RUTGERS
School of Arts and Sciences

01:202:307 Research Methods in Criminal Justice
Fall 2016

1. Course Information
Class time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:10-9:30pm
Location: LSH-A142
Instructor: Laura Salerno, Ph.D.
Office Hours: By appointment only
Email: ragusalm@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

2. Course Overview/Course Objectives
This course provides an introduction to research methodologies, statistics, and quantitative reasoning that can be used to address problems in basic research and policy within the social sciences – specifically, the criminal justice field. The primary objectives of this course are to build familiarity with the fundamentals of various research and statistical methods and develop the skills necessary for describing, analyzing, and presenting quantitative data. Wherever possible, classes will focus on criminal justice applications.

3. Prerequisites
While this course does not assume any background in probability or statistics, students are encouraged to have one term of college-level math completed.

4. Expected Learning Outcomes
At the completion of this course, students will be expected to:
- have a basic knowledge of statistical methods used for the social sciences;
- organize and describe data;
- read and create statistical graphs and charts,
- describe data sets using central tendency, variability, and skew;
- create hypotheses and test them;
- understand the concept of statistical inference;
- conduct basic statistical analyses;
- develop a basic knowledge of SPSS.

5. Course Requirements and Processes
Preparation: Students are required to read before each class and be prepared for all class discussions, assignments, and exams. Students should always bring their textbooks to class. In addition, students must check Sakai (www.sakai.rutgers.edu) before each class. I will use Sakai extensively to post announcements, send emails, distribute assignments, post grades, etc.

Textbook:
Privitera, G. J. (2016). *Essential Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences*. Sage Publications. ISBN 978-1-4833-5300-5.

Software: This class teaches students how to use Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). As such, some homework assignments and a portion of the final exam will require student use of SPSS. It is **not** expected that students purchase SPSS. This software is available at Rutgers computer lab locations.

Attendance/Participation: Attendance at both lectures each week is strongly recommended as attendance is calculated into the final grade. Twenty-four hour notice prior to missing a class is encouraged for excused absences. Otherwise, only students with documentation will be provided with excused absences after-the-fact. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on readings and assignments that were missed. Missed assignments will only be accepted and graded after the due date if prior notice of absence is provided or documentation is provided upon return to class.

All students are expected to participate during each lecture. Participation includes asking questions, making comments, completing in-class work, etc. Cell phone use is not permitted during class. Computers are allowed in class but only for note-taking purposes.

Assignments: Students will be given homework assignments that require implementation of the research methods and statistics they are reading and learning. These assignments may require hand calculations and/or utilization of the SPSS program. There will be 5 homework assignments in all. All assignments will be distributed in class and/or will be available on Sakai.

Exams: There will be two exams in this class. The final exam will be cumulative with a focus on the material learned in the second half of the course. The final exam will also include an SPSS portion to be completed by the student outside of class. This SPSS portion is due prior to sitting for the final exam. If you must miss an exam, you must notify me within 48 hours **PRIOR** to the exam otherwise there are no makeups. If you arrive late for an exam, you will not be allowed extra time to complete the exam. All exams will be open-book and calculators will be permitted. Cell phones may not be used in place of a calculator. Notes will not be permitted.

Email Policy: Please allow a 48-hour response period for all emails sent to me. Please do not send a follow-up email if you have not yet received a response within 48 hours of your first email.

6. Grading
Your overall grade for this course will be based on:

Attendance	5%
Homework	25%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	40%

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A	90–100%
B+	85-89%
B	80-84%
C+	75-79%
C	70-74%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

7. Readings

This calendar of events is subject to change based on the completion of course material and student progress. **Please note that the reading is due for the class listed.**

Date	Topic	Assignment
Tuesday, September 06, 2016	Syllabus review; overview of Chapter 1	Chapter 1
Thursday, September 08, 2016	Charts & Graphs	Chapter 2
Tuesday, September 13, 2016	Measures of Central Tendency	Chapter 3
Thursday, September 15, 2016	Variability	Chapter 4
Tuesday, September 20, 2016	Learning How to Use SPSS (Computer Lab)	Textbook pgs. xxxv – xl and end of chapter pages
Thursday, September 22, 2016	Learning How to Use SPSS (Computer Lab)	
Tuesday, September 27, 2016	Probability	Chapter 5 **HW# 1 Due**
Thursday, September 29, 2016	Sample Mean	Chapter 6
Tuesday, October 04, 2016	Hypothesis Testing	Chapter 7
Thursday, October 06, 2016	Hypothesis Testing	Chapter 7
Tuesday, October 11, 2016	Exam Review	**HW #2 Due**
Thursday, October 13, 2016	**MIDTERM EXAM**	
Tuesday, October 18, 2016	Post-exam Review	
Thursday, October 20, 2016	One Sample T-tests	Chapter 8
Tuesday, October 25, 2016	T-tests for Independent Samples	Chapter 9
Thursday, October 27, 2016	Related-samples T-tests	Chapter 10
Tuesday, November 01, 2016	Learning How to Use SPSS (Computer Lab)	End of chapter pages
Thursday, November 03, 2016	Learning How to Use SPSS (Computer Lab)	End of chapter pages **HW #3 Due**
Tuesday, November 08, 2016	One-way Analysis of Variance	Chapter 11
Thursday, November 10, 2016	One-way Analysis of Variance	Chapter 11
Tuesday, November 15, 2016	Two-way Analysis of Variance	Chapter 12
Thursday, November 17, 2016	Two-way Analysis of Variance	Chapter 12
Tuesday, November 22, 2016 (Thursday class)	Learning How to Use SPSS (Computer Lab)	End of chapter pages **HW #4 Due**
Thursday, November 24, 2016	NO CLASS	
Tuesday, November 29, 2016	Correlation	Chapter 13
Thursday, December 01, 2016	Linear Regression	Chapter 13
Tuesday, December 06, 2016	Learning How to Use SPSS (Computer Lab)	End of chapter pages
Thursday, December 08, 2016	Chi-square	Chapter 14
Tuesday, December 13, 2016	Exam Review	**HW #5Due**
TBD	**FINAL EXAM (In Class)**	**SPSS PORTION OF FINAL EXAM DUE**

8. General information (School and University)

<u>**Academic Integrity:**</u>

As a member of the Rutgers University community, students are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students (http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/). Violations of the University's policy will result in appropriate action.

<u>**Students with Disabilities:**</u>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at:https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

<u>**Psychological and Counseling Services:**</u>

If you experience psychological or other difficulties as a result of this course, or because of other issues that may interfere with your performance in the course, please contact Rutgers Counseling, Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance Program & Psychiatric Services (CAPS) (http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/home-2/).