

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will teach students how to actually conduct research in the criminal justice field. **Students will learn about traditional social science methods used in our discipline and how to apply them to their own research.** We will cover various research designs, sampling issues, ethical considerations, survey construction, interviewing, and basic functions with a computer software package, SPSS that are typically used in analyzing social science data. In this class, students will complete seven research projects that build on each other. These research projects introduce students to the various research techniques used in our field by having them actually conduct the research. These projects are designed to increase in difficulty and to allow the student to apply the knowledge learned in this class as they progress. In the course of these projects, students will: assess ethical issues in research, create a survey instrument, disseminate the survey, decide on and assess a sampling technique, analyze survey and other criminological data using descriptive analysis and inferential statistics, conduct a field observation study, develop hypotheses and present the justification for these hypotheses, select and transform variables, test hypotheses using criminological data, perform appropriate statistical tests, and develop conclusions and implications based on their research.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In the course of this class, students will:

1. demonstrate an ability to select, critically evaluate, and apply relevant areas of scholarship;
2. articulate the processes required to bring about a successful outcome from planning, modeling, and preparing, to critiquing, revising and perfecting;
3. recognize how an application of scholarship affects or is affected by political, social, cultural, economic or ethical dimensions;
4. produce original projects that reflects a body of knowledge relevant to the course;
5. effectively communicate the application of scholarship through written material

ELMS

I will be using ELMS to post the syllabus, grades, and handouts. Further, all assignments should be submitted on ELMS before class begins on the specified due date (unless instructed to bring assignment to class). Go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your Directory ID (logon ID) and password to use this feature.

COURSE PHILOSOPHY

Research Methods is a complicated topic. In order to give you the time and attention to truly grasp the concepts and practice of research methods, all lectures will be available to you online. You will be responsible for all assigned readings and lectures PRIOR to class. Class time will be spent on further exploring concepts, group and independent work, and discussion. Essentially, classwork will become homework and homework will become classwork!

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are multiple requirements for this course, described below. **Exams and all Research Projects are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them.**

GROUP WORK: Students will work in pre-assigned groups regularly in this class. I realize that group work can be stressful. However, all careers require you to work with others, thus I hope you all will learn how to work together.

EXAMS: There will be four quizzes (which will collectively make up 40% of your grade). These quizzes will not be cumulative and will consist of multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer and/or essay questions. The quizzes will cover all assigned material presented in lectures, readings, and class discussion. Tentatively quizzes will be completed ***independently***, online (except for Quiz 4). Student may use notes and the text book to complete the quizzes. Quizzes will be open for 24 hours unless noted otherwise. Make up quizzes will be given only if the instructor is provided documentation of an excused absence and the student notifies the instructor of his/her absence prior to the start of the exam. The instructor holds the right to provide make up quizzes in an alternative format. All make up quizzes must be complete within 2 weeks of the original quiz. Note that the quiz format will change should the instructor feel students are not respecting the exam policies.

RESEARCH PROJECTS: Five research projects will account for a total of 40% of your final grade. All projects should be turned in via ELMS (unless noted otherwise) before class on the due date. Projects turned in during or after class will be considered late. Ten percentage points will be deducted for every day (including weekend days) a project is late. Class room time will be provided for peer-review as well as feedback from the instructor. There will be opportunities for collaboration with your pre-assigned groups. Specific details on group projects, including expectations when working in groups, will follow. Research projects will include:

1. NIH Training (<https://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/PHRP.pdf>) (10 pt)
2. Survey Construction (10 pts)
3. Analysis with Descriptive Statistics/Write up of sampling technique and survey procedures (25 pts)
4. Field Research (10 pts)
5. Analysis with Tests of Independence and Inferential Statistics (45 pts)

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Class participation will be measured by in-class group work and quizzes. Class participation will be evaluated through the collection of in-class group assignments and quizzes, and observation of classroom and group discussions. Absent students will not be permitted to make-up in-class activities without documentation for an excused absence.

EXTRA CREDIT: Extra credit opportunities will be made available periodically throughout the semester, at the discretion of the instructor.

Final Grade

A+	97% or above	C	76% to 73%
A	96% to 93%	C-	72% to 70%
A-	92% to 90%	D+	69% to 67%
B+	89% to 87%	D	66% to 63%
B	86% to 83%	D-	62% to 60%
B-	82% to 80%	F	Less than 60%
C+	79% to 77%		

MAKEUP POLICY

Opportunities to make-up missed in-class work will only be given in cases of excused absences and official documentation is required. **Exams and research projects are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the new University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them.** Excused absences are: illness with a doctor's note, death in the immediate family, required school activities, and required court appearance. If a doctor will not write you a note, you will need to get a copy of your medical record from them to verify your illness. By law, you are entitled to get a copy of this and it is your responsibility to do so. I must be notified in person or by phone or email **PRIOR** to missing a **in-class assignment** for me to consider giving you a makeup. **If you know you will not be in class for in-class work or a date a project is due for an excused reason it is your responsibility to turn in the work PRIOR to the due date.**

SENDING EMAIL

Please use the subject line "CCJS300" whenever you send an email, which will increase the probability of us not considering it junk mail. The professor will mainly rely on email in order to communicate with students. The professor prefers communications be send via Outlook rather than through ELMS. Please check your email regularly.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In this class, students are encouraged to bring their laptops to class to take notes only. If a student is found to be using a laptop for any other reason than taking notes, then, that student will lose the privilege of bringing his/her computer to class. All technological devices, except a laptop computer are prohibited in this class including MP3 devices, smart phones, phones, calculators, gaming devices, etc. If these devices are seen and/or used during the class, the student will be asked to leave the class immediately. If these devices are seen and/or used during an exam, the exam will be collected from the student and the student will no longer be allowed to continue taking the exam. The exam score will be noted as 0".

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty of any form will NOT be tolerated. Academic Dishonesty encompasses the traditional behavior such as cheating on exams and assignments, giving false statements, etc., but also includes activities such as possessing and or reviewing previous semester's exams and computer assignments. Additionally, students will be asked to write the University approved Honor Pledge on each exam and project. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally Recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit:

<http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html>

CODE OF CONDUCT

Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to demonstrate civility with one another, the teaching assistant, or me will be subject to referral to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Security. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

By September 10, 2014, students must provide the instructor, in writing, a request for a make-up exam for an exam date on the syllabus you are unable to make due to a specific religious observance (specify). Please refer to the Online Catalog Policy on Religious Observance. Please remember that accommodations are not made for travel to and from the religious observance.

GRADE DISPUTES

If you have questions or concerns about your grade(s) and believe the professor should review them, you must submit a written request over email to the professor that describes your concern in detail. This request must be submitted within one week of the day that grades for the relevant assignment are disseminated.

COPYRIGHT

The lectures I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of my lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes 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 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).

COURSE EVALUATION

I take your course evaluation very seriously. Each year I revise my syllabus, course assignments and exam questions based on the feedback I receive on the course evaluation. I am not only interested in the scores that you give this class but I am also very interested in the specific comments you have about this course. I want to encourage each student in this class to evaluate not only my class but all of your classes. One important campus-wide evaluation is the online evaluation at the end of the semester. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete their evaluations.

DISABILITY SUPPORT

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Service (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form. Only written DSS documentation of the accommodation will be considered. This form must be presented to me no later than September 9, 2015. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who provide me with documentation which has not been reviewed and approved by UM's DSS Office after September 9, 2015.

CLASS SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

Class	Topic	Additional Information
Week 1 08/30	Introduction to the course Introduction to SPSS Part I (in class)	CJ and Policy Article (Introduction Module)
Week 2 09/06	Topic 1: Introduction to Research and the Scientific Method	Class Preparation: Chapter 1; Topic 1 Lectures, Due: Article Interpretation Assignment, 9am
Week 3 09/13	Topic 2: Theory and Research Topic 3: Ethics and Research	Class Preparation: Chapters 2 and 3; Broken Windows article; Topics 2 and 3 Lectures Due: Broken Windows Assignment, 9am
Week 4 09/20	Quiz 1 (Chapters 1-3)—Complete online	Due: The quiz will be available on 9/20 from midnight until 11:59pm.
Week 5 09/27	Topic 4: Measurement and Sampling	Class Preparation (in recommended order): Chapter 4; Recorded Lectures 6.1-6.7; Sampson and Groves article, Chapter 5; Recorded Lectures 6.8-6.12
Week 6 10/04	Topic 5: Research Design	Class Preparation: Chapter 6; Topic 5 Lectures Due: RP#1—Ethics (9:00am)
Week 7 10/11	Quiz 2 (Chapters 4-6)—Complete online	Due: The quiz will be available from midnight to 11:59pm on 10/11
Week 8 10/18	Topic 6: Experiments/Quasi-Experiments Introduction to SPSS Part II-Descriptive Statistics (in class)	Class Preparation: Topic 6 Lectures; Appendix D (in textbook); SPSS Resources (on ELMS); Introduction to SPSS Part II Module Due: Experimental Design activity, 9am
Week 9 10/25	Topic 7: Survey/Interview Methods	Class Preparation: Chapter 7; Topic 7 Lectures Due: Survey Design Activity, 9am
Week 10 11/01	Introduction to SPSS Part III-Chi Square (in class) Survey Development Work (Lab III2219)	Class Preparation: In class, bring a copy of draft survey for each group member Due: SPSS Exercise 1, 9am
Week 11 11/08	Quiz 3 (Topics 6, 7, Descriptive Statistics)—Complete online	Due: The quiz will be available on 11/09 from midnight until 11:59pm. Due: RP#2-Survey Construction, 11/10 11:59pm

Class	Topic	Additional Information
Week 12 11/15	Topic 8: Qualitative Methods and Data Analysis Introduction to SPSS Part IV—T-Tests and Correlations	Class Preparation: Chapter 8, 9, and 11; Topic 9 and 11 Lectures Due: SPSS Exercise 2, 11:59pm Due: RP#3--Descriptive Statistics and Write up of Sampling and Results DUE 11/20 by 11:59pm.
Week 13 11/22	NO CLASS –Thanksgiving Break	
Week 14 11/29	Topic 9: Analyzing Content using Alternative Methods	Class Preparation: Chapters 9 and 11; Topic 9 and 11 Lectures Due: RP#4—Field Research, 9am
Week 15 12/06	Topic 10: Evaluation Research Reporting Results	Class Preparation: Chapter 10 and 12, Teen Court Article; Topic 13 Lectures Due: RP#5 Tests of Variance/Inferential Statistics , 12/8 11:59pm

FINAL EXAM (Quiz 4): Tuesday December 19, 8-10am