

CCJS 700 – ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS
4:00-6:45, Thursdays
Lefrak 1171

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Course Summary and Objectives

This course provides an in-depth inventory of the methods used in criminological research. We will consider the philosophy of science and research ethics, sampling, measurement, and methods of data collection and analysis. The course will discuss topics and strategies as they relate to both quantitative and qualitative research. By the end of this course, you should be able to...

- Connect theory, question, and method.
- Apply and execute appropriate methodologies to investigate criminological questions.
- Critically assess extant research with respect to limitations *and* contributions.
 - *Evaluate the meaning of any limitations and formulate alternatives.*
- Respond productively to research critiques of your own work and make revisions.
- Develop a concise research proposal that fills a meaningful gap in prior work.
- Interpret and present your own research effectively orally and in writing.

Grading and Evaluation

Assignment	Points
Participation	30
Deconstructing an Article (1 and 2)	40
Research Questions and Specific Aims	20
Measuring Disorder using SSO	50
Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts	20
Approach	20
Presentations (1 and 2)	40
Peer Review	30
Revision Memo	30
Field Notes	50
Research Proposal	50
Final Exam	50
Total	430

Assignments

Participation – Students are expected to ask and respond to questions in class and to participate with in-class assignments. In addition, each week there will be a “discussion” portion of class that will give students an opportunity to present any methodological issues or questions they are deliberating in their own research. This portion of class will serve as an opportunity to workshop research problems.

Deconstructing an Article – Students will fill out a table deconstructing the elements of research articles assigned for Feb 7 and again March 14 (table to be provided by instructor).

Measuring Disorder using SSO (50 points) - You will visit 4 street segments in Baltimore, MD and code for physical disorder using the measures outlined in Sampson et al. 1999, which includes cigarettes or cigars in the street, garbage or litter in the street, empty beer bottles visible in the street, tagging graffiti, graffiti painted over, gang graffiti, abandoned cars, condoms on the sidewalk, needles/syringes on the sidewalk, and political message graffiti. You must go in pairs, but the work should be done on an individual-basis. You will turn in four tables, one for each street. In each table, you should record the presence of each disorder item and for each item, the number of occurrences (e.g. whether graffiti is present and if so, how many times). You will also write a 1-2 page response reflecting on (1) measurement issues in disorder research and (2) limitations and strengths of in-person SSO to measure disorder.

Peer Review (Due April 4) – Students will exchange completed research papers with each other and review each other's work. Imagine your peer review is for *Criminology*, and write a quality review of this paper for the author and the journal. The review should be approximately 2-4 pages, single-spaced, and can be written as bullet-points rather than full paragraphs.

Revision Memo (Due April 11) – Following your peer review assignment, each student will write a revision memo in which they respond to the critiques of the review. The response should be approximately the same length as the review (2-4 pages, single-spaced), and may also be written as bullet-points.

Field Notes (Due April 25) –Each student will do a police ride-along with an officer at the University of Maryland or a nearby jurisdiction such as Prince George's County, Baltimore, D.C., College Park, etc. Students will write up field notes detailing their in-person observations. Examples of field note formats/structures will be provided in class.

Research Proposal (Due May 2) You will prepare a proposal as if you are applying for funding from the National Science Foundation. The specific solicitation can be found here: <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19519/nsf19519.pdf> . For instructions on how to write an NSF proposal, go here: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg18_1/nsf18_1.pdf

Throughout the semester, we will build to this final proposal in shorter, incremental assignments. We will also work on aspects of the proposal during class time. The shorter assignments due throughout the semester are as follows:

- **Research Questions and Specific Aims (Due Feb 21)**
- **Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts (Due March 7)**
- **Approach (Due March 28)**
- **Presentations 1 and 2 (Due March 14 and May 2)**

Final Exam (May 9) – Students will take an in-class exam for which they will have to answer 2 out of 4 essay questions that will require them to apply knowledge gained in class to methodological problems or questions.

Course Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>
Jan 31	Introduction	
Feb 7	Linking Theory, Question, and Method	Deconstructing an Article 1
Feb 14	The Experimental Method (Guest Lecturer Professor Sherman)	
Feb 21	Measurement	Research Questions and Specific Aims
Feb 28	Quantifying Crime	Measuring Disorder using SSO
March 7 *Possible Reschedule	Sampling and Units of Analysis	Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts
March 14	Mediation and Moderation (Guest Speaker Charlene Werner)	Presentation #1 Deconstructing an Article 2
March 21	Spring Break	
March 28	Interpreting Findings; Overview of Publishing Process	Approach
April 4	Innovation, Programming, and Evaluation	Peer Review
April 11	Qualitative Methodology	Revision Memo
April 18	Qualitative Methodology, Cont'd	
April 25	Visual Criminology	Field Notes
May 2 *Possible Reschedule	----	Presentation #2 Final Proposal Due
May 9	In-Class Exam	

January 31 - Introduction

February 7 – Linking Theory, Question, and Method

Sampson, R. J., & Raudenbush, S. W. (1999). Systematic social observation of public spaces: A new look at disorder in urban neighborhoods. *American journal of sociology*, 105(3), 603-651.

Hinkle, J. C., & Weisburd, D. (2008). The irony of broken windows policing: A micro-place study of the relationship between disorder, focused police crackdowns and fear of crime. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 36(6), 503-512.

Carvalho, I., & Lewis, D. A. (2003). Beyond community: Reactions to crime and disorder among inner-city residents. *Criminology*, 41(3), 779-812.

Yang, S. M., & Pao, C. C. (2015). Do we “see” the same thing? An experimental look into the black box of disorder perception. *Journal of research in crime and delinquency*, 52(4), 534-566.

Keizer, Kees, Siegwart Lindenberg, and Linda Steg. "The spreading of disorder." *Science* 322, no. 5908 (2008): 1681-1685

Hoeben, E. M., Steenbeek, W., & Pauwels, L. J. (2018). Measuring disorder: observer bias in systematic social observations at streets and neighborhoods. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 34(1), 221-249.

February 14 – Experimental Methods (Guest Lecturer Professor Sherman)

Strang, H., Sherman, L., Ariel, B. et al. *Camb J Evid Based Polic* (2017) 1: 160.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41887-017-0007-x>

Sherman, L. W., & Strang, H. (2004). Experimental Ethnography: The Marriage of Qualitative and Quantitative Research. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 595(1), 204–222.

Sherman L.W. (2010) An Introduction to Experimental Criminology. In: Piquero A., Weisburd D. (eds) *Handbook of Quantitative Criminology*. Springer, New York, NY

Strang, H., & Sherman, L. W. (2012). Experimental criminology and restorative justice: principles of developing and testing innovations in crime policy. *The SAGE handbook of criminological research methods*, 395-410.

Strang, Heather. 2012. “Coalitions for a Common Purpose: Managing Relationships in Experiments.” *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 8, 211-225

Sherman, Lawrence W., Douglas A. Smith, Janell D. Schmidt, and Dennis P. Rogan. 1992. “Crime, Punishment, and Stake in Conformity: Legal and Informal Control of Domestic Violence.” *American Sociological Review*, 57, 680-690

Sherman, Lawrence W., and Heather M. Harris. 2015. “Increased Death Rates of Domestic Violence Victims from Arresting vs. Warning Suspects in Milwaukee Domestic Violence Experiment” (MilDVE)” *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 11, 1-20

February 21 - Quantifying Crime

- Slocum, L. E. E., Taylor, T. J., Brick, B. T., & Esbensen, F. A. (2010). Neighborhood Structural Characteristics, Individual-Level Attitudes, and Youths' Crime Reporting Intentions. *Criminology*, 48(4), 1063-1100.
- Eterno, J. A., Verma, A., & Silverman, E. B. (2016). Police manipulations of crime reporting: insiders' revelations. *Justice quarterly*, 33(5), 811-835.
- Klinger, D. A., & Bridges, G. S. (1997). Measurement error in calls-for-service as an indicator of crime. *Criminology*, 35(4), 705-726.
- Lauritsen, J. L., Heimer, K., & Lynch, J. P. (2009). Trends in the gender gap in violent offending: New evidence from the National Crime Victimization Survey. *Criminology*, 47(2), 361-399.
- McVeigh, R., Welch, M. R., & Bjarnason, T. (2003). Hate crime reporting as a successful social movement outcome. *American Sociological Review*, 843-867.
- Lynch, J. P., & Addington, L. A. (2015). Crime trends and the elasticity of evil: Has a broadening view of violence affected our statistical indicators? *Crime and Justice*, 44(1), 297-331.

February 28 - Measurement

- Sullivan, Christopher and Jean Marie McGloin. (2014). "Looking Back to Move Forward: Some Thoughts on Measuring Crime and Delinquency over the Past 50 Years". *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 51: 424-444.
- Beaver, K. M., Ratchford, M., & Ferguson, C. J. (2009). Evidence of genetic and environmental effects on the development of low self-control. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 36(11), 1158-1172.
- Ramchand, R., MacDonald, J. M., Haviland, A., & Morral, A. R. (2009). A developmental approach for measuring the severity of crimes. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 25(2), 129-153.
- Sweeten, G. (2012). Scaling criminal offending. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 28(3), 533-557.
- Marcus, B. (2004). Self-control in the general theory of crime: Theoretical implications of a measurement problem. *Theoretical criminology*, 8(1), 33-55.
- Burt, C. H., Sweeten, G., & Simons, R. L. (2014). Self-control through emerging adulthood: Instability, multidimensionality, and criminological significance. *Criminology*, 52(3), 450-487.
- Watkins, A. M., & Melde, C. (2007). The effect of self-control on unit and item nonresponse in an adolescent sample. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 44(3), 267-294.

March 7 – Sampling and Units of Analysis

- Weisburd, D. (2015). The law of crime concentration and the criminology of place. *Criminology*, 53(2), 133-157.
- Sampson, R. J. (2013). The place of context: a theory and strategy for criminology's hard problems. *Criminology*, 51(1), 1-31.
- Vogel, M. (2016). The modifiable areal unit problem in person–context research. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 53(1), 112-135.
- Coulton, C. J., Korbin, J., Chan, T., & Su, M. (2001). Mapping residents' perceptions of neighborhood boundaries: a methodological note. *American journal of community psychology*, 29(2), 371-383.
- Steenbeek, W., & Weisburd, D. (2016). Where the action is in crime? An examination of variability of crime across different spatial units in The Hague, 2001–2009. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 32(3), 449-469.
- Schnell, C., Braga, A. A., & Piza, E. L. (2017). The influence of community areas, neighborhood clusters, and street segments on the spatial variability of violent crime in Chicago. *Journal of quantitative criminology*, 33(3), 469-496.

March 14 –Mediation and Moderation

- Geller, A., Cooper, C. E., Garfinkel, I., Schwartz-Soicher, O., & Mincy, R. B. (2012). Beyond absenteeism: Father incarceration and child development. *Demography*, 49(1), 49-76.
- Murray, J., Loeber, R., & Pardini, D. (2012). Parental involvement in the criminal justice system and the development of youth theft, marijuana use, depression, and poor academic performance. *Criminology*, 50(1), 255-302.
- Murray, J., & Farrington, D. P. (2005). Parental imprisonment: effects on boys' antisocial behaviour and delinquency through the life-course. *Journal of Child Psychology and psychiatry*, 46(12), 1269-1278.
- Porter, L. C., & King, R. D. (2015). Absent fathers or absent variables? A new look at paternal incarceration and delinquency. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 52(3), 414-443.
- Turney, K., & Wildeman, C. (2013). Redefining relationships: Explaining the countervailing consequences of paternal incarceration for parenting. *American Sociological Review*, 78(6), 949-979.
- Nesmith, A., & Ruhland, E. (2008). Children of incarcerated parents: Challenges and resiliency, in their own words. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 30, 1119–1130.

March 21 – No Class - Spring Break

March 28 – Interpreting Findings; Overview of Publishing Process

Thomas, Kyle, Jean Marie McGloin and Christopher Sullivan. “Quantifying the Likelihood of False Positives: Using Sensitivity Analysis to Assess Statistical Inference.” Forthcoming in *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*

Brodeur A, Le M, Sangnier M, Zylberberg Y. 2016. Star wars: The empirics strike back. *Am. Econ. J. Appl. Econ.* 8:1–32

Porter, L. C. (2014). Incarceration and post-release health behavior. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 55(2), 234-249.

Porter, L. C., & DeMarco, L. M. Forthcoming. Beyond the dichotomy: Incarceration dosage and mental health. *Criminology*.

Massoglia, M. (2008). Incarceration as exposure: the prison, infectious disease, and other stress-related illnesses. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 49(1), 56-71.

April 4 – Innovation, Programming, and Evaluation

Lattimore, P. K., MacKenzie, D. L., Zajac, G., Dawes, D., Arsenault, E., & Tueller, S. (2016). Outcome findings from the HOPE demonstration field experiment. *Criminology & Public Policy*.

Cook, P. J. (2016). Behavioral Science Critique of HOPE. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 15(4), 1155-1161.

Braga, A. A., Piehl, A. M., & Hureau, D. (2009). Controlling violent offenders released to the community: An evaluation of the Boston Reentry Initiative. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 46(4), 411-436.

Wilson, J. A., & Davis, R. C. (2006). Good intentions meet hard realities: An evaluation of the Project Greenlight reentry program. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 5(2), 303-338.

Lutze, F. E., Rosky, J. W., & Hamilton, Z. K. (2014). Homelessness and reentry: A multisite outcome evaluation of Washington State’s reentry housing program for high risk offenders. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 41(4), 471-491.

Weisburd, D. (2010). Justifying the use of non-experimental methods and disqualifying the use of randomized controlled trials: challenging folklore in evaluation research in crime and justice. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 6(2), 209-227.

April 11 - Qualitative Methodology

Jean, P. K. S. (2008). “Where’s the Dope At’: The Need to Understand Drug Dealing from the Ground Up:” in *Pockets of crime: Broken windows, collective efficacy, and the criminal point of view*. University of Chicago Press.

Wright, Richard T., and Scott H. Decker. *Burglars on the job: Streetlife and residential break-ins*. UPNE, 1994, Chapters 1-3

Becker, H. S. (2009). How to find out how to do qualitative research. *International Journal of Communication*, 3, 9.

Miller, J., & Glassner, B. (1997). The 'inside' and the 'outside': Finding realities in interviews. *Qualitative research*, 99-112.

Van Gelder, J. L., Nee, C., Otte, M., Demetriou, A., van Sintemaartensdijk, I., & van Prooijen, J. W. (2017). Virtual burglary: Exploring the potential of virtual reality to study burglary in action. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 54(1), 29-62.

April 18 - Qualitative Methodology, Cont'd

Stein, A. (2010). Sex, truths, and audiotape: Anonymity and the ethics of exposure in public ethnography. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 39(5), 554-568.

Goode, E. (2002). Sexual involvement and social research in a fat civil rights organization. *Qualitative Sociology*, 25(4), 501-534.

Miller, J. M. (2011). Becoming an informant. *Justice Quarterly*, 28(2), 203-220.

Duxbury, S. W., Frizzell, L. C., & Lindsay, S. L. (2018). Mental illness, the media, and the moral politics of mass violence: The role of race in mass shootings coverage. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 55(6), 766-797.

Comfort, M. (2009). *Doing time together: Love and family in the shadow of the prison*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1-2, and Appendix 1.

April 25 - Visual Criminology

Ogders, C. L., Caspi, A., Bates, C. J., Sampson, R. J., & Moffitt, T. E. (2012). Systematic social observation of children's neighborhoods using Google Street View: a reliable and cost-effective method. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 53(10), 1009-1017.

Willits, D. W., & Makin, D. A. (2018). Show me what happened: Analyzing use of force through analysis of body-worn camera footage. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 55(1), 51-77.

Olaghere, A., & Lum, C. (2018). Classifying "Micro" Routine Activities of Street-level Drug Transactions. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 0022427818760103.

Porter, L. C., De Biasi, A., Mitchell, S., Curtis, A., & Jefferis, E. (2018). Understanding the Criminogenic Properties of Vacant Housing: A Mixed Methods Approach. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 0022427818807965.

Mosselman, F., Weenink, D., & Lindegaard, M. R. (2018). Weapons, body postures, and the quest for dominance in robberies: a qualitative analysis of video footage. *Journal of research in crime and delinquency*, 55(1), 3-26.

May 2 – Presentation #2

May 9 - In-Class Exam