

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 114-02 Research Methods in Justice Studies, Spring 2020**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dina M. Kameda, M.S., M.A.
<b>Office Location:</b>	MacQuarrie Hall 508
<b>Telephone:</b>	(408) 832-9939 (cell phone – emergency only)
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM or by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM or better

**Course Format**

The mode of instruction for this course is in person with online supplements. Reliable access to the internet will be required. All written assignments will be submitted via Canvas, and must be in Microsoft Word (\*.doc or \*.docx). If you do not currently own Microsoft Word, the software (both PC and Mac) is available for free to students: <http://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/collaboration/software/instruction>

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**Canvas Course Page and E-mail**

Copies of course materials will be posted on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking your e-mail and Canvas regarding announcements, reminders, and any additional course materials. All course materials will be posted in Adobe PDF format; if you choose to download them, you will need Adobe Reader to view the documents. There is no cost to download Adobe Reader (<http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/students/index.html>).

**Course Description**

Introduction to quantitative research methods used in Justice Studies. Includes relationship of theory to empirical evidence; logic underlying methods of inquiry; ethics in conducting empirical research; and methodological design, operationalization, and data analysis.

## E-mail Policy

Feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check several times per day); however, please adhere to the e-mail guidelines below:

1. Please include in the “subject line” the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS114, Your Name, subject). The instructor **will not** respond to “no subject” e-mails, or any e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.
2. E-mailed inquiries should be relatively short in nature. Students should make an appointment to meet with me to discuss more extensive inquiries. Students will be referred to the course syllabus with respect to questions that are addressed by simply reading the syllabus.

## Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to [CLO1-4]:

1. demonstrate a detailed understanding of the quantitative research methods commonly utilized to conduct empirical research in the areas of social and criminal justice.
2. write a research report in the area of social or criminal justice that applies proper research methodology.
3. understand core concepts and competencies in criminological and justice research including ethical research, empiricism, problem identification, hypothesis formation and testing, sampling, observation, measurement, data analysis, causality, and report writing.
4. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

## Required Texts/Readings

**Required Textbook** (Available at the Spartan Bookstore; ISBN: 978-1-4522-7640-3)

Remler, D. K., & Van Ryzin, G. G. (2015). *Research methods in practice: Strategies for description and Causation* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

## Other Readings/Materials

Additional reading may be assigned based on progression of the course.

## Library Liaison

[Nyle.Monday](mailto:Nyle.Monday)

<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

## Course Requirements and Assignments

### Out-of-Class Written Assignments

General formatting requirements for written assignments include a cover page, page numbering, 1” margins, strict double-spacing, and Times New Roman 12pt. font. All assignments must be written in formal English, with college-level writing mechanics, and APA-style formatting, inclusive of in-text citations and references. Written assignments must be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise noted by the instructor. **Students are 100%**

### **Quizzes on Canvas**

Students should complete the readings prior to the date by which they appear on the syllabus. Quizzes will be completed online via Canvas and will be available for specific windows of time. Once a student begins a quiz, a limited amount of time will be given to complete it. See the course agenda for more information. [CLO1]

### **Assignment #1: Outline of Proposed Research Study**

This assignment will outline the initial components of your proposed research study, including: (1) statement of a research topic; (2) theoretical proposition(s); (3) term definitions; (4) at least one empirical hypothesis that describes a clear comparison and proposed outcome; and (5) variables (i.e., independent, dependent, and background). [CLO1, CLO2 and CLO3]

### **Assignment #2: Outline of Research Design, Sampling, Recruitment, and Procedures (Methodology)**





Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
6	03/02/20	Ch. 12 discussion (Part 2) <b>Reading for today:</b> Ch. 12 <b>Canvas Quiz:</b> Quiz #2 (Ch. 4 and 12): Open from <b>03/02 (12:00 AM)</b> through <b>03/03 (11:59 PM)</b> .
6	03/04/20	Ch. 14 discussion (Part 1) <b>Reading for today:</b> Ch. 14
7	03/09/20	Ch. 14 discussion (Part 2) <b>Reading for today:</b> Ch. 14
7	03/11/20	<b>Assignment #2 Review</b>
8	03/16/20	<b>Assignment #2 Review (continued)</b>
8	03/18/20	Ch. 15 discussion (Part 1) <b>Reading for today:</b> Ch. 15
9	03/23/20	Ch. 15 discussion (Part 2) <b>Reading for today:</b> Ch. 15 <b>Canvas Quiz:</b> Quiz #3 (Ch. 14-15): Open from <b>03/23 (12:00 AM)</b> through <b>03/24 (11:59 PM)</b> .
9	03/25/20	Ch. 5 discussion (Part 1) <b>Reading for today:</b> Ch. 5
10	03/30/20	<b>Spring Break</b>
10	04/01/20	
11	04/06/20	Ch. 5 discussion (Part 2) <b>Reading for today:</b> Ch. 5 Ch. 5 discus#JC" 6 reading

