

CCJS 300: CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS
SPRING 2026

Section 0401, Susquehanna Hall 1120
Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30pm-1:45pm

Lecturer: Dr. Alan R. Lehman
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Office Hours:
Wed: 10am-12pm
and by appointment

Teaching Assistant:
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Tue: 3pm-5pm

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, additional 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 has begun, and made arrangements to take a makeup. 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.

All assignments (except Field Day) will be 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 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 and Computer Assignments

During the week of Tuesday, February 10th and Thursday, February 12th we will meet in the basement computer lab (Lab #2, Room 0227) 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** [**S**tatistical **P**ackage for the **S**ocial **S**ciences]. It is strongly recommended that you save electronic copies of your computer output as backups. The best way to do this is to use a flash drive.

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

Accessibility & Disability Service (ADS)

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility & Disability Service (ADS) office (next to LeFrak Hall in Shoemaker Hall) and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form or email. I must receive this form or email must no later than February 13th. I cannot accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by DSS by February 13th. 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 27	University Closed due to snow/sleet	Review Syllabus Hagan Chapter 1
	January 29	University Closed Panopto Lecture for Introduction available 1/30 by afternoon	
Week 2	February 3	Ethics in Research	Hagan Chapter 2
	February 5	Ethics in Research (Ethics assignment discussed)	Hagan Chapter 2
Week 3	February 10 & February 12	MEET IN COMPUTER LAB #2 THIS WEEK for SPSS Assignment 1 Instructions (ROOM 0227, Basement of LeFrak Hall) See Lab Assignment Sheet for dates and times. (Ethics assignment due Friday 2/13 by 5pm)	
Week 4	February 17	Experimental Methods and Research Design	Hagan Chapter 3
	February 19	Statistics and Data Analysis Exam Review	Hagan Chapter 13 Hagan Chapters 1-3,13
Week 5	February 24	Exam #1	Hagan Chapters 1-3,13
	February 26	No Class-Dr. Lehman at a conference.	
Week 6	March 3	Uniform Crime Reports and Sampling	Hagan Chapter 4
	March 5	Survey Research: Questionnaires (SPSS Assignment #1 due Friday 3/6 by 5pm)	Hagan Chapter 5
Week 7	March 10	Survey Research: Interviews and Telephone Surveys	Hagan Chapter 6
	March 12	Survey Research: Interviews and Telephone Surveys (Survey assignment discussed)	Hagan Chapter 6
Week 8	March 17 & March 19	Spring Break-No Classes-Have Fun!	
Week 9	March 24	Participant Observation and Case Studies (SPSS Assignment #2 discussed, in-class computer instruction)	Hagan Chapter 7
	March 26	Participant Observation and Case Studies (Survey assignment due Friday 3/27 by 5pm)	Hagan Chapter 7

Week	Date(s)	Topics, Exams, Due Dates	Book Chapter(s)
Week 10	March 31	Field Day Assignment Mandatory Class Attendance	Hagan Chapter 7 LaPiere Article Jack London Chapters
	April 2	Exam Review (SPSS Assignment #2 due Friday 4/3 by 5pm)	Hagan Chapters 4-7 LaPiere Article Jack London Chapters
Week 11	April 7	Exam #2	Hagan Chapters 4-7 LaPiere Article Jack London Chapters
	April 9	No Class-Dr. Lehman at a conference.	
Week 12	April 14	Unobtrusive Measures and Secondary Analysis (SPSS Assignment #3 discussed, in-class computer instruction)	Hagan Chapter 8
	April 16	Unobtrusive Measures and Secondary Analysis	Hagan Chapter 8
Week 13	April 21	Validity & Reliability	Hagan Chapter 9
	April 23	Validity & Reliability (SPSS Assignment #4 discussed, in-class computer instruction) (SPSS Assignment #3 due Friday, 4/24 by 5pm)	Hagan Chapter 9
Week 14	April 28	Scaling/Index Construction	Hagan Chapter 10
	April 30	Scaling/Index Construction	Hagan Chapter 10
Week 15	May 5	Policy Analysis and Evaluation Research (SPSS Assignment #4 due Tuesday 5/5 by 5pm)	Hagan Chapter 11
	May 7	Policy Analysis and Evaluation Research Exam Review, Course Evaluations	Hagan Chapter 11
Final Exam:	Friday, May 15	Final Exam 4:00pm-6:00pm	Hagan Chapters 8-11