

**San José State University  
Justice Studies Department  
Spring 2019  
JS 114 Research Methods**

**Contact Information**

**Instructor:** Yue Yuan Ph.D.

**Office Location:** Online office hours by Zoom appointment only

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**Classroom:** SJSU Canvas

**Course Format**

This course adopts an online classroom delivery format. You will need the access to the internet, computer, and video/word processing software, in order for students to participate in the classroom activities. See [University Policy F13-\(C\)-0.2 \(ou\) -0.2 \(r\) 0.2BT 5 Tm 9 /TT1 1 Q2 \(e\) 0.2\(e\) 0.2\(](#)

Thus, it is in your best interest to stay current on the readings, take detailed notes, and ask questions if you are unsure about a topic.

**Student Learning Objectives are as follows:**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

SLO 1: Understand why knowledge of research methods is valuable to criminal justice professionals and how to conduct a review of research literature, write a research proposal, design a research project.

SLO 2: Summarize three fundamental features of social science: theory, data collection, and data analysis; describe how theory and public policy can be closely linked.

SLO 3: Recognize how criminal justice research is shaped by ethical considerations.

SLO 4: Understand how the logic of probability sampling makes it possible to represent large populations with small subsets of those populations.

SLO 5: Understand that survey research involves the administration of questionnaires in a systematic way to a sample of respondents selected from some population

SLO 6: Recognize when to use qualitative interviewing as a data-gathering tool.

SLO 7: Recognize that public organizations produce statistics and data that are often useful for criminal justice researchers.

SLO 8: Understand the differences between EDA and CFA. For example, descriptive statistics are used to summarize data under study.

SLO 9: Understand that tests of statistical significance make assumptions about data and methods that are rarely satisfied completely in social science research.

**Required E-book:**

Maxfield, M. G., & Babbie, E. R. (2014). *Research methods for criminal justice and criminology*. Nelson Education. <https://www.chegg.com/textbooks/research-methods-for-criminal-justice-and-criminology-7th-edition-9781285067841-1285067843>

**Other Readings**

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Articles on Canvas

### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of *forty-five hours for each unit of credit*, including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. **Late homework, quizzes and exams will not be accepted.**

**Requirements:** You are required to read all books, book chapters, and articles in advance. Your grade is based on class participation (discussion on Canvas), quizzes, homework, midterm, research paper proposal (project guideline will be available on Canvas), and final exam.

**Participation:** Success in this class is predicated on regular on line discussion. If you do not discuss regularly, your grade will certainly suffer. To be more specific, your participation grade is graded upon your discussion on the CANVAS

A plus = 100-96%	A = 95-93%	A minus = 92-90%
B plus = 89-86%	B = 85-83%	B minus = 82-80%
C plus = 79-76%	C = 75-73%	C minus = 72-70%
D plus = 69-66%	D = 65-63%	D minus = 62-60%
F = 59-0% 0-179		

### **Justice Studies Department Reading and Writing Philosophy**

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.

### **University Policies**

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/>

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<b>Tentative Schedule</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
Week1	Chapter 1: Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry
Week2	Chapter 2: Foundations of Criminal Justice Research
Week3	Chapter 3: Ethics and Criminal Justice Research
Week4	Chapter 4: General Issues in Research Design
Week5	Chapter 5: Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement
Week6	Chapter 6: Measuring Crime
Week7	Chapter 7: Experimental and Quasi-Experii