

Kennesaw State University
CRJU 3301/01: Research Methods in CJ
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Summer 2012

Instructor: Dr. Hyunseok Jang
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Class Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8:00am ~ 10:45am.
Classroom: Social Sciences Bldg #3027
Office Hours: Thursday & Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (or by appointment)

REQUARED TEXTBOOKS:

Michael G. Maxfield & Earl Babbie (2011). Basics of Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology (3rd Edition). Wadsworth. **ISBN:** 1111346917

Cronk, B.C. (2008). How to use SPSS: A step-by-step guide to analysis and interpretation (5th Edition). Pycrzak Publishing. **ISBN:** 1884585795

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is intended to provide a basic overview of research methods in the filed of criminal justice and criminology. Specifically, students will be guided to understand fundamentals of research methods. In addition, by using SPSS statistical analysis program, students will be able to analyze CJ related dataset and create report using tables and charts.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

By the end of Semester students will be able to:

1. Understand key concepts in research methods.
2. Understand qualitative and quantitative research.
3. Understand data processing and analysis using SPSS.
4. Understand the language of SPSS.
5. Use several useful features of SPSS.
6. Create a research paper using an APA style.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In order to improve student learning, this class expects students to attend every class throughout the semester. Students will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the university, provided you give prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event. If a student is not able to attend a class for reasons that approved by the University or the instructor, such as a medical emergency, illness, death in the family, etc, it is expected that he/she will notify the instructor ASAP. All other absences will be deemed unexcused. This class has an attendance grade (see below F. Attendance Points).

If students miss more than 7 class sessions (including excused and unexcused together), they will get F automatically.

GeorgiaVIEW-Vista and E-mail

Students need to login to their WebCT account. In the WebCT, students can find assignments, grades, and additional information for the class.

Communication will be done through the University E-mail or Georgia VIEW E-mail account. Students have a responsibility to check e-mail regarding the course information regularly. Instructor does not know students' other e-mail accounts.

CLASS ACTIVITIES

1. Library Tour: Learning how to find out books and scholarly journal articles from the library and library website. **(LIB309)**

2. Group Activities: Students will be divided into several groups. Each group will implement given assignments by the cooperation. Based on group assignment, there will be group discussion.

3. Field Observation: As part of practical research activity, students will implement one of field observation research with their group member.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. Quiz (100 points)

There will be 5 quizzes throughout the semester. Students will take each of them in the beginning of the class (see "Course Schedule" for dates). The quizzes consist of 20 questions (true/false questions, multiple choice questions, or short answer questions) and each question will be worth 1 points. Thus, possible total quiz points in the end of semester will be 100 (20 points x 5 quizzes). The total quiz points will be applied toward your final semester grade.

B. Midterm Examinations (50 points)

Midterm exam will be consist of

- I. Multiple choice questions (30)
- II. Short Answer Questions (20)

C. SPSS Assignments (50 points)

Using SPSS program, students are going to analyze the dataset. There will be in class assignment after taking lessons.

D. Final Examinations (75 points)

Final exam will be consist of

- I. Matching/Fill-in the blank questions (30)
- II. Short Answer Questions (20)
- III. SPSS Problem Solving (25)

E. Attendance Points (25 points)

Attendance will be checked in the beginning of the class. Two absences will be excused without asking reasons. From the third absence, each unexcused absence will result in 5 points deduction from the 25 attendance points. If students miss more than 7 classes (including excused and unexcused), they will receive F automatically. Emergency & unavoidable conditions can be considered with the appropriate document or explanation.

F. Grading

Possible highest point: 400

<u>Points</u>	<u>Semester Grade</u>
270 - 300	A
240 - 269	B
210 - 239	C
180 - 209	D
179 or below	F

G. Make-Up & Late Assignment Policy

1) Quizzes

If students miss quizzes only with a legitimate excuse, they are allowed to take make-up quizzes. Legitimacy will be determined by the instructor. Students who want to take make-up quizzes are required to talk to the instructor regarding time and date.

2) Examinations

If students miss examinations only with a legitimate excuse, they are allowed to take make-up exams. Legitimacy will be determined by the instructor. Students who want to take make-up exams are required to talk to the instructor regarding time and date.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section III of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious or intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which may include an informal resolution by a faculty member resulting in a grade adjustment or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject the student to the minimum one-semester suspension required by the Code of Conduct.

Cheating or plagiarism in any form will result in a grade of F for the course. In addition, a report of the incident will be filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES & DISRUPTIONAL BEHAVIOR:

Students are not permitted to use cell phones or other electronic devices during class. Laptop computers may be used **ONLY** for the purpose of taking notes. The instructor reserves the right at any time to observe the screen content of any laptop used during class. If content other than class notes is visible, the student will be required to shut off the laptop and will not be allowed to use it in class thereafter.

Tabaco and foods (except drinks) are not allowed during the class. If student's behavior causes a serious disruption, that student can be dismissed from the class session.

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY

Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

Please feel free to discuss any particular need you may have with your professor.

Class Schedule

Dates	Topics & Activities	Reading	Quiz & Assignment
5/31	Syllabus Review,		
6/5	Crime, Criminal Justice and Scientific Inquiry	Maxfield Ch 1	
6/7	How to use library resources?; What is an APA style writing? (Library 309) Ethics and Criminal Justice research/	Maxfield Ch 2	Quiz 1 (20 pt)
6/12	General issues in research design	Maxfield Ch 3	
6/14	Concept, operationalization and Measurement	Maxfield Ch 4	Quiz 2 (20 pt)
6/19	Experimental and Quasi-experimental designs	Maxfield Ch 5	
6/21	Sampling	Maxfield Ch 6	Quiz 3 (20 pt)
6/26	Midterm Exam (50 pt)/		
6/28	Survey Research and Other Ways of Asking Questions	Maxfield Ch 7	
7/3	Field Research	Maxfield Ch 8	Quiz 4 (20 pt)
7/5	Field Observation Practice/ SPSS Getting Started/ Entering and Modifying Data	Maxfield Ch 8/ Cronk Ch 1/Ch 2	SPSS Assignment 1 (15 pt)
7/10	Agency Records, Contents Analysis, and Secondary Data/ Evaluation Research /ICPSR Data	Maxfield Ch 9/10	
7/12	Interpreting Data/ Descriptive Statistics/ Graphing Data	Maxfield Ch 11 Cronk Ch 3/ Ch 4	Quiz 5 (20 pt) SPSS Assignment 2 (20 pt)
7/17	Prediction and Association	Cronk Ch 5/ Ch6	SPSS Assignment 3 (20 pt)
7/19	SPSS Practices	Cronk Ch 5/ Ch6	
7/24	Final Exam		