

**CRIJ 3378 02**  
**Introduction to Methods of Research (Online)**  
**Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology**  
**Spring 2018**

---

Professor: Kate Angulski  
Office: CJC CL27  
E-mail: [kaa025@shsu.edu](mailto:kaa025@shsu.edu)  
Phone: 936-294-3644  
Class Hours: Online  
Classroom: Online  
Office Hours: by appointment

**Required Textbook**

Bachman, R. and Schutt, R. K. (2017). *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice* 6th Eds. Los Angeles: Sage Publications. ISBN-13: 9781506306810

**Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the concepts and methods used to conduct scientific research in criminal justice. Attention will be focused on numerous aspects of research design including ethics, sampling, and measurement and analysis in both quantitative and qualitative research. Because this is a writing-enhanced course, there will also be an additional focus on writing research effectively. Through this course students will become capable of developing a research question, analyzing pertinent literature, and developing an appropriate research design. This course will allow students to become both producers and consumers of criminal justice research.

**Course Objectives**

1. Discuss basic concepts and terminology in research methods
2. Explain the research process, research designs, and methods used in criminal justice
3. Critically analyze the research design and methodology of academic journal articles
4. Apply learned knowledge to real-world situations
5. Acquire the skills necessary to write a research proposal

## Course Requirements and Grading

Homework Assignments	20% of final grade
Exams	30% of final grade
Writing Assignments	50% of final grade
1) Problem Statement and Research Question = 5%	
2) Developing a Research Hypothesis = 10%	
3) Methodology = 15%	
4) Final Research Paper = 20%	

This is a writing enhanced course therefore 50% of your final grade will be based on the writing assignments. Homework assignments are given throughout the semester and will compose 20% of the final course grade. Each chapter will have an online homework assignment posted in Blackboard. Three exams will count toward 30% of the final course grade. Exams are not cumulative. Homework, exam, and writing assignment due date are listed below.

There are *NO* extra credit opportunities in this class.

### Class and Attendance Policies

It is important to understand that this is not an entirely self-paced class. There are important deadlines that students should adhere to. Please make a strong attempt to work on the class material and to log into the class throughout the week.

Exams and assignments must be completed during the scheduled time. Makeup exams and quizzes will NOT be given unless the student notifies the professor *prior* to the absence. Additionally, assignments will not be accepted after the due date unless the student notifies the professor *prior* to the absence. Rare situations arise in which it is impossible to notify the instructor in advance. If this occurs the student must provide the instructor with a typed description of the reason for the absence. This must be provided to the professor within three school days of the absence.

### Student Academic Policies

**Attendance Policy:** Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401.

[http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academicaffairs/documents/aps/students/800401\\_001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academicaffairs/documents/aps/students/800401_001.pdf).

**Student Academic Policies:** Students are encouraged to review the statements presented in the Sam Houston State University's Guidelines available at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

### Email Policy

If you have any questions about the course material or administrative questions about deadlines, assignments, etc., please let me know as soon as possible either during office hours or via e-mail. I will attempt to respond with an answer within 24 hours

**Class Schedule\***

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>	<b>Due date</b>
1/17/18- 1/21/18	Science, Society, and Criminological Research	Chapter 1	Homework 1	11:59pm on Sunday January 21 <sup>st</sup>
1/22/18-1/28/18	The Process and Problems of Criminological Research	Chapter 2	Homework 2	11:59pm on Sunday January 28 <sup>th</sup>
1/29/18- 2/4/18	Research Ethics	Chapter 3	Homework 3	11:59pm on Sunday February 4 <sup>th</sup>
2/5/18-2/11/18	Conceptualization and Measurement	Chapter 4	Homework 4 and Problem Statement/Research Questions	11:59pm on Sunday February 11 <sup>th</sup>
2/12/18- 2/18/18	Chapters 1-4		Exam 1	
2/19/18- 2/25/18	Sampling	Chapter 5	Homework 5	11:59pm on Sunday February 25 <sup>th</sup>
2/26/18-3/4/18	Causation and Research Designs	Chapter 6	Homework 6	11:59pm on Sunday March 4 <sup>th</sup>
3/5/18-3/11/18	Experimental Designs	Chapter 7	Homework 7 and Research Hypothesis	11:59pm on Sunday March 11 <sup>th</sup>
3/12/18- 3/18/18			SPRING BREAK	
3/19/18- 3/25/18	Survey Research	Chapter 8	Homework 8	11:59pm on Sunday March 25 <sup>th</sup>
3/26/18-4/1/18	Chapters 5-8		Exam 2	11:59pm on Sunday April 1 <sup>st</sup>
4/2/18- 4/8/18	Qualitative Methods	Chapter 9	Homework 9	11:59pm on Sunday April 8 <sup>th</sup>
4/9/18-4/15/18	Analyzing Content	Chapter 10	Homework 10 and Methodology	11:59pm on Sunday April 15 <sup>th</sup>
4/16/18-4/22/18	Evaluation Research	Chapter 11	Homework 11	11:59pm on

				Sunday April 22 <sup>nd</sup>
4/23/18-4/29/18	Reporting Research Results	Chapter 15	Homework 15	11:59pm on Sunday April 29 <sup>th</sup>
4/30/18-5/6/18			Research Paper	11:59pm on Sunday May 6 <sup>th</sup>
5/7/17-5/10/18	Chapters 9, 10, 11, 15		Exam 3	11:59 on Thursday May 10 <sup>th</sup>

\*Schedule is subject to change if necessary