

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
Sam Houston State University (SHSU)

CRIJ 6334
Introduction to Methods of Research - Online
Spring 2018

PROFESSOR: Stephen Lee Morrison, Ph.D.

OFFICE: Online

TELEPHONE: 832-308-0711 For questions: **I like emails first - sxm130@shsu.edu**
I usually respond within an hour.

If it is more important - then text me at 832-308-0711. For "emergencies" you may call 832-308-0711. Emergencies do happen – they are different than neglect of your course work or due to conflicts in your life with work, family, and school.

E-MAIL: sxm130@shsu

CLASS HOURS: online

CLASSROOM: online

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 6 pm to 9 pm online

TEXTBOOK(S):

Required Text: Bachman, R. and Schutt, R. K. (2014). *The Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice* 3rd Eds. Los Angeles: Sage Publications
ISBN: 9781483333458

The textbook can be purchased at the SHSU bookstore. *IF* additional readings are required they will be available on electronic reserve through the library or on the Web.

Recommended Text: *Student Guidebook to Proper Citation in APA Style*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the scientific approach to understanding the social world, the relationships between theory and research, research design, and data collection. The course will focus on research aimed at understanding crime and the behavior of the criminal justice system.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the semester, students will:

1. Understand the social scientific perspective and the relationship between research and theory in criminal justice.
2. Understand fundamental concepts in social science research, including causation, reliability, validity, and sampling theory and practice.
3. Understand the basic elements of measurement, research design, the primary methods of data collection, and descriptive data analysis.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Weekly Homework:

There are 12 homework assignments – one per chapter that are composed of 20 multiple choice questions.

Writing Assignments

There are three writing assignments.

All written assignments will be completed using APA formatting. They will have a title page and bibliography page, which do not count towards total page count.

You can use APA manual or find APA instructions at Purdue Owl APP as your writing style guide.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Exams

There are two exams and a final exam.

Each contain essay questions – **most student have points taken off for short answers.** I am looking for you to answer the question in complete detail. Discuss, explain, compare, and contrast – cannot be answered in two or three sentences.

Important

This is a graduate course – graduate students should be able to communicate well in writing.

It is important to understand that this is not an entirely self-paced class. There are important deadlines and students are expected to make routine progress. It will very likely be more difficult to learn the material in this class if you devoted only a single day to the class and tried to cram a week's worth of material into a single day. Please make a

strong attempt to work on the class material and to log into the class throughout the week. You'll probably learn the material more effectively and you may have a more enjoyable experience with the class.

Regular and ongoing participation in this course is *required*. You are expected to check the course throughout the week. Among other things, this means that exams must be completed during the scheduled time and that assignments must be completed within the specified time. Makeup exams and quizzes will not be given unless the student notifies the professor *prior* to the absence. 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 five school days of the absence. Verbal excuses will not be accepted. Furthermore, if a student wishes to dispute a grade on any assignment or exam, the student must provide the instructor with a typed description of the dispute within five school days of the date on which the assignment was returned to the class.

GRADING:

The grading for this course include the following:

Exam 1 = 15%

Exam 2 = 15%

Weekly Homework = 20%

Article Assignment:10%

Article Evaluation 10%

Writing Assignment 10%

Final Exam 20%

There will *not* be extra credit opportunities in this class.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

This is an online class – course work should be completed by deadlines presented in course schedule.

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>

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 or 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 process can be found in the manual entitled:

http://www.shsu.edu/students/StudentGuidelines2007_2008.pdf, distributed by Division of Student Services. (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines).

Spam Mail and Netiquette

Please do not use the collaboration tools in this course as an outlet for general mail message. The purpose of these areas of communication are to facilitate collaborative learning among all students involved in the class. Use caution discretion about what material you post or email to other students and make sure it pertains to the ongoing discussions or contributes to the general discussions.

Resources

Newton Gresham Library

The Newton Gresham Library (<http://library.shsu.edu>.) has many resources you will want to use in this course. These include databases, reference material, journals, digital collections and Google Scholar. You will also find research information such as Citation Guides (<http://library.shsu.edu/research/citationguides.php>) and research assistance and instruction in the use of library resources, especially the electronic resources, for SHSU students enrolled in SHSU online courses. This instruction can be found via lib_ref@shsu.edu, or telephone (936)-294-1599 or 1-866-NGL-INFO (toll free), whatever is most convenient for the student. To take advantage of these services you will need to register as a Distance Education student with the Library by filling out the registration form found at <http://library.shsu.edu/services/distance/application.php> form.

SHSU Writing Center

The Writing Center provides services including generating ideas for your term paper, identifying your target audience, organizing your paper, improving your writing style, identifying and correcting grammatical errors, and more. If you choose to use these services you will need to provide them the information about your paper found at <http://www.shsu/-wctr/Distance.pdf> through email. Be sure aware that they will need 48 hours to review a paper.

Requirements

Disabled Student Resources

Students with disabilities should initiate contact with the disabilities office.

“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.” The physically impaired should review the following policies for more information at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/disability/>

Computer and Internet

Part of this class requires that you be able to regularly gain access to the World Wide Web (www). Students will be required to participate in asynchronous sessions through the class Blackboard portal. All students will be required to download and view *Microsoft Word* documents, *Excel* spreadsheets, and *PowerPoint* presentations. In addition, all students will need to have a microphone and speakers for presentations. **Please be sure to contact the SHSU 24x7 helpdesk if you have any problems connecting or accessing materials or tools in this course (helpdesk@shsuonline.net or 1-877-870-9214).**

Requirements

Document Formatting

Any material submitted to the instructor for grading must be sent in a format compatible with *Microsoft Word 2010* (ending with the suffix *.docx* or *.doc*).

Students using any other word processing program such as *WordPerfect*, should select the option that allows the material to be saved as a Rich Text Format (RTF) or Portable Document Format (PDF) document before submitting it. Retain a hard copy as well as a back-up digital copy of any submitted material in case of technical problems.

USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES IN ACADEMIC

CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES:

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

ANNOTATED OUTLINE OF TOPICS TO BE COVERED FOR EACH CLASS MEETING:

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17TH

Topic: Introduction, Get familiar with Blackboard and the course layout
Review syllabus – Open your text book and explore

WEEK 2: MONDAY JANUARY 22ND

Topic: Science, Society, and Criminological Research
Readings: Chapter 1
Topic: The Process and Problems of Criminological Research
Readings: Chapter 2

Due: By 11:59 pm Sunday, Close of Week Homework #1 & #2 online

WEEK 3: MONDAY JANUARY 29TH

Research Ethics and Philosophies
Readings: Chapter 3
Due: By 11:59 pm Sunday, Close of Week Homework #3 online (covers chapter 3)

WEEK 4: MONDAY FEBRUARY 5TH

Topic: Conceptualization and Measurement
Readings: Chapter 4
Due: By 11:59 pm Sunday, Close of Week Homework #4 online (covers chapter 4)

WEEK 5: MONDAY FEBRUARY 12TH

Exam 1
Chapters 1 – 4 Exam Due Close of Week February 18th Midnight

WEEK 6: MONDAY FEBRUARY 19TH

Topic: Sampling
Readings: Chapter 5

Due: By 11:59 pm Sunday, Close of Week Homework #5 online (covers chapter 5)

WEEK 7: MONDAY FEBRUARY 26TH

Topic: Causation and Research Designs
Readings: Chapter 6
Due: By 11:59 pm Sunday, Close of Week Homework #6 online (covers chapter 6)

WEEK 8: MONDAY MARCH 5TH

Topic: Survey Research
Readings: Chapter 7
Due: By 11:59 pm Sunday, Close of Week Homework #7 online (covers chapter 7)

WEEK 9: MONDAY MARCH 12TH

SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10: MONDAY MARCH 19TH

ARTICLE ASSIGNMENTS (TWO OF THEM – ASSIGNMENT AND EVALUATION)
DUE MARCH 25TH SEE BLACKBOARD TAB

WEEK 11: MONDAY MARCH 26TH

Topic: Qualitative Methods and Data Analysis
Readings: Chapter 8
Due: By 11:59 pm on Sunday, Close of Week Homework online (covers chapter 8)

WEEK 12: MONDAY APRIL 2ND

Exam 2 Chapters 5 – 8 Due April 7th

WEEK 13: MONDAY APRIL 9TH

Topic: Analyzing Content: ...
Readings: Chapter 9
Due: By 11:59 pm Sunday, Close of Week Homework #9 online (covers chapter 9)

WEEK 14: MONDAY APRIL 16TH

Topic: Evaluation and Policy Analysis
Readings: Chapter 10
Due: By 11:59 pm Sunday, Close of Week Homework #10 online (covers chapter 10)

WEEK 15: MONDAY APRIL 23RD

Topic: Mixing and Comparing Methods
Readings: Chapter 11
Due: By 11:59 pm Sunday, Close of Week Homework #11 online (covers chapter 11)

WEEK 16: MONDAY APRIL 30TH

Topic: Reporting Research Results
Readings: Chapter 12
Due: By 11:59 pm Sunday, Close of Week Homework #12 online (covers chapter 12)

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE SUNDAY MAY 6TH MIDNIGHT

Writing assignment due Monday May 6th

WEEK 17 (FINALS WEEK) MONDAY MAY 7TH TO MAY 10TH

Date: Final Exam must be taken by Thursday May 10th Midnight

DISCLAIMER

The class schedule in this syllabus is subject to change. Announcements of any changes to the schedule will be made in class, via email, and/or posted in Blackboard. These announcements are considered proper notice of change.

Best way to communicate with me is via email. I usually answer within a few minutes up to a couple hours.

If the answer to your question is found in the syllabus – then I will refer you back to the syllabus.

Do Your BEST - Your best does not occur if you wait until the last minute to address your assignments.

SHSU Finals Schedule
<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/calendars/final-exam-schedules.html>