

CRIJ 6334
Research Methods and Quantitative Analysis in Criminal Justice
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
Spring 2018
Saturdays 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
A 201

Instructor: Dr. Jurg Gerber
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Course Description

Catalogue: Methods and techniques of research and research design; conducting and assessing research in the criminal justice agency management environment; translation of research findings to policy; informational resources readily available to the agency manager. Designed to prepare students to gather decision-relevant information.

Objectives: Students will be expected to have achieved the following upon completion of the course:

1. Develop an understanding of how the scientific methods of research are used in criminal justice
2. Better understand research that is presented in various forms of publications and media
3. Demonstrate an understanding of common statistical techniques used in the social sciences
4. Become better consumers of research in the social sciences

Required Readings

Frank E. Hagan. 2009. *Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology, eighth edition*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Carl E. Pope, Rick Lovell, and Steven G. Brandl. 2001. *Voices from the Field: Readings in Criminal Justice Research*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Additional readings to be placed on SHSUonline.

Class Requirements

This class will be taught as a combination of seminar and lecture. This means that the students will have to assume considerable responsibility for the content of the course.

Grading

Three (3) reflection papers. These papers will be discussed in class and will have to be typed and double-spaced—approximate length is 5-8 pp.
(3 x 50 points)

Final Examination (take-home format)

150 Points
100 Points
250 Points

Make-up Examinations

All examinations are in the form of take-home examinations and are distributed at least two weeks before they are due. Except under highly unusual circumstances (e.g., lengthy hospitalization) there will be no opportunity to make up an examination.

Grade Distribution

225-250 Points	A
200-224 Points	B
175-199 Points	C
0 - 174 Points	F

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be given.

Academic Honesty

The Faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual, entitled, *Student Guidelines*, distributed by the Division of Student Services (Reference Section 5.3 of the guidelines—my translation of the material: you cheat, you flunk).

Use of Telephones and Text Messagers in Academic Classrooms and Facilities

The university policy on telephones in academic classrooms can be found at the following website:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/100728.pdf. With respect to tests, the following stipulation will be followed:

“Any use of a telephone or text messenger or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty.”

Attendance

While the university policy on attendance can be found at the website,

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/800401_001.pdf, my own policy is that absences in a class that meets only five times over the course of one semester cannot be tolerated, except under highly unusual circumstances. See the instructor in cases of genuine emergencies.

Disabled Student Policy

Students with a disability which 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. For a full discussion of the university policy, see http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf.

Services for Disabled Students

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

Consistent with the Texas Education Code and SHSU University Policy 861001, students who desire to be absent from a scheduled class in order to observe a religious holy day shall present the professor with a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). I will then notify the students of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments are to be completed.

Tobacco Products

There will be no use of tobacco products allowed in the classroom at any time. Violators of this policy will be warned one time; the second instance of use will result in dismissal from the class.

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SHSU Writing Center

The Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Farrington Hall 111, is open Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one to help you generate, organize, or revise a draft of any assignment in any subject. You can drop by to work with a tutor or call (936) 294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

Tentative Order of Topics and Reading Assignments

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
1/20	Introduction	
	Theory and Method	H: 1, P: Part I
	Ethics	H: 2
	What is research and why do we worry about research? We will address questions concerning social scientific inquiry and its purpose.	
2/10	Experiments (as the “best” methodology)	H: 3; P: Part II
	Alternative Data-Gathering Strategies	H: 4
	Surveys	H: 5 and 6; P: Part III

We will study the two most commonly used methodologies in social science: experiments and surveys. We will study strengths and weaknesses of these two methodologies.

3/3	Participant Observation	H: 7; P: Part IV
	Unobtrusive Measures	H: 8; P: Parts V and VI
	Validity and Reliability	H: 9

Social scientists sometimes seek to study social phenomena in their natural environment through scientific observation while at other times they try to do so without the research subjects being aware of being studied through so-called unobtrusive measures.

4/7	Scales and Indexes	H: 10
	Data Management and Analysis	H: 12-13
	Policy Analysis	H: 11; P: Epilogue

In the final section of the class, we will study the analysis of the data gathered.

4/28 Final Examination Due (submit electronically)