
JS 105, Sec. 1: Research Methods in Justice Studies – Spring 2009
Class Meeting Time and Room: Mondays, 5:30 PM – 8:15 PM, MH 526

Instructor: Dina M. Kameda, M.S.
E-mail: dkamedasjsu@aol.com (**preferred**)
Cell Phone: (408) 832-9939 (10 AM – 8 PM)
Office Hours (MH 527): Mon 4-5 PM; Wed 4:30-5:30 PM; and Fri 3:15 – 4:15 PM
Course Materials: <http://www.justice-studies.com>
JS Department Web Site: <http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Course Description:

This course will systematically cover the basic elements of social science research methodology. We will learn about the necessary components of research methods to understand, critique, design, and carry out sound research. This class will cover: critically reading research on justice issues, conceiving a workable research question, selecting an appropriate method for the research question, designing a research study, ethical issues faced when conducting social science research, and how to make sense of research findings.

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to: identify, locate, read, and utilize scholarly published research on criminal justice and related social science issues; understand which methods are appropriate for different kinds of research questions; pose a research question, and design an appropriate study to answer that question; and evaluate and critique social science research.

Prerequisites: (1) UPPER DIVISION STANDING, AND (2) COMPLETION OF BUS 90, STAT 95, SocS 15, OR SOCI 102 (OR EQUIVALENT), OR INSTRUCTOR CONSENT

Course Requirements:

In addition to participating in class discussions and activities, you will be required to: (1) complete the assigned reading prior to the class meeting for which they are assigned; (2) complete a cumulative research project proposal that will be the compilation of several interrelated assignments throughout the semester; (4) take a midterm exam; and (5) take a non-cumulative final exam. Students will also be required to register on www.turnitin.com.

Attendance will be taken at the start of every class meeting, and you should always bring your textbook to class.

Required Text & Materials:

- 1) Bachman, R., & Schutt, R. K. (2007). *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice* (3rd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.
- 2) American Psychological Association (2005). Concise rules of APA. American Psychological Association.
- 3) One Scantron (Form 882-E available @ the Spartan Bookstore)

Additional Readings and Handouts:

Additional readings and handouts will be announced in class, sent via e-mail, and/or may be posted online.

Course Drop Policy:

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first two scheduled class meetings, and who fail to inform the instructor, prior to the second class meeting, of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. However, please note that instructors are not required to drop a student from their course.

It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. Tuesday, February 3, 2009 is the drop deadline. If you decide that you wish to drop the course, please be sure to do so prior to the drop deadline. Students who remain on the class roster, but discontinue coming to class, will receive either a "Withdrawal Unauthorized – WU" or an "F" for the course depending on the circumstances and timing of departure.

Academic integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San Jose State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests or quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor, as well as damaging the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course, and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San Jose State University. Policies and procedures regarding add/drop, academic renewal, withdrawal, and academic integrity can be found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

Missed Examination Policy:

Missed exams can only be made up if a legitimate absence can be substantiated. Legitimate excuses generally include the following: your own serious illness or injury (documented by a physician); a documented death in your immediate family; unavoidable and documented conflict that is school-related (i.e., required by athletic team to be on the road). Only under extreme and unavoidable emergency circumstances will you be able to make up an exam if you have not provided a legitimate excuse for your absence upon your return to class. Missed exams will be made up on agreed upon date and time, and will be a different format than the original.

Submission of Proposal Assignments and the Final Research Proposal Policy:

E-mail submissions of assignments must include the following in the file name of the document: (1) Your first and last name, (2) the name of the assignment (i.e., Assignment#1), and (3) if it is a revision (i.e., Assignment #1 rev). Due dates for all assignments, including the final project, are firm deadlines unless formally changed by the instructor via e-mail and/or announced in class. Students are responsible for knowing when assignments are due, and for any schedule changes, even if you are absent. Late submissions will only be considered for full credit if credible documentation is provided. The instructor has the discretion to deduct points for each day an assignment is late, or refuse to accept the assignment altogether.

Determination of Grades:

Your final grade for the course will be based upon: weekly participation, performance on the individual proposal assignments, performance the midterm and final exams, and your final research proposal.

The Proposal Assignments (#1 - #4), and the Final Proposal will be graded based on the following criteria: (1) Following directions (proper format, timely submission); (2) College level grammar, punctuation, spelling, and APA in-text citations and references (where applicable); and (3) Content (submission of a complete assignment)

NOTE: Revised proposal assignments will only be accepted if the original assignment was complete!

Proposal Assignments (#1-4):	200 points maximum (4 @ 50 points each)
In Class Final Exam: (1 scantron)	100 points maximum
Final Proposal:	250 points maximum
Total Possible:	550 points

Estimated Grade Point Ranges (subject to change):

A RANGE: 495 POINTS OR ABOVE	D RANGE: 330 – 384 POINTS
B RANGE: 440 – 494 POINTS	F: 329 AND BELOW
C RANGE: 385 – 439 POINTS	

Descriptions of Proposal Assignments #1-4, Final Research Proposal, and Final Exam

- **ASSIGNMENT #1: OUTLINE OF PROPOSED RESEARCH STUDY:**
THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DESIGNED TO OUTLINE THE INITIAL COMPONENTS OF YOUR PROPOSED RESEARCH STUDY, INCLUDING: (1) STATEMENT OF A RESEARCH TOPIC; (2) THEORETICAL PROPOSITION(S); (3) TERM DEFINITIONS; (4) AT LEAST ONE EMPIRICAL HYPOTHESIS THAT DESCRIBES A CLEAR COMPARISON AND PROPOSED OUTCOME; AND (5) VARIABLES (I.E., INDEPENDENT, DEPENDENT, AND BACKGROUND)
- **ASSIGNMENT #1 REVISION (IF APPLICABLE):**
IF NEEDED, AND IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE, YOU MAY SUBMIT A REVISION OF ASSIGNMENT #1 FOR FULL CREDIT. ELIGIBILITY WILL BE BASED ON THE SUBMISSION OF A COMPLETE INITIAL VERSION OF THE ASSIGNMENT.
- **ASSIGNMENT #2: OUTLINE OF METHODOLOGY, PART 1 (SAMPLE AND PROCEDURE PLAN)**
THIS PORTION OF YOUR METHODOLOGY (ASSIGNMENT #2) IS THE FIRST HALF OF YOUR COMPLETE METHODOLOGY. THIS ASSIGNMENT WILL REQUIRE YOU TO PROVIDE EXTENSIVE DETAILS REGARDING THE FOLLOWING: (1) YOUR STUDY SAMPLE; AND (2) PROCEDURES THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT YOUR PROPOSED STUDY.
- **ASSIGNMENT #3: OUTLINE OF METHODOLOGY, PART 2 (RESEARCH DESIGN & DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT)**
THIS PORTION OF YOUR METHODOLOGY (ASSIGNMENT #3) IS THE SECOND HALF OF YOUR COMPLETE METHODOLOGY. THIS ASSIGNMENT WILL REQUIRE YOU TO PROVIDE EXTENSIVE DETAILS REGARDING YOUR CHOSEN RESEARCH DESIGN. ADDITIONALLY, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO DEVELOP A DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT (E.G., A QUESTIONNAIRE, A SURVEY, A LIST OF INTERVIEW QUESTIONS, OR A CODING FORM) THAT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN “READY TO USE” FORM.
- **ASSIGNMENT #4: OUTLINE OF DATA ANALYSIS PLAN**
THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DESIGNED TO OUTLINE A DATA ANALYSIS PLAN THAT WILL INCLUDE ALL OF YOUR PROPOSED VARIABLES. THERE WILL BE THREE REQUIRED SECTIONS: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS, BIVARIATE ANALYSIS, AND TEST(S) OF THE HYPOTHESIS/HYPOTHESES.
- **FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL**
THE FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL WILL BE YOUR CULMINATING PROJECT FOR THE COURSE. IT WILL INCORPORATE WORK FROM PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED PROPOSAL ASSIGNMENTS (#1-4), AND INCLUDE A LITERATURE REVIEW. IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A TOP GRADE ON YOUR RESEARCH PROPOSAL, ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND PRECISE FORMATTING WILL BE REQUIRED.
- **FINAL EXAM (CHAPTERS 1-10 & 12)**
THE FINAL WILL COVER CHAPTERS #1-10 AND #12, AND WILL BE BASED UPON (50) TRUE/FALSE AND MULTIPLE CHOICE ITEMS

Keep Track of Your Points!

ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES
ASSIGNMENT #1: OUTLINE OF PROPOSED RESEARCH STUDY (50 POINTS POSSIBLE)	FEBRUARY 16 TH _____
ASSIGNMENT #1 REVISION (50 POINTS POSSIBLE <u>IN PLACE OF INITIAL SCORE</u>) ↑	MARCH 2 ND _____
ASSIGNMENT #2: OUTLINE OF METHODOLOGY, PART 1 (50 POINTS POSSIBLE)	MARCH 30 TH _____
ASSIGNMENT #3: OUTLINE OF METHODOLOGY, PART 2 (50 POINTS POSSIBLE)	APRIL 6 TH _____
ASSIGNMENT #4: OUTLINE OF DATA ANALYSIS PLAN (50 POINTS POSSIBLE)	MAY 1 ST _____
FINAL PROPOSAL (250 POINTS POSSIBLE)	MAY 15 TH _____
FINAL EXAM: CHAPTERS #1-10 & #12 (100 POINTS POSSIBLE)	MAY 18 TH _____

E-mail Policy:

Please feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check often); however, please adhere to the e-mail guidelines below:

- (1) Please include in the “subject line” the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS105, Dina Kameda, research question). The instructor **will not** respond to “no subject” e-mails, or any e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.
- (2) Any e-mailed assignments must be sent in one of the following formats as a separate attachment: Microsoft Word (*.doc or *.docx), Microsoft Works (*.wps), or in rich text format (*.rtf). Please **do not** copy and paste any assignments into an e-mail, they will not be accepted.
- (3) **ALWAYS RETAIN A COPY OF ANY E-MAIL WITH AN ASSIGNMENT ATTACHED AS PROOF OF SUBMISSION!**

Date	In Class	Homework
Week 1		
Jan. 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and handout(s): Green sheet/schedule; overview of research proposal (term project); and Assignment #1 instructions • Video: <i>ABC Primetime</i>, and brief discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 1 • Type up (3) potential research topics and more specific research questions, bring to class on 2/2/09 • Register on www.turnitin.com no later than January 30th with the e-mail address you wish to use for the remainder of this semester.
Week 2		
Feb. 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: <i>Ch. 1 Science, Society, and Criminological Research</i> • Research topic check-in • Video: <i>ABC Primetime</i>, and brief discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 2
Week 3		
Feb. 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: <i>Ch. 2 The Process & Problems of Criminological Research</i> • Research topic check-in • Q & A about Assignment #1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 3; Appendix A (A1-17); Appendix B (B1-3) • Complete Assignment #1: due via e-mail next week, 2/16/08 before midnight
Week 4		
Feb. 16 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: <i>Ch. 3 Conceptualization and Measurement</i> • Handout(s): Scholarly articles and APA format • Discussion: The review of scholarly literature and requirements for the literature review portion of the final research proposal • Presentation of MLK Library resources (time permitting) • Assignment #1: due via e-mail tonight before midnight! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 4; Appendix C (C1-31)
Week 5		
Feb. 23 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: <i>Ch. 4 Sampling</i> • Return and discuss Assignment #1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 5 • Complete Assignment #1 revision: due via e-mail next week, 3/2/09
Week 6		
Mar. 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: <i>Ch. 5 Causation and Research Design</i> • Handout(s): Assignment #2 instructions • Assignment #1 revision: due via e-mail before midnight! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 6

Date	In Class	Homework
Week 7		
Mar. 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: <i>Ch. 6 Experimental Designs</i> • Handout(s): Assignment #3 instructions • Return and briefly discuss Assignment #1 revisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 7 and Ch. 10 • Write down any questions you have about Assignment #2 for next week
Week 8		
Mar. 16 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: <i>Ch. 7 Survey Research</i> and <i>Ch. 10 Analyzing Content</i> • Q & A about Assignment #2 • Discussion about APA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 8 for March 30th • Write down any questions you have about Assignment #3 for March 30th • Complete Assignment #2: due via e-mail on March 30th before midnight
Week 9		
Mar. 23 rd	No Class – Spring Break	
Week 10		
Mar. 30 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: <i>Ch. 8 Qualitative Methods</i> • Q & A about Assignment #3 • Assignment #2 (Sample and Procedure): due via e-mail before midnight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 12 • Complete Assignment #3: due via e-mail on April 6th before midnight
Week 11		
Apr. 6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: <i>Ch. 12 Quantitative Data Analysis</i> • Return and discuss Assignment #2 • Assignment #3 (Research Design and Data Collection Instrument): due via e-mail tonight before midnight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 9
Week 12		
Apr. 13 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture: <i>Ch. 9 Qualitative Data Analysis</i> • Return and discuss Assignment #3 • Handout(s): variable information worksheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete variable information worksheet for next week (4/20/09)
Week 13		
Apr. 20 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout(s): Assignment #4 instructions and guidelines • Explanation and overview of Assignment #4 	

Date	In Class	Homework
Week 14		
Apr. 27 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #4: In-class workshop on data analysis plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #4: due via e-mail on Friday, 5/1/09 before midnight
Week 15		
May 4 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return and discuss Assignment #4 • Review of Research Proposal format for submission • Individual help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish up your Research Proposals
Week 16		
May 11 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOTES • Handout: Final Exam Study Guide • Wrap-up Q&A + last minute help • Final Research Proposal due on Friday, May 15th via e-mail before midnight! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Research Proposal due on Friday, May 15th via e-mail before midnight! • Study for your FINAL EXAM!
FRIDAY May 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE TONIGHT VIA E-MAIL BEFORE MIDNIGHT! • Research Proposals with feedback will be returned via e-mail 	

Final Exam Information

Date: Monday, May 18, 2009

Time: 5:15 PM – 7:30 PM

Location: MH 526

Materials to bring: (1) scantron, (2) #2 pencil or mechanical pencil with HB lead, textbook, handout(s) related to Assignment #4