

CRIJ 3378.16 Introduction to Methods of Research_ Writing Enhanced _Online
The Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
Fall 2017

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CLASS HOURS: Online
CLASSROOM: Online
OFFICE HOURS: T/TH 12:00 – 3:00PM (OR BY APPOINTMENT)

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces the scientific approach to understanding the social world, the relationship between theory and research, research design, and data collection. This course is designed to help students gain an understanding of the research process with direct application to criminal justice research with a focus on various aspects of the research process including quantitative and qualitative methods.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Improve the basic understanding of key concepts and terminology in research methods
2. Demonstrate an overview of the fundamentals in research methods
3. Expand interest and ability to comprehend scholarly journal articles in the field and determine the quality of the articles based on their methodology
4. Identify academic resource to develop your own research question and research proposal.

III. COUSE MATERIALS:

REQUIRED READINGS

Maxfield, M.G. & Babbie, E. (2014). Research methods for criminal justice and criminology, 7th edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. (ISBN: 978-1-285-06784-1)

Pope, C.E., Lovell, R., & Brandl, S.G. (2001). Voices from the field: Readings in criminal justice. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. (ISBN: 978-0-534-56376-9)

Any handouts or independent readings provided or assigned by the instructor.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Bachman, R.D. & Schutt, R.K. (2013). The practice of research in criminology and criminal justice. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. (ISBN: 978-1452258195)

Hagan, F.E. (2003). Research methods in criminal justice and criminology, 6th Edition. Pearson Education, Inc.

Maxfield, M.G. & Babbie, E. (2010). Study guide for Maxfield and Babbie's research methods for criminal justice and criminology. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. (ISBN: 978-0-495-81375-0)

Tontodonato, P. & Hagan, F.E. (1998). The language of research in criminal justice: A reader. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Welch, K.L. (2012). Late onset offending and substance use: Findings from the NYSFS. El Paso, TX: LFB Scholarly Publications LLC.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to read the required reading, ask questions, participate in class discussions, and submit writing assignments. Keep in mind that this course is writing enhanced. Your grade will be based on three exams, weekly quizzes, three writing assignments, and three discussion participations.

EXAM POLICY:

There will be three exams administered during this course. Exams will be worth 20 points each for a total of 60 points. Exams will be composed of a combination of multiple choice, true false, and fill in the blank questions. Questions will come from class discussion notes, homework assignments, and the required readings. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize the course resources to enhance their understanding of the materials, to prepare for exams, and successfully complete assignments. Students will have to use Respondus Lockdown Browser software and the webcams for all exams. A practice quiz is set up for students to use throughout the semester to test the respondus software prior to taking an exam. For more information, contact SHSU online support at 936-294-2780 or email blackboard@shsu.edu. See section on Technical Issues for more information.

The exams will close at 11:59PM on the day that it is due (see schedule below). *There is a time limit for each exam.* The clock starts once you begin the test. The exams are set to force completion so if you log out or lose your Internet connection, the clock keeps ticking and will submit your test when the time is up. Make sure to have a dependable Internet connection when taking exams. There will be NO make-up exams unless there is an extreme documented medical or personal emergency. In the case of such an emergency, the instructor must be notified *prior* to the absence. Early notification and/or proper documentation will not necessarily guarantee that a make-up exam will be granted. *All make-up exams will be in the short-essay format. If the student misses the make-up exam, they will receive a zero for that exam without exception.*

QUIZZES:

Weekly quizzes are given during the semester to ensure student engagement (i.e. students are keeping up with the required readings and actively participating in class discussions) and to help students prepare for the exams. Each quiz will be worth 5 points and you can earn up to 55 points (5 points*11 quizzes). Quizzes may be composed of true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the blank questions, or a combination of each. Students are required to review the textbooks and lecture prior to taking the quiz. Students will also have the weekly chapter study guidelines to take the quiz. Students must complete the quiz during the scheduled lecture week. *Two attempts* at the quiz will be allowed. For each attempt, you will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS POLICY:

Three writing assignments are required in this course (50 points each). The first writing assignment requires you to review and synthesize the assigned research article. The second writing assignment requires you to find and review three articles and develop your own research questions. Developing upon the second writing assignment, the third writing assignment requires you to develop a short research proposal. Your final writing assignment will include introduction, literature review, and method sections.

Detailed instructions on how to complete all writing assignments will be posted in Blackboard. Also included in writing assignment instructions are paper formatting requirements. Keep in mind that you will be graded on both content and formatting. Detailed instructions for your writing assignment will be available through the Blackboard link *three weeks before* the submission date. In this way, you will know the requirement for the assignment and have enough time to read and write the paper.

SUBMITTING WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be a submission link for every assignment in Blackboard. All assignments must be submitted in Word. Other formats will not be accepted. Your assignments **MUST** be submitted through the designated Blackboard links by the due date. DO NOT email me your papers.

Writing assignments submitted early will not be graded early. I strongly encourage you to not wait until the last minute to work on your writing assignments and be sure to plan accordingly with respect to deadlines. *Late writing assignment WILL NOT be accepted.*

Please note: Anti-plagiarism software will be used to check all assignments for originality.

CLASS DISCUSSION POLICY:

There will be three online discussions (5 points each). The purposes of these activities are to get you to apply what you have learned in practical ways, encourage interaction with peers, and improve critical thinking skills. Participation in these opportunities are crucial. For each discussion post, you will be provided with a description and a set of instructions (e.g., write a response to a set of questions). In preparing your discussion posts, be sure that you are writing in academic voice and making an intellectual contribution. Cite your work and do not make

assertions that you cannot provide evidence for. Your response posts must contain observations that are substantively relevant to the topic in order to get credit.

The due date of each required discussion is listed in the course schedule of the syllabus. Your perspectives and insight are highly valued in this experience. At the same time, keep in mind that you are required to conduct yourself in an appropriate, responsible, and professional manner.

These online discussion activities are NOT eligible for make-up unless you have proper documentation to support the reason for your absence.

EXTRA CREDIT:

There will be no extra credit given in this course.

V. GRADING:

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

Assignment/Exam	Points	Letter Grade Percent
Exam 1	20	A 100 – 90%
Exam 2	20	B 89 – 80%
Exam 3	20	C 79 – 70%
		D 69 – 60%
Weekly Quizzes	50 (5 points each)	F 59% or below
Writing Assignment 1	50	
Writing Assignment 2	50	
Writing Assignment 3	50	
Discussion 1	5	
Discussion 2	5	
Discussion 3	5	
TOTAL POSSIBLE*	275 points	

VI. IMPORTANT POLICY INFORMATION:

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

The academic community operates on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. Occasionally, this trust is violated when academic dishonesty occurs, either inadvertently or deliberately. Academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated and is regarded as a VERY serious matter. You assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the academic work you submit. The

guiding principle of academic integrity shall be that your submitted work, examinations, reports, and projects must be your own work. Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Cheating: intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized material, information, or study aids in any academic exercise; copying or allowing someone to copy any portion of a required assignment; turning in work previously completed for another course
- Fabrication: intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise
- Plagiarism: knowingly copying any portion of another's work without proper citation (this includes paraphrasing or summarizing others' work without citing them)
- Interference: changing, stealing, impeding, or destroying another student's work
- Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of the academic code

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION:

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students, and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>. Also, please meet with me if you have needs for accommodations based on a disability. I will be happy to work with you to make any necessary arrangements.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable

time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES:

- If you need to contact me, please use the email (axc055@shsu.edu). Students are expected to receive response from me no later than 24 hours during *business days*.
- If I may need to contact you between classes, I will accomplish this using individual and group email messages on BlackBoard. Given this, it is required that you check your university email address regularly.
- Any email received after 5PM will be responded the next business day after 9AM.
- Please give me 24 hours to reply before sending another email.
- Detailed student academic policies concerning attendance, academic honesty, disabled student and services for disabled students, and absences on religious holy days may be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

This course requires regular, dependable access to the Internet, Microsoft Word, and Adobe PDF files. If you do not know how to use Blackboard or if you encounter technical difficulties with the course website, contact the SHSU technical team. They are staffed Monday through Saturday (except for Holidays) from 7am to Midnight. They can be reached by email (delta@shsu.edu) or phone (936-294-2780). Updated information can be found in the “Need Help” link on the left navigation bar on Blackboard.

COURSE SCHEDULE (REVISED 09/05/2017)

Intro 8/23 – 8/25	Introduction to Class Readings: Syllabus & Introduction (M&B) Assignment: “Meet and Greet” Discussion 1 Due Dates: Self-introduction post for Discussion 1 due by Friday 9/10 at 11:59pm. Two Response posts for Discussion 1 due by Sunday, 9/10 at 11:59pm.
8/28 – 9/4	Campus Closed due to Weather
Lecture 1: 9/5 – 9/8	Why We Study Research Methods: Fundamentals of Research Methods Readings: Chapter 1 (M&B); Part I (P,L,&B); Lecture 1 Handouts Assignment: Quiz 1
Lecture 2: 9/11 – 9/15	Theory in Criminal Justice Research Readings: Chapter 2 (M&B); Chapter 5 (P, L, &B); Lecture 2 Handout Assignment: Quiz 2
Lecture 3: 9/18 – 9/22	Ethnics in Criminal Justice Research Readings: Chapter 3 (M&B); Chapter 12 (P, L, &B); Lecture 3 Handouts Assignment: Quiz 3
Lecture 4: 9/25 – 9/29	Overview of the Research Design and the Research Process Readings: Chapter 4 (M&B); Chapter 4 Handouts Assignment: Quiz 4 & Writing Assignment 1 Due Date: Writing Assignment 1 due by Sunday, 10/1 at 11:59pm.
Exam 1: 10/2 – 10/6	EXAM I Due Dates: Due by Sunday, 10/8, 11:59PM
Lecture 5: 10/9 – 10/13	Concepts, Operationalization, & Measurements Readings: Chapter 5 (M&B); Chapter 5 Handouts; Chapter 1 (P,L,&B) Assignment: Quiz 5
Lecture 6: 10/16 – 10/20	Measures of Crime Readings: Chapter 6 (M&B); Chapter 6 Handouts; Chapter 2 (P,L,&B) Assignment: Quiz 6 & Writing Assignment 2 Due Date: Writing Assignment 2 due by Sunday, 10/22 at 11:59pm.
Lecture 7: 10/23 – 10/27	Experimental & Quasi-Experimental Designs Readings: Chapter 7 (M&B); Chapter 7 Handouts; Chapter 7 (P,L,&B) Assignment: Quiz 7& Discussion 2

	Due Dates: Self-introduction post for Discussion 2 due by Friday 10/27 at 11:59pm. Two Response posts for Discussion 2 due by Sunday, 10/29 at 11:59pm.
Exam 2: 10/30 – 11/3	EXAM II Due Dates: Due by Sunday, 11/5, 11:59PM
Lecture 8: 11/6 – 11/10	Data Collection & Sampling Readings: Chapter 8 (M&B); Chapter 8 Handouts; Chapter 7 (P,L,&B) Assignment: Quiz 8
Lecture 9: 11/13 – 11/17	Asking the Right Questions: Surveys Readings: Chapter 9 (M&B); Chapter 9 Handouts; Chapter 4 (P,L,&B) Assignment: Quiz 9 & Writing Assignment 3 Due Date: Writing Assignment 3 due by Sunday, 11/19 at 11:59pm.
11/20 – 11/24	Thanksgiving Holidays
Lecture 10: 11/27 – 12/1	Qualitative Interviewing & Methods Readings: Chapter 10 (M&B); Chapter 10 Handouts; Chapter 6 (P,L,&B) Assignment: Quiz 10 & Discussion 3 Due Dates: Self-introduction post for Discussion 3 due by Friday 12/1 at 11:59pm. Two Response posts for Discussion 3 due by Sunday, 12/3 at 11:59pm.
Exam 3: 12/4 – 12/7	FINAL EXAM Opens Monday, 12/4 and closes Thursday, 12/7 at 11:59p

***The professor reserves the right to make changes this syllabus at any time for any justifiable reason. If changes are made, the students will be notified via Email and an up-to-date syllabus will be posted on Blackboard.**