CCJS 699P

Testing Criminological Theory

Professor Sally S. Simpson
Spring, 2019

Class Meeting, Thursday 4:00-6:45 LeFrak 2165E
Office Hours: Wednesday 10-11:30.

Course Description: The goal of this course is to provide doctoral students the opportunity to work on a research paper from conceptualization to data analysis, summary and conclusions to limitations, with the aim of submitting a publishable paper to a top journal by the end of the semester. The focus on criminological theory is consistent with the publication criteria of most top journals in criminology and criminal justice. Criminology, the top journal in CCJS, for instance places a strong emphasis on content that advances the "theoretical and research agenda of criminology and criminal justice."

Course Design: Students will meet bi-weekly (beginning January 31) with the instructor and one another to share and discuss their research projects and semester progress, beginning with identifying a research problem, their ideas about how to fill the gap in the literature, and possible data that could be used to test research hypotheses. At each "in class" session, students will present and document progress throughout the semester. During non-meeting weeks, students will send progress notes to one another and the instructor. These written reports will be used to stimulate questions and discussion for the "in class" sessions.

Student Evaluation: Students will be assessed on three components during the semester: (1) In class progress reports—including submission for discussion (60 points/ 10 per meeting); (2) Active discussion and assessment of peer work (60 points/10 per meeting); (3) Successful completion and submission of a research paper to an appropriate outlet (100 points).

Reading Materials: TBA based on specific research topics. In addition,

HOW TO WRITE A SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE
Barbara J. Hoogenboom, Robert C. Manske
Int J Sports Phys Ther. 2012 Oct; 7(5): 512–517.

How to Compose, Write and Publish a Scientific or Professional Communications
Milivoj Boranic (2016). ACTA INFORM MED Dec 24(6) 416-418.

Selecting the Right Academic Journal for your Manuscript. https://www.aclang.com/blog/right-academic-journal/

Outline

January 31: Meet "in class" to discuss ideas, topics, and goals of semester.

February 7: Submit paper ideas to group

February 14: Meet "in class" for presentations of paper ideas, discussion

February 21: Submit potential data sources for paper to group, along with assessments of strengths and weaknesses.

February 28: Meet "in class" for presentations about data for papers, discussion. Make decisions about data sources and targeted journals.

March 7: Submit draft literature review to group.

March 14: Meet "in class" to give feedback on draft literature reviews.

March 21, Spring Break

March 28, Submit theory section/research hypotheses to group, integrated into literature reviews.

April 4, Meet "in class" to discuss front end of each paper.

April 11, Submit how you plan to use data to test specific hypotheses, description of data, and descriptive breakdown of relevant variables (Tables).

April 18, Meet "in class" to discuss links of data to hypothesis testing, data description, and descriptive statistics. Discuss anticipated analytic design (statistical methods).

April 25, Submit to group draft analyses with findings and interpretation of results.

May 2, Meet "in class" to discuss data analysis section—interpreting results.

May 9, Submit complete draft (with limitations, summary and conclusions) to group for comments and which journal you are targeting for submission.