

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

CRJ.100: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE
RESEARCH METHOD
SPRING 2009

Prof. Xin Ren

Class Time: Sec 1: MWF 10-10:50; Sec.2: MW 12noon-1:15PM

Office Hours: MW 11-12noon; 4:15-4:45PM

Office: ALP-106

Telephone: 278-6381

Email: renx@csus.edu

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of scientific methods in studying crime, criminal behavior and criminal justice policy. The course will provide an overview on various qualitative and quantitative methods applied in criminological research and criminal justice policy evaluation. Various research methodological issues such as literature review, research ethics, design, data collection and process, and data analysis will be explored.

Course Objectives:

- (1) Understanding the purpose, range, and meaning of social research;
- (2) Recognizing a wide variety of research techniques and design issues that are relevant to the criminal justice field;
- (3) Identifying ethical concerns and dilemmas encountered in the process of research and the impact on formulating crime control policy;
- (4) Interpreting and critically appraising research literature;
- (5) Learning the basic methods in conceptualizing, designing, planning, and conducting survey and research;
- (6) Learning various data collection techniques, including using archival and reference materials, conducting telephone and face-to-face interview, field survey and experiment, and engaging in observation and measurement;
- (7) Analyzing qualitative and quantitative data; and
- (8) Writing a research report.

For updated learning objectives, please see details at

http://www.hhs.csus.edu/cj/Word_Docs/LEARNINGOBJECTIVES/100%20objectives%200505.doc

Required Text:

1. Earl Babbie (2007). The Practice of Social Research, 11th Edition. Thomason/Wadsworth.
2. Pan, M. Ling (2004) Preparing Literature Reviews, 2nd Edition. Pyczak Publishing (for projects that use secondary sources).

Supplemental Readings:

3. Patten, Mildred L. (2005) Proposing Empirical Research, 3rd Editions. Pyrczak Publishing.
4. Robert K. Yin (2002). Case Study Research: Design and Methods, 3/e. Sage Publications.
5. Mark Pogrebin (2003). Qualitative Approaches to Criminal Justice Perspectives from the Field. Sage Publications.
6. Jane Ritchie and Jane Lewis (2003). Qualitative Research Practice A Guide for Social Science Students and Researchers. Sage.
7. Russell Schutt (2003). Investigating the Social World with SPSS Student Version 11.0: The Process and Practice of Research 4/e. Sage.
8. Jack Fraenkel (1999) Visual Statistics: A Conceptual Primer. Allyn & Bacon.
9. Babbie, E., Fred Halley, and J. Zaino (2003) Adventures in Social Research: Data Analysis Using SPSS 11.0/11.5 for Windows. Pine Forge.
10. W. Penn Handwerker (2001) Quick Ethnography. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Course Format:

This course combines traditional ways of learning (lectures, class discussion, readings, and exams) with the applied technique to have you "do" a research project, including exercises in research design, data collection, analysis, and final report writing.

Course Evaluation (Total 340 pts) and Learning Expectations:

Research Project (See Research Project for details)	100 pts.
Six (6) quizzes in class (See page 6 for the schedule)	240 pts

1. Final Grade: The final overall grade will be computed based on your project score (100pts) and three best scores from 6 quizzes (max.120 pts).
2. Attendance: All students are encouraged to become active participants in the class discussion. Regular and punctual attendance is required. Absence in one third or more (5 or more) classes will automatically result in a final grade "C-" or lower. A class attendance sheet will be handed out at each class meeting. It is your responsibility to sign in at each class meeting.
3. Quizzes (240pts): There will be six non-cumulative quizzes (40 pts each) given in class. The quizzes consist of true/false and/or multiple-choice questions. Please note: only three best scores of the six quizzes will be counted toward the final grade. Make-up quizzes *WILL NOT be given EXCEPT for the documented medical or family emergency*. See the page of Important Date for quiz schedule (pg. 6)
4. Research Project (100pts): The class project comprises of nine evaluative components in the following process:
 1. Research proposal (20pts)
Human subject protection proposal (for projects that use human subjects)
 2. Final report of your project (80pts)

- Literature research and review
- Formulation of Research questions and hypothesis
- Identification of ethical concerns
- Research design
- Data collection
- Data analysis
- Conclusion and policy implication

In this project, you will learn how to identify research questions, formulate measurable hypotheses, collect data pertaining to your research topic, apply appropriate procedure and analytical technique to test your hypotheses, and to write your research findings in the Final Report. The final report includes seven sections of 1) Intro and literature review; 2) Research questions and Hypothesis; 3) Ethical Concerns; 4) Research Design; 5) Data Collection; 6) Data Analysis; and 7) Conclusion and Policy Implication. More detailed instruction will be provided in handouts during the semester to guide you through this research process.

Tentative Class Schedule and Lecture Topics*

Week 1 (January 26th-30th)

- Introduction to the Course-Human Inquiry and Science
- Review of course requirements and class project

Reading assignment/homework:

- Babie: Chapter 1
- Identify research topics

Week 2 (Feb.2nd -6th)

- Theories and social research-literature review and research questions

Reading assignment/homework:

- Babie: Chapter 2 and 17
- Identify research topics and prepare research proposal

Week 3 (Feb 9th -13th)

- Ethical concerns in social research
- Process and problems in social research
- Electronic database search for research literature
- **Feb. 9th – Mr. Ben Amada: Library E-Database Tutorial Session (Regular class hours in Alpine 152 for both classes;**
- **Feb 11th –Mr. Ben Amada’s Tutorial Session Continues for 12noon Class only in Alpine 152**

Reading assignment/homework:

- Babie: Chapters 2-3 and 17
- Prepare a research proposal

Week 4 (Feb.16th –20th)

- Human subject protection
- Conceptualization and formation of hypotheses
- **Feb. 16: Mr. Ben Amata: Hand-on literature search and trouble shooting in Library-2024 for both classes**

Reading Assignment/homework:

- Babie: Chapters 2-3 and 17
- Research proposal-cont.
- **Quiz #1 (chapters 1-3): Feb. 20th.**

Week 5 (Feb. 23rd -Feb. 27th)

- Research design
- Hypothesis measurement
- Causal relationship

Reading Assignment/homework:

- Babie: Chapter 4-5 and 17
- Research Proposal-cont.

Week 6 (March 2nd -6th)

- Indexes and scales
- Sampling strategies

Reading Assignment/homework:

- Babbie: Chapters 5-6
- Select observation/data collection modes
- **Research Proposal due March 2, 2009.**
- **Quiz #2 (chapters 4-6) March 4th**

Week 7 (March 9th-13th)

- Case Studies
- Experiments

Reading Assignment/homework:

- Babbie: Chapters 7-8
- Design data collection process
- **Match 11: IRB: Human Subject Protection Proposal due-optional**

Week 8 (March 16th-20th)

- Survey
- IRB-Human subject protection matters and process

Reading Assignment/homework:

- Babbie: Chapters 8-9
- Data collection for the project

Week 9 (March 30th –April 3rd)

- Spring Break-No classes

Week 10 (April 6th -10th)

- Qualitative research
- Interview techniques

Reading Assignment/homework:

- Babbie: Chapter 9-10
- Data collection for the project
- **Quiz #3 (chapters 7-8): April 6.**

Week 11 (April 13th -17th)

- Unobtrusive Research-content analysis
- Historical and comparative Methods
- Evaluation studies

Reading Assignment/homework:

- Babbie: Chapters 9-10
- Data collection and analysis
- **Quiz #4 (chapters 9-10): April 15th**

Week 12 (April 20th -24th)

- Evaluation studies-Cont.
- Data analysis

Reading Assignment/homework:

- Babbie: Chapters 11-12
- Writing research report

Week 13 (April 27st –May 1st)

- Data Analysis
- Database set up and coding
- Qualitative data analysis

Reading Assignment/homework:

- Babbie: Chapters 11-12
- Writing research report
- **Quiz #5 (chapters 11-12): May 4th.**

Week 14 (May 4th –May 8th)

- Quantitative data analysis
- Final report writing
- Final Review

Reading Assignment/homework:

- Babbie: Chapter 13 and 14
- Data analysis and summary

Week 15 (May 11th -15th)

- Data analysis and summary
- Bibliography
- Course review and final evaluation

Reading Assignment/homework:

- Babbie: Chapter 13 and 14
- **Resubmission of project final report due May 13th, 2009**
- **Last Quiz (chapters 13 and 14): May 11th**

***Instructor reserves the right to change or modify any part of this syllabus during the semester.**

Important Dates to Remember:

- February 9th Library Tutorial Session: Electronic Databases for both classes
- February 11th Library Tutorial Session: Electronic Databases for 12noon class only
- February 16th Library Tutorial Session: Literature Search with E-Databases
- February 20th Quiz #1 (Chapters 1, 2, and 3)
- March 2nd **Research Proposal due**
- March 4th Quiz #2 (Chapters 4, 5 and 6)
- March 11th **Human Subject Protection Proposal due (optional)**
- March 16th Final Report, **Chapter 1: Introduction and Literature Review chapter due**
- March 23rd **Chapter 2: Research Questions and Hypothesis due**
- March 30st -April 3rd Spring Recess-No Class
- April 6th Quiz #3 (Chapters 7 and 8)
- April 8th **Chapter 3: Research Design due**
- April 15th **Chapter 4: Ethical Concerns**
- April 15th Quiz #4 (Chapters 9 and 10)
- April 22nd **Chapter 5: Data Collection due**
- May 4th Quiz #5 (Chapters 11 and 12)
- May 6th **Chapter 6: Data Analysis due**
- May 11th Chapter 7: **Conclusion Chapter and final bibliography due**
- May 11th Quiz #6 (Chapters 13 and 14)
- May 13th **Resubmission of Final Report due (optional)**

Name: _____ **Tel #:** _____

SS# (4 digital): _____ **Email:** _____

Major: _____

Level of Class (Circle one): **Freshman** **Sophomore** **Junior** **Senior**

I am a transfer student from community college or other university: ___Yes ___N/A

This is my first semester at CSUS: ___Yes ___N/A

I had the following class(es) before: ___ **Research Methods at college or university level**

 ___ **Statistics at college or university level**

 ___ **SPSS or SAS**

 ___ **None of the above**