

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
COURSE CRIJ #3378.06
Introduction to Research Method Writing Enhanced
Spring 2018

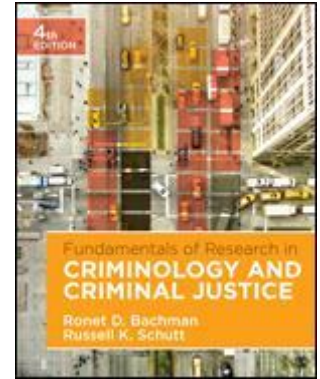
Professor: Jun Wu, M.A.
Office: CL-03
Email: jxw012@shsu.edu

Classroom: A-209
Class hours: MWF 9:00-9:50 am
Credit Hours: 3
Office Hours: MMF 10:00-10:50 am

Textbook

Required:

Bachman, R. D. & Schutt, R. K. (2013). Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice (4th Ed.). Los Angeles: Sage Publication. ISBN 9781506359571



Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces you the basic and principal methods used in the field of criminology and criminal justice. Topics that will be covered in this class are divided into four sections, including (1) the foundation for scientific inquiry in criminal justice, (2) key concepts and components of research design, (3) different types of research design and their procedures to conduct, and (4) brief introduction to data analysis and interpretation. You will be asked to apply the materials covered above to your own research proposal.

By the end of this semester, you will be expected to:

- Identify important terminologies and concepts related to research design in the field of criminology and criminal justice.
- Apply different types of research designs to different research questions.
- Distinguish well-designed research from poorly designed and unethical research.
- Efficiently find academic resource to solve research questions related to criminology and criminal justice.

Course Requirement and Grading

Attendance	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	50
Annotated References	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100
Three Tests	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	150

Grading scale:	A:	100-90%	270 – 300 points
	B:	89-80%	240 – 269
	C:	79-70%	210 – 239
	D:	69-60%	180 – 209
	E:	<60%	< 180

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

Attendance

Attendance will be taken every single class. You may miss 2 classes without any excuse or document without any penalty, thereafter each additional absence will correspond with a 5-point reduction in attendance points. If you sleep in the class or are asked to leave the class by the instructor, it will count as an absence (see **Class Conduct Policy** for more details below).

Annotated References

You are to provide 5 annotated references to empirical research articles that are related to one research topic you are interested. An annotated reference is a summary of an article. Since it is a research method class, focus on the methods/methodology part. Each annotated reference should consist of a citation that conforms to APA guidelines, along with a write-up that consists of no more than 300 words. Each annotated reference should include:

1. What is the research question and why is it important?
2. What is the main conclusion from the prior literature?
3. What sample did the author(s) use and what is the sampling strategy?
4. What is the unit of analysis?
5. What is the dependent variable(s) and key independent variable(s)?
6. What is the main finding?
7. What is the policy implication?

On Feb. 02, you are required to submit one piece of paper with your research topic that you are interested (It will not be graded, but pick up one you are really interested, because you will spend time reading 5 articles on it). The annotated references will be due on May. 04 midnight. All submission will be on the Blackboard, under the folder of “Annotated References”. Do not start this project too early, because you will need basic knowledge of research method and design, which you will learn from this class, to accomplish this assignment. At the same time, do not start this project too late, because it will take your time. Students will be graded accordingly to APA format, quality or organization of writing, and summary of article. The grading rubric will be available on the Blackboard.

Tests

There will be 3 open-book tests in this course. The first two will have 20 multiple choices (3 points for each) and 5 short answers (8 points for each). The final test will only have one question but very detailed, that is to be written by hand on a single piece of paper. This question will cover topics discussed throughout the semester and will require that students understand the subject matter of research methods. More details or examples will be shown in class or posted on the Blackboard.

Extra Credit Assignment

There will be 1 extra credit opportunity in this class, which you can get 10 points maximumly directly to your final grade. After Chapter 7, which is survey design, you will be asked to design your own survey to answer your own research question for the annotated reference.

Make-Up Exams

Make up exams are only possible where medical documentation indicates students were advised not to attend class because of a medical emergency. Students without the documentation at the next class will receive a zero grade for the exam.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty of any kind (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) will not be tolerated. Students found to have plagiarized or cheated will receive a failing grade for the course. If a cell phone is visible during an exam, the student will receive a zero for that test. There will also be disciplinary actions at the university level. Further information concerning academic honesty can be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

Disabled Student Policy and Services for Disabled Students

Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU counseling center (Lee Drain Building North Annex, telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be provided to students who have a documented disability. Please notify the Professor during the first week of classes. Failure to do so may result in the accommodations being unavailable. Further information regarding SHSU policy can be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

Student Absences on Religious Holy Day Policy

In accordance with SHSU policy, students who wish to be absent on a religious holy day must provide written documentation to the Professor prior to the day. If the religious holy day coincides with the date an assignment is due, the assignment will be due during the next class period. If the religious holy day coincides with an exam, the student and professor will agree upon a timely make-up date. Further information regarding this policy can be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

Electronic Devices Policy in Class

Laptops are allowed in the class only for the purpose of taking notes. No cell phones may not be used in the class unless the instructor asks you to use for certain purposes. If there is an emergency, please bring it to the Professor's attention at the beginning of class. In emergencies,

the student is asked to sit by the door so not to disrupt the class. Violation of this policy will result in the student being asked to leave the class and take an unexcused absence for the day.

Use of technology during exams is strictly prohibited. The visible presence of an electronic device during an exam period will result in a zero for that exam. Use of electronic devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty. Further information regarding the cell phone policy can be found at:

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

Email Correspondence

Email is the best way to reach your instructor after class. I will respond you within 48 hours. If I may not address your question or concern within 24 hours, I will let you know in advance. Email should be sent in a formal and professional style. Always put CRIJ 3378 or Methods of Research in your title line as this will help me respond to your emails promptly. Do not use emoji in your email, except for smiling face ☺, because I want you to think positively every day.

Class Conduct Policy

Students are expected to behave appropriately during class. The instructor is the final arbiter of what behavior is appropriate and inappropriate. However, students should be guided by the following principle: Your behavior should not be disruptive or distracting to the instructor or your classmates. The following list of appropriate behaviors is not exhaustive.

1. Come to class on time. Your late entrance is distracting to everyone.
2. Do not have food with strong smells in class.
3. Stay for the entire class period. If you must leave early, let the instructor know before the class and sit near the exit and leave as quietly as possible.
4. Put the cell phone and other electronic communication away. Even texting is distracting to others around you. You will be asked to leave the class if you are using a cell phone too often during class.
5. Talking with the people next to you is distracting to everyone, especially the people around you. If you are asking your neighbor a question about the course, it is likely that everyone will benefit if you raise your hand and ask your question to the instructor. If you are just chatting with your neighbor, you are responsible to answer the next question in class, until you get the right answer.
6. For those students who like using laptop to take notes, do not use it as an entertainment device in class. If you are found to do other things on your laptop, you will be prohibited to use your laptop in class anymore. Also, mute your laptop every time you use it in class.
7. Do not sleep in class. It is distracting to other students. If you feel SUPER tired and sleepy before the class, use your 3 free absences wisely. If you feel SUPER tired and sleepy during the class, 5-minute nap is fine, but do not snore. If you snore, it will count as 1 absence.
8. Be respectful to your instructor and your classmates. If you have opposite opinion with other people, you can debate with them but do not yell at them or say bad words.

Annotated Outline of Topics to Be Covered for Each Class Meeting

Dates	Topics	Assignment due
Jan. 17	Syllabus	
Jan. 19	Introduction to the assignments	
Jan. 22 & Jan. 24	Chapter 1	
Jan. 26 & Jan. 29	Chapter 2	
Jan. 31 & Feb. 02 & Feb. 05	Chapter 3	Topic due on Feb. 02
Feb. 07 & Feb. 09	Chapter 4	
Feb. 12	Test #1 review	
Feb. 14	Test #1	
Feb. 16 & Feb. 19 & Feb. 21	Chapter 5 – probability sampling	
Feb. 23 & Feb. 26 & Feb. 28	Chapter 5 – nonprobability sampling	
Mar. 02 & Mar. 05 & Mar. 07	Chapter 6 – true experimental design	
Mar. 09	Chapter 6 – quasi experimental design	
Mar. 12 – Mar. 16	Spring break, no class	
Mar. 19 & Mar. 21	Chapter 6 – quasi experimental design	
Mar. 23 & Mar. 26 & Mar. 28	Chapter 7	
Mar. 30	Good Friday, no class	
Apr. 02	Test #2 review	
Apr. 04	Test #2	
Apr. 06	Library day, no class	Extra credit
Apr. 09 & Apr. 11	Chapter 8	
Apr. 13 & Apr. 16	Chapter 9	
Apr. 18 & Apr. 20	Chapter 10	
Apr. 23 & Apr. 25	Chapter 11	
Apr. 27	Chapter 12	
Apr. 30 & May. 02	Library days, no class	
May. 04	Final test review	Annotated reference
May. 09	Final test	9:30 am to 11:30 am

NOTE: The schedule may be changed during the semester. If anything needs to be changed in the syllabus, students will be noticed in advanced in class and a new version of syllabus will be posted on the Blackboard.