

# **Criminal Justice Research Methods**

Criminal Justice Program

01:202:307:01

Professor: Ellen P McCann

Monday/Wednesday 1:40-3:00 pm

Email: [emccann72@aol.com](mailto:emccann72@aol.com)

Office Hours: By arrangement

## **General Description of the Course:**

This course is designed to give students a foundation in reading, conducting, evaluating, and disseminating social research in the field of Criminal Justice. Students will learn underlying methodologies, theory testing/development, survey design, program evaluation, and policy analysis. Also, students will be instructed in basic statistical techniques, as applied in this field, and using SPSS.

### **I. Course Requirements:**

*Required Text:*

Maxfield, M. G., & Babbie, E.R. (2011). Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

*Other required readings:* as assigned and posted in Sakai.

### **II. Assessments (Grades):**

Homework	10%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Final	25%
Research	25%

Class Participation 10% - attendance

Final grades for the course will be calculated based on these grades and letter grades will be awarded as follows:

<b>A</b>	<b>90.0 – 100.0</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>87.0-89.9</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>80.0-86.9</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>77.0-79.9</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>70.0-76.9</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>60.0-69.9</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0.0-59.9</b>

### Research:

See attachment for details, to follow.

### Attendance:

This makes up 10% of your grade. Quizzes will only be given as needed and there will be as few or as many as are needed in the course if it is evident that students are not reading (gauged by participation in class discussion), and will be included in the attendance grade if they are necessary. Quizzes and in-class assignments are not available for make-up unless you have an EXCUSED absence, and will be due upon the first day the student returns to class. If an in-class assignment is completed when you are absent (and excused), contact the professor for the assignment so that you will be prepared upon your return.

Excuses are outlined by the University, including but not limited to doctor's appointments, funerals, and religious observances; also included are University-sanctioned events such as conferences, athletic events in which one takes part as a University team member, and other such instances. All excused absences must be PRE-APPROVED by the professor unless impossible because of presenting circumstances and all excuse notes become property of the professor. Any counterfeit notes or excuses such as doctor's notes are grounds for failing this course. Attendance makes up a large portion of this grade, and because of this, it is important that you are on time for class, arriving no later than 10 minutes late as that is when attendance will be taken. It is your responsibility to be aware of your own attendance record, and other students verifying your presence in class does not suffice.

### Exam Make-up Policy:

As defined above, only excused absences are grounds for a make-up exam, and **MUST** be made apparent **and approved** by the professor before the exam start time, including the final.

### Special note about movies and other missed work:

It is important that you, as a student, take full responsibility for catching up on any and all missed work that occurs as a result of excused or unexcused absences. Notes and other course materials are the responsibility of the student, and the professor will not provide such work to any student.

Work that is handed in late is subject to a 10-point per day deduction. If your work is due Monday in class, for example, it is counted late from 10:21 am that day, and if handed in by Tuesday at 10:21 am it will lose ten points.

### Other vital information:

**Students with disabilities** are advised to contact the department so that arrangements may be made with the instructor to meet special learning needs of the student.

**Academic Freedom** is a fundamental right in any institution of higher learning. Honesty and integrity are necessary preconditions of this freedom. Academic integrity requires that all academic work be wholly the product of an identified individual or individuals. Joint efforts are legitimate only when the assistance of others is explicitly acknowledged. Ethical conduct is the obligation of every member of the University community, and breaches of academic integrity constitute serious offenses and will be handled as such.

Dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information. For more information on these topics and the penalties available to your professor, please refer to the University Website. If you are dishonest by any of these standards, you will fail this course, NO EXCEPTIONS.

### III. Tentative Course Schedule

- 1/19 Introduction to the Course
- 1/24 Topic 1: The Logic of Scientific Discovery – Chapter 1
- 1/26 Group Work
- 1/31 Topic 2: Causation and Validity – Chapter 4
- 2/2 Topic 3: Research Design I: Theory – Chapter 5 - *pick a criminological theory and develop a question (part of your research grade)*
- 2/7 Topic 4: Research Design II: Conceptualization - Chapter 5 – *conceptualize your research (part of your research grade)*
- 2/9 Topic 5: Research Design III: Operationalization – Chapter 5 – *operationalize your concepts (part of your research grade)*
- 2/14 Topic 6: Research Design IV: Measurement – Chapters 5 & 6
- 2/16 THIS CLASS ONLY – CLASS CANCELED
- 2/21 Review and Rehash
- 2/23 Exam Review
- 2/28 Exam 1
- 3/2 Topic 7: Sampling and Sampling Distributions – Chapter 8
- 3/7 Topic 8: Survey Research – Chapter 9
- 3/9 Designing a Survey – *part of your research grade*
- 3/21 Topic 9: Quasi-Experiments – Chapter 12

- 3/23 Review and Rehash – Exam Review
- 3/28 Exam 2
- 4/4 Topic 10: Program Evaluation and Policy Analysis – Chapter 10  
***Research Summary and earlier portions DUE TODAY!***
- 4/6 Topic 11: Ethics – Chapter 3
- 4/11 Topic 12: Qualitative Research – Chapter 10 [***Human Subjects Certificates DUE (research grade)***]
- 4/13 Data – SPSS and Lesson 1
- 4/18 Data – SPSS and Lesson 2 Homework Due
- 4/20 Data – SPSS and Lesson 3 Homework Due
- 4/25 Topic 13: Interpreting Data – Chapter 13
- 4/28 Rehash Lessons Learned
- 5/2 Review for Final

## **5/10 (Tuesday) 12:00 PM Final Exam**

For Human Subjects Certification go to this site, or find link in Sakai:

<http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php?l=3>