

CCJS 699K – Research Practicum
Course Syllabus
2220CC LeFrak Hall
Thursday 4-6:45

Professor Denise C. Gottfredson
Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice
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Office hours: by appointment

Course Description and Objectives: This course will provide the opportunity for students to complete a research project. Students will leave this course having completed an empirical research paper that reflects independent work. 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 submission for a peer-reviewed journal.

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

Format: This course involves frequent contact with the Professor via phone and email. Most interaction will be in the form of individual phone meetings and emails during which the Professor will provide guidance to individual students as they develop their publishable papers. In-person meetings are indicated on the class schedule.

Grading Schema:

- Revision Responses: 20%
- Final Paper: 80%

Revisions: All students will receive editorial reviews from the Professor, and potentially from fellow graduate students, as well. Students will be expected to revise the paper in response to these comments.

Final Paper: Students will select a target journal for the paper. The paper should be structured as if it is going to be submitted to the peer reviewed journal and the number of pages should correspond to the page limits for the selected journal.

Class Policies:

- **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 which has been updated for the Spring 2016 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than February 4.
- **Missed Deadlines/Late Assignments:** Extensions for papers or revisions 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. If final paper is late without my prior approval, it will lose one letter grade for every 24 hours that is past the due date.

- **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:** Because assignments are not tied to attendance in a class, all assignments are due regardless of emergency closures.

Class Schedule:

Jan 28: Introduction/expectations/students discuss their research ideas/discuss potential target journals/dropbox procedures [in person]

Feb 4: Submit research question or hypothesis, brief rationale for why this is an important question, and 2-3 target journals. Include rationale for the journals selected. [dropbox]

Feb 11: Translating research ideas into testable hypotheses, identifying constructs that must be measured, and locating appropriate data for research question [in person*]

Feb 18: Submit detailed outline for literature review, complete with reference list [dropbox]

Feb 25: Submit revised hypothesis/research question, list of all constructs to be measured, description of data to be used [dropbox]

March 3: Establishing causality, data analysis [in person*]. Individual meetings to discuss progress.

March 10: Submit complete literature review with an outline of data/methods section [dropbox]

March 24: Submit methods section [dropbox]

March 31 – May 5: Submit multiple drafts of entire paper for feedback and revision [dropbox]

April 7: The review process: What to expect [in-person]. Individual meetings to discuss progress.

May 12: Submit final paper.

*Exact topics for group sessions will depend upon student information needs. If, for example, all students have already located data for their projects, group session on locating data will not be held.