

CCJS 650 – Research Practicum

Syllabus

Tuesday, 4-6:45

LeFrak 2207

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Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 2-3

Course Description and Objectives: This course will provide the opportunity for students to complete an empirical research paper that reflects independent work. We'll cover aspects of the research process that typically are not part of a formal curriculum: finding data, addressing existing literature, navigating the referee process (from both sides), and effectively presenting your research.

Instruction will primarily involve hands-on examples from ongoing research, supplemented with lectures designed to provide general guidance.

Students may use their MA thesis as a starting point for this paper, or another project. At the end of the semester, students will have a paper that is close to ready for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

Prerequisite: Students must enter with a developed idea, applicable data, and, ideally, a preliminary draft of the research paper.

Format: The course will consist of weekly meetings combining short lectures, author presentations of intermediate assignments, peer review, and roundtable discussion. The professor will provide guidance during class and office hours to individual students as they develop their publishable papers.

Course Readings: Since this course is designed to develop students' specific research ideas, there is no mandatory text book. However, the professor will post assigned readings throughout the semester to the course page on ELMS and help students identify literature to strengthen their research throughout the semester.

Grading Schema:

- Intermediate assignments: 30% (equal weight)
- Peer review and response to reviewers: 10%
- Final Paper: 60%

Intermediate assignments: Several relatively short assignments designed to spur research progress are due throughout the semester. These must be submitted as hardcopy at the beginning of each class session. As the semester progresses, you may want to work at a faster pace than the syllabus defines. That's fine.

Revisions: All students will receive editorial reviews from the professor shortly after each product submission. Each draft revision should be accompanied by a revision response memo briefly describing the steps taken to address these comments.

Final Paper: Students will select a target peer-reviewed journal for the paper. The paper should be structured for submission to the peer reviewed journal, including adherence to page/word limits, formatting requirements, and when available, the journal's style guide.

Class Policies

- Attendance/Missed Deadlines: You are expected to attend and contribute to class each week. Extensions for papers, intermediate products, or other assignments will not be given except in cases of a medical or family emergency. Accompanying written documentation, such as hospital admission papers or a physician's note (which the professor will verify), is required.
 - Late *intermediate assignments* will receive no credit and limited review.
 - If the *final paper* is late without my prior approval, it will lose one letter grade for every day past the due date.
- Disability Support: I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Service (ADS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall 2018 semester. Please submit this form to me no later than September 11.
- Extra credit: No.
- Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form and any violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication of information used in assignments, plagiarism, and knowingly facilitating the academic dishonesty of another.
- Emergency Protocol: In the event of unscheduled school closure the professor will coordinated a time and location for make-up meetings and communicate with students via email. Assignments affected by closures will be due at the beginning of the rescheduled meeting or next scheduled class, whichever comes first.

Class Schedule (Note: Lecture topic after date; *assignments italicized with roman numerals*)

Aug 27: Introduction, overview of academic publishing, and students discuss their research ideas

Sept 3: From existing research to new ideas

- I. *Submit research question or hypothesis, brief rationale for why this is an important question, and 2-3 target journals. Include rationale (beyond prestige and impact factor) for the journals selected.*

Sept 10: The structure of an empirical research paper

- II. *Diagram and informal presentation of published article related to your research topic*

Sept 17: A typology of empirical criminology and criminal justice journal articles

Sept 24: The lit review

Instructor feedback on translating research ideas into testable hypotheses, identifying constructs that must be measured, and locating appropriate data for research question

Oct 1: The role of theory in empirical papers

- III. *Submit detailed outline for literature review, complete with annotated bibliography*

Oct 8: Model estimation and specifying the correct standard errors

- IV. *Submit revised hypothesis/research question, list of all constructs to be measured, description of data to be used, including table of descriptive statistics*

Oct 15: How to effectively present and portray your findings

- V. *Submit complete literature review with an outline of data/methods section*

Oct 22: Feedback on literature reviews, data, and methods

- VI. *Submit methods section*

Oct 29: Feedback on establishing causality, data analysis

Nov 5: The article referee process (*APPAM Week*)

Nov 12: Responding to referee comments; rebounding from rejection (*ASC Week*)

- VII. *Submit draft for peer review*

Nov 19: No in-person meeting

- VIII. *Submit peer review*

Nov 26: One-on-one paper review (Thanksgiving Recess)

- IX. *Submit formal response to reviewers and revised draft*

Dec 3: One-on-one paper review

- X. *Submit penultimate draft of entire paper for feedback and revision*

Dec 17: Deadline for final paper submission

- XI. *Submit final paper*