

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

CRIJ 3378.13 (On-Line)

Intro to Methods of Research

SPRING 2018

Instructor: Lindsey Krumpholz

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Location: On-Line

Office Hours: By Appointment via e-mail

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the scientific approach to understanding the social world, the relationships between theory and research, research designs, 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 this semester, students will:

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

Textbooks: The following textbook is required for this course:

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 Requirements and Grading

Homework Assignments	30% of final grade
Exams	70% of final grade

Homework assignments are given throughout the semester and will compose 30% of the final course grade. Each chapter will have an online homework posted in Blackboard. Four exams will count toward 70% of the final course grade. Exams are

not cumulative. Homework and Exam dates are listed below.

Grading Scale:

A=100-90

B=89-80

C=79-70

D=69-60

F=59 and below

Course Participation: Unlike a traditional, instructor-led course, this course does not require you to present to class at a specific time. Instead, you must make a constant effort to review the lectures, read the material, and complete the required homework.

Class and Attendance Policies

It is important to understand that this is not an entirely self-paced course. 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 course if you devoted only a single day to the class and tried to cram a week's worth of material in 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 course.

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 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. 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 5 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 5 days of the date on which the assignment/exam was returned to the class.

Attendance is required and critical to your performance in this class. Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401 <http://shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

In all other matters, such as course additions and withdrawals, assignment of “incomplete” grades, and plagiarism, the policies of Sam Houston State University will be followed.

Please refer to the following on-line resources for:

Student Code of Conduct, including Academic Honesty

Disabled Student Policy:

Services for Disabled Students

Student absences on religious holy day policy:

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

Online Etiquette: The objective in an online discussion is to be collaborative, not combative. Please proofread your responses carefully before you post them to make sure that they will not be offensive to others. Use discussions to develop your skills in collaboration and teamwork. Treat the discussion areas as a creative environment where you and your classmates can ask questions, express opinions, revise opinions, and take positions just as you would in a more “traditional” classroom setting.

Mandatory Reporting: Under Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments to the United States Code, I am required to report sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking to campus administrators. Please avoid disclosing personal information in your papers or posts if you are concerned about it being reported. Confidential help is available should you need it through the SHSU Counseling Center and SAAFE House: 936.291.3369. Additionally, under Texas law, I am required to report child and elder abuse and the maltreatment of persons with disabilities. To report child abuse in the state of Texas, call: 1-800-252-5400 or 911 in the event of an emergency.

Technical Assistance: For technical assistance (including questions about Blackboard), call: SHSU Online at 936.294.2780. You may also contact them via email at: blackboard@shsu.edu. *Please note that SHSU Online’s hours of operation are

Mon.-Sat., 7am-Midnight.

It is your responsibility to submit all homework assignments on time. It is wise to anticipate technical difficulties and avoid procrastination.

For other technology-related concerns (ex. issues with your email account, etc.), contact IT@Sam at: 936.294.1950 or helpdesk@shsu.edu.

Week	Assignment/Readings	Due Date
Week 1 (1/17 - 1/21)	<u>Topic:</u> Science, Society, and Criminological Research <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 1 <u>Assignment:</u> Homework #1	January 21
Week 2 (1/22 - 1/28)	<u>Topic:</u> The Process and Problems of Criminological Research <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 2 <u>Assignment:</u> Homework #2	January 28
Week 3 (1/29 - 2/4)	EXAM #1: Covers Chapters 1 & 2	February 4
Week 4 (2/5 - 2/11)	<u>Topic:</u> Research Ethics <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 3 <u>Assignment:</u> Homework #3	February 11
Week 5 (2/12 - 2/18)	<u>Topic:</u> Conceptualization and Measurement <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 4 <u>Assignment:</u> Homework #4	February 18
Week 6 (2/19 - 2/25)	<u>Topic:</u> Sampling <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 5 <u>Assignment:</u> Homework #5	February 25
Week 7 (2/26 - 3/4)	EXAM #2: Covers Chapters 3-5	March 4
Week 8 (3/5 - 3/11)	<u>Topic:</u> Causation and Research Designs <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 6 <u>Assignment:</u> Homework #6	March 11
Week 9 (3/12 - 3/18)	<u>Spring Break</u>	
Week 10 (3/19 - 3/25)	<u>Topic:</u> Experimental Designs	March 25

	<u>Readings:</u> Chapter 7 <u>Assignment:</u> Homework #7	
Week 11 (3/26 - 4/1)	<u>Topic:</u> Survey Research <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 8 <u>Assignment:</u> Homework 8	April 1
Week 12 (4/2 - 4/8)	EXAM #3: Covers Chapters 6-8	April 8
Week 13 (4/9 - 4/15)	<u>Topic:</u> Qualitative Methods <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 9 <u>Assignment:</u> Homework 9	April 15
Week 14 (4/16 - 4/22)	<u>Topic:</u> Analyzing Content <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 10 <u>Assignment:</u> Homework 10	April 22
Week 15 (4/23 - 4/29)	<u>Topic:</u> Evaluation Research <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 11 <u>Assignment:</u> Homework 11	April 29
Week 16 (4/30 - 5/6)	<u>Topic:</u> Reporting Research Results <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 15 <u>Assignment:</u> Homework 15	May 6
Week 17 (5/7 - 5/10)	EXAM #4: Covers Chapters 9, 10, 11, 15	May 10