

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
CJ 3378.12
Research Methods for Criminal Justice
Fall, 2017

Room: CJC A181
Time: TTH 3:30-5:00 PM
Office: CJC CL 26
Office Hours: By appointment only

Instructor: Dr. S. Kawucha
Phone: 936-294-4777
Email: skk003@shsu.edu

Required Text

Hagan, Frank E. (2012). *Essentials of Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology*. 3rd ed. New York: Pearson Education. ISBN: 9780135121009

Other materials in the form of articles and / or handouts will be provided to supplement the course. These are required readings and students will be tested on the materials.

Course Description

Research methods is a course designed to help students understand the different ways problems or questions in criminal justice may be addressed. Criminal justice problems can be answered in different ways, using different methods of research. The major focus of this course is the discussion and evaluation of these differing methods; the advantages and disadvantages of each technique. The topics include: sampling, reliability, validity, causation and correlation, evaluation and survey research design, research ethics, variables and operationalization, and the relationship between research and “real world” criminal justice practices.

The course is not limited to criminal justice topics as all social science research use similar or the same methods to address problems or to answer questions. Therefore, this course may cover a variety of topics to help students understand the process of criminal justice research.

Course Objectives and Goals

In this course, you will learn:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Research Language | 7. Survey Construction and Interview Questions |
| 2. Scientific vs. Non-Scientific Research | 8. Non-Response Issues |
| 3. Causation vs. Correlation (Differences) | 9. Issues of Reliability and Validity |
| 4. Different Research Methodologies | 10. Research Evaluation |
| 5. Unethical / Illegal Research Methods | 11. Gathering Data |
| 6. History of Human Subject Research | 12. Advantages / Disadvantages of Different Research Types |

Course Requirements

This is a “W” course which means that at least 50% of your course grade will derive from writing activities designed to help you master course objectives.

Grade Scale:

90 -100 A
80 - 89 B
70 - 79 C
60 - 69 D
0 - 59 F

Course Grading:

3 Exams (100 points each)	300 pts.
Internet IRB Course	25 pts.
Group Exercise	25 pts.
Participant Exercise	25 pts.
Attendance / Participation	<u>25 pts.</u>
Total	400 pts.

Exams

There will be 3 exams worth a total of 300 points. They may be essay, fill in the blank, short answer, and/or multiple choice. Each test will cover **all** assigned reading material (text and supplemental articles), even if not covered in class. In addition, tests will be semi-comprehensive in nature; later exams will draw upon information given in earlier lectures.

Internet IRB Course

Each student will be required to complete an Internet based Human Participant Protections Education for Research Teams. The training can be accessed at: <http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>). You will be taken directly to the national training website. Once at the website, you will have to register and create a password to get access. Write this down and keep it if you need to access at a later date. Once you have registered, access Module 1 on History and progress through the various modules and complete the test after each one.

To get credit for this training and hence this assignment, you must present to me the printable certificate that you will receive at the conclusion of successful training on the date given in the syllabus (Sept. 14th). This certificate **must have your registered name** on it (no nicknames) for proper credit to be given. This training takes approximately 1-2 hours to complete, and I would advise you to do it a couple days before class as we will discuss this topic in class. I also strongly advise you to **take notes during the tutorials** so that you may pass the various tests which are sometimes a bit difficult.

Failing to turn in the certification will result in zero points for the assignment. I will **not** accept late certificates or certification forms for other students than yourself. If you have someone else do the training for you, this is considered cheating and all involved students will receive an F.

Sampling Group Assignment

This will be a collaborative group effort on the subject of sampling. Each group will receive an assignment dealing with inmates and the incidence of sexual assaults in prison. The grade is one received by the group as a whole, not as individuals. I will provide specific details in class during the lecture on sampling.

Participant Exercise

Each student will be responsible for doing a participant observation study, and this will include a short paper on the methods, observations, and your results. (2 – 4 pages). I will provide specific details in class during the lectures on qualitative research and surveys.

Participation / Attendance

As I highly value student participation and input, students are strongly encouraged to attend class each day. After two (2) absences, you will lose 10 points (from total points earned) for each additional absence. I will take attendance by way of a sign-in sheet each class day, and I will keep track of all students that participate in class discussions and ask questions. In addition:

- Ⓢ Students may miss valuable information for exams from lectures and discussions.
- Ⓢ Students may miss extra credit quizzes.
- Ⓢ Students will miss out on attendance and participation points.
- Ⓢ You will lose 10 points for each missed class after two absences
- Ⓢ Students that miss more than 4 class sessions may be administratively dropped according to University Guidelines.
- Ⓢ **Note: Having another student sign in for you is the same as cheating since it involves points and a grade. Doing so may result in a grade of F for all students involved.**

Extra Credit

To provide an opportunity for bonus points, I will have several unannounced quizzes, each worth up to five points (5 questions worth a point each). The questions will most likely be from assigned readings. The number of offered quizzes and the number of questions is entirely my discretion. At the end of the semester, I will add any points earned to your final score. Obviously, if you are not present, you will miss the quiz and the opportunity for extra points. There are no make-ups on quizzes under any circumstances.

Make – Up Work

Any make – up exams will only be given in response to documented, legitimate, and substantial reasons. Make – ups will be different from the exam offered in class. Please make every effort to contact me **prior** to the absence via email or leave a message with the CJ office.

ADA Statement

Students with a certified disability may contact me at any time regarding any necessary accommodations. Students with a disability that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. The physically impaired may contact the Director of the Counseling Center as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (ext. 1720). Please refer to the following website for additional information on services for disabled students:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

Academic Honesty

I regret that I should even have to mention the issue of cheating, but here it is: If I catch you, the very least you can expect is an F. Honor and integrity is the very core of Criminal Justice and I value my profession and its reputation very highly.

Religious Holidays

For university policy on student absences on religious holidays, refer to SHSU Student Guidelines for complete information.

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

Miscellaneous

- Please turn off any cell phones, pagers, beepers, PDA's, or any other electronic or noise making devices; they are immensely distracting to other students and to me. No recording devices will be allowed unless required by ADA Guidelines, and this includes portable and/or laptop computers.
- During exams, any cell phone or other electronic device that activates will be confiscated, and returned at the end of the semester.

- Students are reminded that discussions may involve issues that are sensitive and inflammatory in nature. Please remember that everyone is entitled to their own opinion and view of a topic. However, intentional provocation, insult, or abuse directed at another student or myself ***will not be tolerated***, and the offender will be asked to leave.
- If you plan to fall asleep, please do so at home, not in my class.
- I round up final scores. For example, an 89.5 is an A, an 89.4 will remain a B. Other than this, I do not change grades.
- I do not curve scores—don't bother asking. Curving is fundamentally unfair to students.
- If you are having difficulties, the best course is to let me know immediately. Do not wait until finals when I cannot help you. My goal is to have every student attain the grade they wish in this course, whatever that grade may be.
- Incompletes will **only** be given for documented major medical or other personal emergencies, not just because you are doing poorly in the course.

Syllabus Changes

I reserve the right and have the discretion to make changes to this syllabus. If a change becomes necessary, I will announce the change(s) in class. It is your responsibility to be in class so you can be made aware of any changes. Failing to make syllabus changes because of missing class is not an excuse for missing or late work assignments.

Class Schedule

This schedule is a general guideline and is subject to change as necessary. All changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Date	Topic	Assignment/Reading
8-24	Syllabus, Introduction	
8-29 8-31	Introduction to Research Methods Milgram Video	Chapter 1
9-5 9-7	Ethics of Research Extra Credit Assignment (Book Review)	Chapter 2
9-12 9-14	Research Design (Validity, Causation, Correlation) Review for Exam 1	Chapter 3 IRB Assign. Due
9-19	Test #1 (Chapters 1,2,3, and IRB)	
9-21	No Class	
9-26 9-28	Alternative Data Strategies	Chapter 4
10-3 10-5	Sampling (Group assignment given) Sampling (cont'd)	
10-10 10-12	Sampling (cont'd) Survey Research (Participation assignment given)	Chapter 5/6 Group Assign. Due
10-17 10-19	Survey Research (cont'd)	
10-24	Review for Exam 2	
10-26	Exam 2 (Chapters 4,5,6)	
10-31 11-2	Qualitative Research Case Studies	Articles, Ch. 7 Participant Due
11-7 11-9	Participant Observation Stanford Prison Experiment (Video)	Chapter 8
11-14 11-16	Unobtrusive Measures, Secondary Data Analysis	Chapter 9
11-21 11-25	Validity, Reliability, and Triangulated Strategies, Scales NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	Chap. 10 Pages 295-310
11-28 11-30	Validity, Reliability, and Triangulated Strategies, Scales Review for Final Exam	Chap. 10 Pages 310-321
12-7	FINAL EXAM (Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, Video) 7:30 – 9:30 PM Note Time Change!	