

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

3378.03

Introduction to Research Methods (Writing Enhanced)
SPRING 2018

PROFESSOR: Tri Keah S. Henry

OFFICE: CL-27

TELEPHONE: (936) 294-3644

E-MAIL: tkh013@shsu.edu

CLASS HOURS: Online

CLASSROOM: Online

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday/Wednesday 10:30-12:00pm and by appointment

TEXTBOOK(S):

Bachman, R., & Schutt, R. K. (2017). *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Sage. ISBN: 978-1-5063-0681-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to Research Methods is designed to introduce students to the scientific methods used in criminal justice and criminology research. In this course you will develop the skills necessary for conducting and evaluating research that are directly applicable to different areas of the criminal justice field. Special attention will be given to topics related to quantitative vs. qualitative methods, sampling, and data collection. Ultimately, this course will allow you to analyze and interpret “facts” about human behavior and criminal justice agencies. Additionally, this course is writing enhanced, meaning that at least 50% of your grade will come from writing assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Gain a basic understanding of key concepts and methods related to research in criminal justice and criminology.
2. Learn to critically evaluate and summarize findings of research studies.
3. Develop skills necessary for completing a research project, including using academic resources to answer research questions.
4. Develop and enhance writings skills in a manner that effectively conveys criminal justice research in a scholarly manner.
5. Transform scholarly written information into a format more readily accessible to practitioners.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be required to complete several assignments throughout the semester that will help them achieve the course objectives outlined above. These assignments include exams, short writing assignments, as well as, a research paper. Information related to each assignment are detailed below.

Exams: Four exams will be administered to students throughout the course. These exams will cover information discussed in class as well as information from any assigned required reading. Tests will be worth 45% of the final grade (15% each). Three exams will be given during the semester and the final exam grade will be used to replace the lowest test grade of the previous exams. All exams will be multiple choice and/or true false students will need to provide their own scantrons on test days.

Research Paper: Students will be required to complete a research paper in order to satisfy part of the writing requirements of this course. The paper itself is divided into sections and students will submit each section for review throughout the semester. These components include 1) research questions/hypotheses, 2) annotated bibliography, 3) introduction and literature review, 4) methodology, and 5) abstract. A full draft of the paper, worth 10% of the final grade, will be due on **5/6/2018**. All written assignments will be submitted via Blackboard through links to Turnitin.

Technical Report: Students will create a technical report summarizing the literature, methods, and results of a peer-reviewed article assigned by the professor. The purpose of this assignment is for students to demonstrate that they can effectively interpret and analyze previously conducted research and reproduce it in an easily readable format. All written assignments will be submitted via Blackboard through links to Turnitin.

Abstract Writing: Students will be assigned a de-identified research article and will be required to create an abstract based on the information they have acquired from the reading. All written assignments will be submitted via Blackboard through links to Turnitin.

Participation: Participation will account for 5% of the student's overall grade. Students will be assigned a research article to be discussed using an online discussion forum (i.e. discussion boards). After reading the article, students should create 2-3 questions related to what they have read, post them on the discussion board, then respond to at least 2 other students' posts.

Extra Credit: Extra credit will be offered at the professor's discretion.

****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 immediately via email and/or blackboard.**

GRADING:

Grade Breakdown	End of Semester Grading
Exams = 30%	A = 90 – 100%
Research Paper Components = 25%	B = 89 – 89%
Final Paper = 15%	C = 70 – 79%
Technical Report = 10%	D = 60 – 69%
Abstract Writing = 5%	F = 0 – 59%
Quizzes = 10%	
Participation = 5%	

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.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

If exams are missed, it is the student's responsibility to contact me prior to the posted examination date. If an exam is missed for an acceptable reason (as determined by myself or the university), students will be allowed to make up the exam, no later than 2 days after the original examination. Students will be responsible for scheduling the makeup exam.

Late assignments will be accepted but a 10% reduction in the grade will be applied for each day the assignment is late. No assignments will be accepted after 2 days.

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 during office hours or via e-mail. I will not respond to emails received after 6pm on weekdays. However, I will attempt to respond to all emails within 24 hours of receipt. Additionally, emails sent over the weekend will be replied to the following Monday.

Please ensure that your email is formatted professionally. For example, include an informative subject line, a detailed explanation of problem, your name, and appropriate greetings/titles (i.e. Good Morning/Evening Professor Henry). Also, please refrain from using text language when writing emails.

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>

USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES:

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Unit 1			
1/17/18 – 1/21/18	Science, Society, & Criminological Research	Chapter 1	Ch. 1 Quiz
1/22/18 – 1/28/18	The Process & Problems of Criminological Research	Chapter 2	Research Questions/ Hypotheses Ch. 2 Quiz (11:59pm on Sunday, January 28 th)
1/29/18 – 2/4/18	Research Ethics (Last Day to Drop w/out Q, Feb 1)	Chapter 3	Ch. 3 Quiz
2/5/18 – 2/11/18	Test 1		(11:59pm on Sunday, February 2 nd)
Unit 2			
2/12/18 – 2/18/18	Conceptualization & Measurement <i>Writing: Reading a Research Article</i>	Chapter 4	Annotated Bibliography Ch. 4 Quiz (11:59pm on Sunday, February 18 th)
2/19/18 – 2/25/18	Sampling	Chapter 5	Ch. 5 Quiz
2/26/18 – 3/4/18	Causation & Research Design <i>Writing: Abstracts</i>	Chapter 6	Abstract Writing Assignment Ch. 6 Quiz (11:59pm on Sunday, March 4 th)
3/5/18 – 3/11/18	Test 2		
Unit 3			
3/12/18 – 3/18/18	Spring Break		
3/19/18 – 3/25/18	Experimental Designs <i>Writing: Getting Started Writing</i>	Chapter 7	Introduction/ Literature Review Ch. 7 Quiz (11:59pm on Sunday, March 25 th)
3/26/18 – 4/1/18	Survey Research	Chapter 8	Technical Report Ch. 8 Quiz (11:59pm on Sunday, April 1 st)
4/2/18 – 4/8/18	Qualitative Methods (Last Day to Drop w/ Q)	Chapter 9	Ch. 9 Quiz
4/9/18 – 4/15/18	Test 3		(11:59pm on Sunday, April 15 th)
Unit 4			
4/16/18 – 4/22/18	Analyzing Content: Secondary Data Analysis, Comparative Analysis, Content Analysis, Crime Mapping, & Big Data	Chapter 10	Methodology Ch. 10 Quiz (11:59pm on Sunday, April 22 nd)
4/23/18 – 4/29/18	Evaluation & Policy Analysis	Chapter 11	Ch. 11 Quiz
4/30/18 – 5/6/18	Mixing & Comparing Methods	Chapter 12	Abstract/ Final Paper Ch. 12 Quiz (11:59pm on Sunday, May 6 th)
5/7/18 – 5/10/18	Test 4		11:59pm on Thursday, May 10th

