

CCJS 300: CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS
SPRING 2024

SECTION 0301 Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00am-12:15pm
Susquehanna Hall 1119

SECTION 0401 Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30pm-1:45pm
Tydings Hall 0102

Lecturer: Dr. Alan R. Lehman
2209 LeFrak Hall
alehman@umd.edu
301 405-4735

Office Hours:
Wed: 10am-1pm
and by appointment

Teaching Assistants: Dhara Patel (0301) Wed 10am-1pm
0102 Morrill Hall dpatel41@terpmail.umd.edu

Shannoni Peart (0301) Mon 10am-1pm
speart26@terpmail.umd.edu

Marlyn Aguirre-Escobar (0401) Wed 10am-1pm
marlyn@terpmail.umd.edu

Taylor Richardson (0401) Tue & Thu 3:30pm-4:30pm
tvegas23@terpmail.umd.edu Fri 10:30am-11:30am

Course Description:

CCJS 300 is an introduction to the formulation of research questions covering research design, data collection, and interpretation and reporting in criminological and justice-system settings. Using data provided by the instructor, you will conduct basic descriptive and inferential statistics using computer software (IBM SPSS). In this course, you will learn how to perform hypothesis tests and generate and interpret statistical output.

Course Prerequisites:

You MUST have already COMPLETED CCJS 100, CCJS 105, and CCJS 200 (or an approved statistics course).

Textbook:

Hagan, Frank E. 2018. Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology, 10th edition, Pearson, New York. (ISBN: 9780134558912) (pbk.). Required.

Required Data (and class related files):

The data files, codebooks, and other supplementary files (the syllabus, computer assignments, readings, etc.) that will be used for this course will be available through ELMS under the directory named "Files".

Course Grading:

Your grade will be based upon three exams and seven class assignments, four of which will include statistical programming (IBM SPSS). Each exam will count 20% toward your final grade; the assignments will be worth a total of 40%. The exams will cover material from the lectures, class discussions, assigned readings from the textbook, handouts, and files found on our class ELMS site. Approximately 2/3 of the exam questions come from lecture and class discussions and the remaining 1/3 come from the textbook. Exams are not cumulative. I have a very strict policy concerning makeup exams. Exams must be taken on the assigned day unless you have presented a valid, written excuse (such as a doctor's note or a police report or summons) before the exam and made arrangements to take a makeup. Health center notes alone are not valid excuses! Under no circumstances will oversleeping, car trouble, or health problems (without a doctor's note) be grounds for a makeup. Dr. Lehman reserves the right to change the format of the makeup exam if he so wishes. Please note that different sections have different final exam days and times

All assignments (except Field Day and SPSS Assignment 4) are due electronically (uploaded) on Fridays by 5pm (see our weekly schedule on pages 4 and 5 for due dates). Assignments may be turned in early—you can see me before or after class, during office hours, or by appointment if you desire feedback on an assignment prior to uploading it. While it is perfectly acceptable to get help on these assignments from Dr. Lehman or our TAs, each student must complete his or her own assignments. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!!** No makeup assignments will be allowed unless you have made prior arrangements, confirmed by Dr. Lehman, before the due date!

Final grades will be assigned based on the following percentage scale:

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| A+ = 97.00% - 100% | A = 93.00% - 96.99% | A- = 90.00% - 92.99% |
| B+ = 87.00% - 89.99% | B = 83.00% - 86.99% | B- = 80.00% - 82.99% |
| C+ = 77.00% - 79.99% | C = 73.00% - 76.99% | C- = 70.00% - 72.99% |
| D+ = 67.00% - 69.99% | D = 63.00% - 66.99% | D- = 60.00% - 62.99% |
| | F = <60.00% | |

New Attendance Policy

Under this new policy, instructors are expected to accept as an excused absence a self-signed note from a student who has missed a single lecture, recitation, or laboratory, attesting to the date of the illness. This note must also contain an acknowledgement by the student that the information is true and correct and that providing false information is prohibited under the Code of Student Conduct. The student is also obligated to make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness in advance. A student is allowed only ONE self-signed note per

class for the semester. Please note that this situation does NOT apply to Scheduled Graded Events (exams, assignments due, Field Day, etc.).

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in any form will absolutely not be tolerated! Academic dishonesty encompasses the traditional behaviors such as cheating on exams and assignments, giving false statements, etc., but also includes activities such as illicit possession of previous semester's exams and/or computer assignments. All students are required to sign the Honor Pledge on each exam and assignment.

Computer Lab, Computer Assignments and Printing Your Output

During the week of Tuesday, February 20th and Thursday, February 22nd, we will meet in the basement computer lab (Lab #3, Room 0229) in LeFrak Hall. Each student will be assigned a day (either Tuesday or Thursday) and a time (the first or second half of class) to attend an orientation to computing with **IBM SPSS [Statistical Package for the Social Sciences]**. It is strongly recommended that you save electronic copies of all of your computer output as backups. The best way to do this is to use a flash drive.

The first computer assignment will be discussed in the computer lab during your orientation and will also be available through ELMS. Subsequent computer assignments will be discussed in class and will also be available through ELMS.

Copyrights

The lectures I give in this class and the course materials I have created are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. You are permitted to take notes from the lectures and to use course materials throughout the semester. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes/assignments for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies (or modified copies) of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

Disability Support

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form. This form must be presented to me no later than February 8th. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by DSS by February 8th. DSS students who are requesting to take their exams at the DSS Center need to provide me with a testing form for each exam that must be turned in to me no later than 1 week prior to each exam.

| Week | Date(s) | Topics, Exams, Due Dates | Book Chapter(s) |
|--------|---|--|--|
| Week 1 | January 25 (Thursday) | Introduction to Criminal Justice Research Methods | Review Syllabus Hagan Chapter 1 |
| Week 2 | January 30 February 1 | Ethics in Research Ethics in Research (Ethics assignment discussed) | Hagan Chapter 2 Hagan Chapter 2 |
| Week 3 | February 6 February 8 | Experimental Methods and Research Design Experimental Methods and Research Design (Ethics assignment due Friday 2/9 by 5pm) | Hagan Chapter 3 Hagan Chapter 3 |
| Week 4 | February 13 February 15 | Statistics and Data Analysis Exam Review Exam #1 | Hagan Chapter 13 Hagan Chapter 1-3,13 |
| Week 5 | February 20 & February 22 | MEET IN COMPUTER LAB #3 THIS WEEK (ROOM 0229, Basement of LeFrak Hall) (See Lab Assignment Sheet for dates and times.) SPSS Assignment #1 instruction | |
| Week 6 | February 27 February 29 | Uniform Crime Reports and Sampling Uniform Crime Reports and Sampling (SPSS Assignment #1 due Friday 3/1 by 5pm) | Hagan Chapter 4 Hagan Chapter 4 |
| Week 7 | March 5 March 7 | Survey Research: Questionnaires Survey Research: Questionnaires (Survey assignment discussed) (SPSS Assignment #2 discussed, in-class computer instruction) | Hagan Chapter 5 Hagan Chapter 5 |
| Week 8 | March 12 March 14 | Survey Research: Interviews and Telephone Surveys Survey Research: Interviews and Telephone Surveys (Survey assignment due Friday 3/15 by 5pm) | Hagan Chapter 6 Hagan Chapter 6 |
| Week 9 | March 19 & March 21 | Spring Break-No Classes-Have Fun! | |

| Week | Date(s) | Topics, Exams, Due Dates | Book Chapter(s) |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Week 10 | March 26 | Participant Observation and Case Studies | Hagan Chapter 7 LaPiere Article Jack London Chapters |
| | March 28 | No class today: work on SPSS Assignment #2 (SPSS Assignment #2 due Friday 3/29 by 5pm) | Hagan Chapter 7 LaPiere Article Jack London Chapters |
| Week 11 | April 2 | Field Day Assignment Mandatory Class Attendance | Hagan Chapter 7 LaPiere Article Jack London Chapters |
| | April 4 | Exam Review | Hagan Chapters 4-7 LaPiere Article Jack London Chapters |
| Week 12 | April 9 | Exam #2 | Hagan Chapters 4-7 LaPiere Article Jack London Chapters |
| | April 11 | Unobtrusive Measures and Secondary Analysis (SPSS Assignment #3 discussed, in-class computer instruction) | Hagan Chapter 8 |
| Week 13 | April 16 | Unobtrusive Measures and Secondary Analysis | Hagan Chapter 8 |
| | April 18 | Validity & Reliability (SPSS Assignment #3 due Friday, 4/19 by 5pm) | Hagan Chapter 9 |
| Week 14 | April 23 | Validity & Reliability (SPSS Assignment #4 discussed, in-class computer instruction) | Hagan Chapter 9 |
| | April 25 | Scaling/Index Construction | Hagan Chapter 10 |
| Week 15 | April 30 | Scaling/Index Construction | Hagan Chapter 10 |
| | May 2 | Policy Analysis and Evaluation Research | Hagan Chapter 11 |
| Week 16 | May 7 | Policy Analysis and Evaluation Research | Hagan Chapter 11 |
| | May 9 | Exam Review, Course Evaluation (SPSS Assignment #4 due 5/9 by 5pm) | Hagan Chapters 8-11 |
| Finals: 0301 (11:00am) | Saturday May 11 | Final Exam 8:00am-10:00am | Hagan Chapters 8-11 |
| 0401 (12:30pm) | Thursday May 16 | Final Exam 1:30pm-3:30pm | Hagan Chapters 8-11 |