proposal Research Proposal meetings – finalizing proposal	11	
14	May 4 May 6	Proposal presentations Proposal presentations		Research Proposals Due
15	May 11 May 13	Proposal presentations Proposal presentations & Proposal papers returned		

s: section of the Research Proposal. Due in class for peer review.

!!THIS IS A COURSE ON PREPARING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL & SECONDLY, REVIEWING LITERATURE!!

Every Thursday class will be spent going over that week's sections as included in the proposals. **OR FOR PEER REVIEW OF SECTIONS.** Idea is to develop 2 proposals during the class by including what was learned on Tues.

Example One, Substance abuse program for inmates, program evaluation

Example Two, Correctional officer attitudes, survey data.

MUST READ CHAPTER PRIOR TO CLASS

FIRST CLASS ON EACH CHAPTER HAS QUIZ ON READINGS

WEDS CLASSES WILL BE EXERCISES ON DISCUSSING/COMPLETING THAT SECTION OR, PEER REVIEW OF PAPER SECTIONS