

Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology
Sam Houston State University

CRIJ 7387– Research Design
Spring 2018

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| <i>Professor:</i> | Erin Orrick, Ph.D. | <i>Class Hours:</i> | Tuesday 1:00pm-3:50pm |
| <i>Office:</i> | C207 | <i>Classroom:</i> | A213 |
| <i>Phone:</i> | (936) 294-3643 | <i>Office Hours:</i> | By Appointment |
| <i>Email:</i> | eorrick@shsu.edu | | |

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

- 1) Shadish, W.R., Cook, T.D., & Campbell, D.T. (2002). *Experimental and quasi-experimental design for generalized causal influence*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- 2) DeVellis, R.F. (2012). *Scale development: Theory and applications* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- 3) Creswell, J. W. (2013). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (4th Edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (PDF copy available through ResearchGate).
- 4) Jupp, V., Davies, P., & Francis, P. (2000). *Doing Criminological Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (<http://dx.doi.org.ezproxy.shsu.edu/10.4135/9780857024404>)
- 5) Additional Readings as assigned. Available through Blackboard or SHSU library.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to provide students with in-depth knowledge about several core elements of research design, such as measurement, sampling, scale development, survey methods, experimental and quasi-experimental designs, and qualitative methods. Students will become more sophisticated in their understanding of research methods so they can lead research projects, become more informed consumers of research, and be prepared to teach research methods in higher educational settings. Students will be prepared to independently study topics covered in the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Following the successful completion of this course, students will:

- Understand the role of criminological and criminal justice research in science, especially the interplay between theory and research methods.
- Be familiar with the nuances of making decisions about how to measure concepts and how to evaluate measurement procedures.
- Gain a detailed understanding of survey methods and sampling techniques.
- Understand causation, threats to internal validity, and the logic underlying experimental and quasi-experimental designs.
- Be familiar with the core elements of conducting a qualitative study.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Class Attendance/Participation

This course is a graduate level seminar. Class attendance is expected at every scheduled meeting. You should be well prepared to offer a meaningful discussion and critique of all assigned readings. Class participation will make up 10% of your final grade.

Exams and Assignments

There will be two exams during the semester (a midterm and a final exam). In addition, there will be a series of four assignments specific to the course topics. Details about these assignments will be given throughout the semester through Blackboard. Assignments will be due by 11:59pm on the date indicated on the course calendar below.

GRADING:

Assignments (40%), Exams (50%), and Class Participation (10%).

MAKE-UP EXAMS & ASSIGNMENTS: Assignment and exam make-ups/extensions will NOT be considered unless there is documented proof of an excused absence and I am contacted BEFORE the due date. Late assignments will receive a 10% penalty per day late.

COURSE POLICIES

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>

Plan to attend class the entire scheduled time for each day per your course calendar. Excused absences are limited to observed religious holidays or official SHSU events (athletics, debate, etc.) that students notify me of IN ADVANCE via email or during class time. Students on official SHSU business should bring me an official notice from your organization of class conflicts so that alternative arrangements can be made. Students who have a conflict due to religious practices need to get with me at the beginning of the semester and let me know what these dates will be so that alternate arrangements can be made for exams or other assignments.

***Students are required to check Blackboard for class announcements and course materials. I will post all announcements in Blackboard. The class schedule and lectures may change without prior notice. Readings outside the textbooks will be available via Blackboard or through the SHSU library. It is your responsibility to download and read these articles prior to their assigned due date and come to class prepared to critically discuss them along with the text chapters.

CELL PHONE POLICY

***Before class starts please turn off (or silence) your cell phones. Engaging in voice communication using a cell phone or similar communication device during class is prohibited. Engaging in text communication during class is discouraged, although non-disruptive occasional use is permitted. Persistent or extended texting, however, is not allowed. Per University policy, communication using any electronic device during an in-class examination is prohibited:

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

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus and corresponding schedule are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor without prior notice.

Assignments & Academic Course Calendar for CRIJ 7387
Spring 2018
See Reading List on Blackboard for Schedule

| Week | Date | TOPIC | ASSIGNMENT DUE |
|----------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------|
| <i>Week 1</i> | <i>January 23</i> | Introduction | |
| <i>Week 2</i> | <i>January 30</i> | Research Questions and Causal Logic | |
| <i>Week 3</i> | <i>February 6</i> | Measurement | |
| <i>Week 4</i> | <i>February 13</i> | WORKING DAY - ACJS | Assignment #1 |
| <i>Week 5</i> | <i>February 20</i> | Causation and Validity | |
| <i>Week 6</i> | <i>February 27</i> | Research Design | |
| <i>Week 7</i> | <i>March 6</i> | Experimental Design | Assignment #2 |
| <i>Week 8</i> | <i>March 13</i> | SPRING BREAK | |
| <i>Week 9</i> | <i>March 20</i> | MIDTERM EXAM | |
| <i>Week 10</i> | <i>March 27</i> | Quasi-Experimental Designs | |
| <i>Week 11</i> | <i>April 3</i> | Quasi-Experimental Designs (continued) | |
| <i>Week 12</i> | <i>April 10</i> | Sampling | Assignment #3 |
| <i>Week 13</i> | <i>April 17</i> | Survey Design | |
| <i>Week 14</i> | <i>April 24</i> | Evaluation Research and Evidence Based Practice | |
| <i>Week 15</i> | <i>May 1</i> | Qualitative and Mixed Methods | Assignment #4 |
| <i>Week 16</i> | <i>May 9</i> | FINAL EXAM @ 1pm | |

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