

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
**Kennesaw State University**  
Web: <http://scj.hss.kennesaw.edu/>

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**CRJU 3301**  
**Research Methods in Criminal Justice**  
CRN 10070

Instructor: Dr. Beverly R. Crank  
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Office: Pilcher, Room 144

Credit Hours: 3  
Semester/Year: Fall 2016  
Class Day/Time: T&TH: 8:00-9:15AM  
Class Location: SS Building, Room 3025

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30AM-10:30AM and by appointment  
\*The best way to contact your instructor is by e-mail

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*NOTE:* This course syllabus provides a *general* plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

**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.

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**COURSE PREREQUISITES:** Grade of "C" or better in CRJU 1101

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the role of science and its relationship to crime and justice issues.
2. Understand the ways that theory, methodology, and policy are interrelated.
3. Learn common terminology used in research methods.
4. Recognize what constitutes the steps or stages of the research process.
5. Formulate and translate a good research problem and hypothesis into a research proposal.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of measurement issues and scaling techniques.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of the broad range of quantitative and qualitative approaches to research design.
8. Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of various research designs, sampling techniques, and data collection methods.
9. Understand the ethical obligations expected of researchers in criminal justice and the policies and procedures set up to prevent ethical violations during the research process.

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## REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Ronet Bachman & Russell K. Schutt. (2014). *Fundamentals of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 3rd Ed. Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1-4833-3345-8
  2. Brian Cronk. (2016). *How to Use SPSS: A Step-by-Step Guide to Analysis and Interpretation*, 9th Ed. Pyrczak Publishing: ISBN: 978-1-936523-44-3
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## TECHNOLOGY POLICIES:

Laptops are permitted in class *if* you e-mail me your class notes at the very end of class (before leaving the classroom). Detailed notes must be taken- you cannot simply turn in an outline. If you fail to email me your notes, you will be counted as absent. Cell phones are never permitted during class. If I see you using your cellphone, I will automatically count you absent for the day without a verbal warning. I will NOT stop class to tell you that you've been counted absent. \*\*No audio recording of class lectures will be allowed, unless the student is able to provide evidence of special need that would necessitate the use of such recording equipment. Cell phones should be turned off during class.\*\*

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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ **READING:** It is expected that all reading assignments will be completed by the student prior to the beginning of class. To participate in class discussion in a meaningful way, it is necessary to have an understanding of the assigned material.
- ✓ **ATTENDANCE:** Each student is expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. Attendance and participation will count toward your final grade. Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. Pre-approved absences officially sanctioned by KSU administration (e.g., religious observances, military obligations, pre-authorized student athlete releases) will be considered as excuses for missing a class period **IF APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION IS SUBMITTED**. Other legitimate excuses include personal illness and death in the immediate family. Students are required to provide documentation (e.g., doctor's notice, death certificate) as evidence of the legitimacy of their excuses **within 1 week of missing class**. Missing a class due to job requirements, family emergencies, and the like are not excused absences; therefore, there is no need to notify the instructor. Simply stated, no exceptions will be made. Attendance is usually taken within the first few minutes of class, and you will **not** be allowed to come to class late and receive attendance for the day. Further, if you leave early without a legitimate, pre-approved reason, you will lose attendance for the day as well. **5 points will be deducted from your attendance grade for each absence. If you miss more than 5 classes (without a documented excuse), then you will receive 0 points for your entire attendance grade.**

\*\*If you are late to class, it is expected that you will enter the classroom quietly so as not to disrupt your fellow classmates. Please take the first seat available to you upon entering late. If individuals are consistently late to class – I will no longer allow late entries.

- ✓ **FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL & PRESENTATIONS:** Students are required to write a research proposal evaluating a criminal justice program. The research proposal must be written in **APA format** and is worth 200 points. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Detailed requirements for the research proposal will be given in class. I **strongly** suggest you utilize the resources at the Writing Center to help with this assignment:  
<http://writingcenter.kennesaw.edu/>  
Additionally, students will be required to present their research proposal using a webcam or video. Students will upload their presentations to D2L and will be required to watch TWO other student presentations and write thoughtful, insightful responses. Instructions will be provided in class. The presentation is worth 50 points.
- ✓ **RESEARCH PROPOSAL ASSIGNMENTS:** Students will be required to complete short assignments on their proposed research topic throughout the semester. These assignments include (but are not limited to): an APA and plagiarism tutorial and quiz, a research topic proposal with an APA title and reference page, a draft of the literature review of the research proposal, a discussion of the sampling method, research design, and measurement issues. Instructions and due dates will be provided in class.
- ✓ **SPSS LABS:** Students will complete 4 SPSS labs throughout the semester. The SPSS labs are NOT group assignments. Instructions will be provided in class.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specified due date (see course schedule – subject to change and unless otherwise specified). Assignments turned in after the due date are considered **LATE, NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!!!**

Below is the grading schedule for late assignments:

Received late in class: 10 point reduction

Received within 24 hours: 20 point reduction

Received with 48 hours: 30 point reduction

**\* I WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY ASSIGNMENT MORE THAN 48 HOURS LATE.**

**\*QUIZZES AND THE FINAL EXAM CAN NOT BE MADE UP.**

- ✓ **QUIZZES:** Students will complete 6 in-class quizzes (at times, these quizzes *may* be posted on D2L, although this will be an exception rather than the rule). Quizzes will relate to the current material assigned to ensure that students have been reading/studying. Quizzes may be in multiple-choice and/or essay format. **The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. If students are not in class or are late to class, they will miss that quiz. Therefore, NO MAKEUPS.**
- ✓ **FINAL EXAM:** The final exam questions will be drawn from readings, lectures, videos, and class discussions. Thus, successful performance on the final exam will require a careful

reading of *all* assigned material, as well as regular attendance. Quizzes that students take for this course will be useful for studying for the final exam. Thus, keep up with your quizzes! **Do NOT ask me for questions/answers from quizzes that you missed.**

**NOTE: It is important to arrive on time for the quizzes and final exam.** If you arrive late, you will have less time to complete the quiz/exam (no extra time will be allowed). **Once the first quiz/exam is turned-in, late students will NOT be allowed to complete the quiz/exam.**

**NEVER** use your cell phone, Bluetooth headset or headphones, or any other electronic device at any time during an exam/quiz. If you do so, I will assume that you are cheating. Your exam/quiz will be collected without question and I will file an academic dishonesty charge. You will receive an “F” on the exam/quiz and a zero for the course. At my discretion, I may also pursue your suspension or expulsion from the School.

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## **KSU POLICIES:**

Please review the following campus policies:

Course Attendance Policy: Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a course; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal

Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement: <http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Confidentiality and Privacy Statement (FERPA):

<http://enrollmentservices.kennesaw.edu/training/ferpa.php>

University – Student Rights Statement:

<http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/content.php?catoid=27&navoid=2263>

Ethics Statement: <http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Sexual Harassment Statement: <http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Course Accessibility Statement (ADA statement): <http://sss.kennesaw.edu/sds/institutional-policies.php>

Disruption of Campus Life Policy: <http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Student Services: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/studentsuccessservices/>

“As a member of the Kennesaw State University community of scholars, I understand that my actions are not only a reflection on myself, but also a reflection on the University and the larger body of scholars of which it is a part. Acting unethically, no matter how minor the offense, will be detrimental to my academic progress and self-image. It will also adversely affect all students, faculty, staff, the reputation of this University, and the value of the degrees it awards. Whether on campus or online, I understand that it is not only my personal responsibility, but also a duty to the entire KSU community that I act in a manner consistent with the highest level of academic integrity. Therefore, I promise that as a member of the Kennesaw State University community, I will not participate in any form of academic misconduct” (KSU Student Codes of Conduct, p. 18-19).

**Academic Policies:**

Students are expected to comply with KSU's academic policies, listed here:

<http://registrar.kennesaw.edu/policies/>

Please note that plagiarism detection software is in place in this course for all assignments.

If you are caught plagiarizing, plagiarism penalties will apply. To learn more about the definition of academic misconduct at KSU, click here:

<https://web.kennesaw.edu/scail/content/ksu-student-code-conduct#2>

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**GRADES:**

Final grades are determined according to points assigned to the course requirements:

<b>4 SPSS Labs (each lab worth 50 points)</b>	<b>200 points</b>
<b>5 Quizzes (each quiz worth 50 points)*</b>	<b>250 points</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b>Research Proposal Assignments</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Research Proposal (Paper &amp; Presentation)</b>	<b>250 points</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b><u>150 points</u></b>
	<b>TOTAL = 1,000 points</b>

\*Lowest quiz grade (out of 6 quizzes) is dropped

\*\*Divide your total points by 10 to calculate your percent score

\*\*\*See attached grade calculation sheet

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The distribution for the final grades is as follows:

A = 900-1000 points	D = 600-699 points
B = 800-899 points	F = Less than 600 points
C = 700-799 points	

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

<b>Class</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings/Assignments Due</b>
Week 1 Jan 10 & 12	Introduction to Criminological Research	<b>Readings:</b> Syllabus; Bachman & Schutt Ch. 1
Week 2 Jan 17 & 19	Process and Problems of Criminological Research	<b>Readings:</b> Bachman & Schutt Ch. 2
Week 3 Jan 24 & 26	Research Proposal Guidelines	<b>Quiz 1 Jan 24*</b> <b>Readings:</b> Research proposal guidelines handout
Week 4 Jan 31 & Feb 2	Research Ethics & Philosophies	<b>Readings:</b> Bachman & Schutt Ch. 3
Week 5 Feb 7 & 9	Conceptualization & Measurement	<b>Quiz 2 Feb 7*</b> <b>Readings:</b> Bachman & Schutt Ch. 4 <b>Research Proposal Topic due Feb 9 by 11:59PM</b>
Week 6 Feb 14 & 16	Sampling	<b>Readings:</b> Bachman & Schutt Ch. 5
Week 7 Feb 21 & 23	Causation & Research Design	<b>Quiz 3 Feb 21*</b> <b>Readings:</b> Bachman & Schutt Ch. 6
Week 8 Feb 28 & Mar 2	Survey Research; Analyzing Content	<b>Readings:</b> Bachman & Schutt Ch. 7 & 9
Week 9 Mar 7 & 9	Evaluation & Policy Analysis	<b>Quiz 4 Mar 7*</b> <b>Readings:</b> Bachman & Schutt Ch. 10
Week 10 Mar 14 & 16	Qualitative Research	<b>Quiz 5 Mar 14*</b> <b>Readings:</b> Bachman & Schutt Ch. 8
Week 11 Mar 21 & 23	Library & Review	<b>Literature Review due March 23 by 11:59PM</b>
Week 12 Mar 28 & 30	Intro to SPSS; SPSS Lab 1	<b>Quiz 6 Mar 28*</b> <b>Readings:</b> Cronk 1-18
Week 13	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
Week 13 Apr 4 & 6	Understanding Statistics; SPSS Lab 2	<b>SPSS Lab 1 Due Apr 4</b> <b>Readings:</b> Cronk 19-32
Week 14 Apr 11 & 13	Graphing Data & Association; SPSS Lab 3	<b>SPSS Lab 2 Due Apr 11</b> <b>Readings:</b> Cronk 33-56
Week 15 Apr 18 & 20	Inferential Statistics; SPSS Lab 4	<b>SPSS Lab 3 Due Apr 18</b> <b>Readings:</b> Cronk 57-100
Week 16 Apr 25 & 27	SPSS Wrap-up	<b>SPSS Lab 4 Due Apr 25</b> <b>Research Proposal &amp; Presentation Due Apr 27 by 11:59PM</b> <b>Review Quizzes &amp; SPSS Labs for CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM</b>
May 4	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>Final Exam May 4 at 8:00AM</b>