

RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CRJU 3301/02 (Prerequisite: CRJU 1101)
Fall Semester 2012
Tuesday, Thursdays 2:00pm – 3:15pm
Social Sciences Building Room 3025

Instructor: Mr. James McCafferty

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Office: Pilcher Building Room 233

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 – 4:30; by appointment

Office Phone Number: 770-794-7771

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to concepts and techniques of social science research. Students will (a) become familiar with levels of measurement, sampling techniques, research design, and research techniques, and (b) apply these techniques to the study of specific research questions in criminal justice. In short, this course will examine the purposes and processes behind the creation of knowledge that concerns the criminal justice system and criminology.

Required Reading:

Hagen, Frank E. (2010). *Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology*, 8th Ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. ISBN: 978-0-13-504388-2

Other selections may be uploaded on GeorgiaView Vista.

Course Requirements:

Exams. There will be two exams in this course: a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm exam will be administered in the classroom. The final exam will have an out-of-class portion in addition to the written exam in the classroom. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade in this course.

Research Proposal. Each student will be required to complete a research proposal for this course. The purpose of this assignment is to provide students the opportunity to explore a research question related to criminal justice and design a study to examine the question. The proposal will be divided into three sections: 1) abstract and research question; 2) introduction and literature review; and 3) methodology and conclusion. Details concerning the proposal will be discussed and distributed in class. The details will also be uploaded to GeorgiaView Vista.

Quizzes. Students will be required to complete nine quizzes for this course. All quizzes will be administered through GeorgiaView Vista. The quizzes will open at 5:00pm on Thursdays and will close Sunday at 5:00pm. The quizzes will cover the reading assignment for the upcoming class week. The purpose of the quiz is to get students familiar with the course material that will be discussed in the upcoming week. The quizzes can be completed open-book, but they must be

completed independently. You should not wait until last minute to complete the online exams. Last minute computer problems will not qualify as an emergency.

Attendance. It is in your best interest to be in class regularly and to be on time. This is a fast-paced class with concepts that build on one another. Do not allow yourself to fall behind – you may not be able to catch up if you do. If there is an emergency and you must miss class, you should make every effort to contact me in advance to make arrangements for missed material; however, it is ultimately the student’s responsibility for missed work.

Please note: Attendance for each class is based on an attendance sheet that is passed out in class and participation during in-class exercises. Each student is responsible for signing the attendance sheet each class period. Students that arrive late for class or leave early are not permitted to sign the attendance sheet unless they have prior permission from me. Students with five or more non-excused absences from the class will have 10 points deducted from their final grade. Students with two or less absences will receive 5 bonus points.

Grading:

Exams

Midterm Exam	60 points
Final Exam	60 points (40%)

Research Proposal

Abstract and Research Question	10 points
Introduction and Literature Review	20 points
Methodology and Conclusion	30 points (20%)

Nine Quizzes 90 points (30%)

Class Attendance 30 points (10%)

300 points (100%)

Course grades will be assigned according to the scale below:

- 90 – 100% = A
- 80 – 89% = B
- 70 – 79% = C
- 60 – 69% = D
- 59% or below = F

Late Assignments:

No late assignments will be accepted, or make-up exams or quizzes permitted, unless the student has received prior permission or can provide documentation that the late assignment was due to an emergency.

Please note that having a KSU computer crash or having work erased off a KSU computer is not an acceptable excuse for late assignments. I recommend that you save all work directly to a flash drive in order to reduce the likelihood of losing your work.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated and will be dealt with severely. All students are expected to know what acts constitute academic misconduct and to adhere to KSU's Student Code of Conduct which can be found at: http://www.kennesaw.edu/scai/code_of_conduct.shtml#ii.

I will respond to acts of academic misconduct according to university policy; sanctions for academic dishonesty can include a grade of "F" for the assignment in question and/or for the course and will be subject to the formal procedures according to the University's and the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department's guidelines.

Disability Services:

If you have a disability (e.g., visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability) which may influence your performance in this course, you must meet with representative at disAbled Student Support Services (Student Development Center) to arrange for reasonable accommodations to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. If you require accommodations due to disability, please visit http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html for more information on how to register with disAbled Student Support Services. You will be provided faculty letters indicating your accommodation needs for the semester. Please present this letter to me as soon as possible to ensure your accommodation needs are discussed, agreed upon, and provided.

Important Policies

E-mail. Students should check their KSU student e-mail regularly. Throughout the course I will contact the class through e-mails or post announcement on GeorgiaView Vista. You are responsible for information that is distributed through e-mail and GeorgiaView Vista. You are expected to use your official KSU e-mail account for all class correspondence. Due to confidentiality reasons, I will only respond to e-mails from the school e-mail system. Messages received from other accounts (e.g., Gmail, Yahoo) will not receive a response.

Class cancellation. If the class is cancelled unexpectedly, notification will be on the classroom door and/or posted as an announcement on GeorgiaVista View.

Academic calendar. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the University's academic calendar. This calendar includes important dates for students regarding registering, dropping of classes, and holiday breaks. For important dates, students must consult the following website:

https://web.kennesaw.edu/registrar/sites/web.kennesaw.edu/registrar/files/Fall2012_0.pdf

Extra credit. There are no opportunities for extra credit for individual students.

Cell phones. Cell phones must be silent during class. Do not text message during class. You are not sneaky enough to text message without all of us seeing it, and it's very distracting to the rest of us. If you text message during class, you will be asked to leave until you can control your technology addiction.

Communication. E-mail/voice mail communications with the instructor require an acknowledgement—just because you leave the message doesn't mean it was received or that requests were granted.

Computers.* Laptop and tablet computers are not permitted in class unless you have a documented disability that requires the use of electronics in the classroom.

*Although this class meets in a computer lab, unauthorized use of a computer during class time is not permitted. No classroom computer should be in use during the class unless the class as a whole is engaged in computer work. If a student violates this policy, he/she will be assigned a desk that does not have a computer. Students caught using the classroom computers inappropriately will lose participation points for the day. If this becomes a larger problem, students will be asked to leave for that class period.

Respect. We may discuss issues that are contentious and controversial. Active, open discussion is encouraged. Disrespect is not tolerated. My classroom is a respectful environment. I will eject students that are disruptive or less than respectful to their peers or me.

Children. Do not bring your children to this class.

Do the Work. This is **not** a class that you can coast through.

Syllabus. I reserve the right to adjust the syllabus or course information to better meet the objectives of this course or the students' needs.

Tentative Schedule & Readings:

The following is an outline of the materials that will be covered in this course. This is a tentative schedule and the professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes. All the readings listed may be found in the Hagen (2010) textbook. Additional readings will be distributed in class or on Blackboard.

Date	Topic	Readings	Due
August 21	Review of Syllabus, Introduction		
August 23	Scientific Inquiry	Chapter 1 (p. 1 -15)	
August 28	Ethics in Research, Ethical Principles	Chapter 2	
August 30	Ethics in Research, Ethical Principles	Chapter 2	
September 4	Library Review		
September 6	Concepts, Operationalization	Chapter 1 (p. 15 – 27)	
September 11	Concepts, Operationalization	Chapter 1 (p. 15 – 27)	
September 13	Research Design	Chapter 3	
September 18	Research Design	Chapter 3	

September 20	Research Design; Sampling	Chapters 3 and 4	
September 25	Sampling	Chapter 4	
September 27	Sampling	Chapter 4	
October 2	Midterm Review		
October 4	Midterm Examination		
October 9	Survey Research	Chapter 5	
October 11	Survey Research	Chapters 5 and 6	
October 16	Survey Research	Chapter 6	
October 18	Participant Observation	Chapter 7	
October 23	Participant Observation	Chapter 7	
October 25	Secondary, Official Data	Chapter 8	
October 30	Validity and Reliability	Chapter 9	
November 1	Policy Analysis, Evaluation Research	Chapter 11	
November 6	Data Analysis	Chapter 12	
November 8	Data Analysis	Chapter 12	
November 13: NO CLASS: THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY MEETING			
November 15: NO CLASS: THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY MEETING			
November 20	Data Analysis	Chapters 12 and 13	
November 22: NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY			
November 27	Data Analysis	Chapters 13	
November 29	Data Analysis	Chapter 13	
December 4	Final Exam Review		

University Final Exam Schedule:

https://web.kennesaw.edu/registrar/sites/web.kennesaw.edu/registrar/files/Fall2012FinalExamSchedule_4.pdf