

San José State University
Justice Studies
JS 202-81, Research Methods, Fall, 2021

Course and Contact Information

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| Instructor: | Sambuddha Ghatak, Ph.D. |
| Office Location: | Zoom |
| Telephone: | Office: (408) (924 1836) |
| Email: | sambuddha.ghatak@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | <u>Monday 3:00 -4:00 pm/Tuesday 3:00 -4:00 pm/ Or by appointment</u> |
| Class Days/Time: | Tuesday 4:30 -7:15 pm |
| Classroom: | Zoom |
| Prerequisite: | STAT 95 (or equivalent), JS 105 (or equivalent), and graduate standing |

Course Format: Seminar

Course Description (Required)

Examination of research methods applied to solving problems and resolving issues in justice-related agencies, organizations and processes. Focuses on the application of the scientific method to problem-solving and program evaluation.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) (Required)

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methodology used in criminology and justice related fields.
2. Design and implement the appropriate research methodologies for different research question(s).

3. Use statistical software to conduct analyses on collected data.
4. Present and critically discuss research findings, through written and oral techniques.

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

Textbook

Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011). *The practice of research in criminology and criminal justice*. Los Angeles, CA: Sage. ISBN: 978-1-4129-7875-0.

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. NY: Princeton University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0691034713/ISBN-10: 9780691034713

Henry Brady and David Collier. 2010. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*, Second Edition. ISBN-13: 978-1442203440/ISBN-10: 1442203447

Other Readings

Other required readings will be posted on Canvas. The readings are subject to change by instructor.

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

Weekly Reflection: Starting from Wednesday Sept. 1, we will participate in a reflection on the discussion board.

The students will be divided in two groups A and B

WEEK 1

Group A: Each of you will write a half-page single spaced (12 font) response to the reflection topic. The response will be based on the readings related to the topic. You are required to upload your response by Saturday 11:59 pm (Pacific Time)

Group B: You are supposed to read one response from other students and critique that in about five sentences each. You are required to upload your critiques to others' responses must to made by Monday 11:59 pm (Pacific Time). The critiques should be constructive and based on logic as well as evidence. Please write your full name on top of your response and critiques.

This role will rotate every week. For example, Group B will write a half-page single spaced (12 font) response to the discussion topic and Group A will critique a response in about five sentences each in WEEK 2.

Midterm Exam: The exam will cover the topics covered before the exam. The take-home exam includes short as well as essay questions. You will get 48 hours to complete the exam.

Final Exam: The final will follow the format of midterm.

Research Paper: Writing a research paper is a major part of this class. The students are required to select a topic in consultation with the instructor and write a research paper on a topic of his/her interest. The research

paper should include among others a research question, literature review, theory and hypothesis/ hypotheses. The final draft paper is due on **December 6**.

Grading Information (Required)

Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| A plus = 100-98% | A = 97-91% | A minus = 90% | B plus = 89-88% | B = 87- 81% | B minus = 80% | C plus = 79-78% |
| C = 77-71% | C minus = 70% | D plus = 69-68% | D = 67- 61% | D minus = 60% | F = 59-0% | |

Determination of Grades

Participation: 20%

Mid-term Exam: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Research Paper: 20%

Classroom Protocol

Students should always be respectful of other students. I will not tolerate insensitive, rude, or abrasive comments. I will also not tolerate sexist, racist, homophobic, or any type of remarks that hinder instead of promote class discussion. Please remember that you are a community of professionals, and henceforth you are expected to interact with professionalism, courtesy, dignity, and ethical consideration for others. After one email from me indicating that your comments or behavior are inappropriate, you will lose 10% of your participation grade.

University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

You are responsible for university policies regarding, but not limited to, drop deadlines, plagiarism, and academic integrity.

Justice Studies Department Reading and Writing Philosophy

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JS 202, Research Methods, Fall, 2021, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice and the notice will be made available by email.

Course Schedule

| Week | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines |
|------|------------------|---|
| 1 | August 24 | Introduction |
| 2 | August 31 | <p>Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011). Chapter 1: Science, Society, and Criminological Research</p> <p>Chapter 2: The Process and Problems of Criminological Research</p> <p>Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba. 1994. Chapter 1: Science of Social Science</p> |
| 3 | Sept. 7 | <p>Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011). Chapter 3: Research Ethics and Philosophies</p> <p>Brady and Collier (2010) Chapter 1 & 2</p> |
| 4 | Sept. 14 | <p>Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011). Chapter 4: Conceptualization and Measurement</p> <p>Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba. 1994. Chapter 4: Determining what to observe Chapter 5: Understanding what to avoid</p> |
| 5 | Sept. 21 | <p>Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011). Chapter 5: Sampling</p> <p>Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba. 1994. Chapter 6: Increasing the number of observations</p> |
| 6 | Sept. 28 | <p>Brady and Collier (2010) Chapter 3, 4, 5 & 6 **Midterm assigned</p> |

| Week | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines |
|------|----------------|--|
| 7 | Oct. 5 | Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 6: Causation and Research Design Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba. 1994. Chapter 2: Descriptive Inference Chapter 3: Causality and Causal Inference |
| 8 | Oct. 12 | Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 7: Experimental Designs |
| 9 | Oct. 19 | Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 8: Survey Research |
| 10 | Oct. 26 | Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 9: Qualitative Methods and Analysis |
| 11 | Nov. 2 | Brady and Collier (2010) Chapter 7, 8 & 9 |
| 12 | Nov. 9 | Brady and Collier (2010) Chapter 10 & 11, 13 & 14 |
| 13 | Nov. 23 | Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 12: Quantitative Data Analysis |
| 14 | Nov. 30 | Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 13: Reporting Research Results Brady and Collier (2010) Chapter 12 & 13 |
| | | Final Exam Dec 13-14 |