

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 114, Research Methods, Sec 03, Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Judith Randle
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Office Hours: T/R 10 - 11am (classroom link)
Class Days/Time: W 9:00 -11:45am
Classroom: [@•KDb~È\[\[{ È•BÍÍ€ G €GJ](#)

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.

Note: Must achieve a grade of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

CLO 1: Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the quantitative research methods commonly utilized to conduct empirical research in the areas of social and criminal justice.

CLO 2: 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.

CLO 3: Write a research report in the area of social or criminal justice that applies proper research methodology.

CLO 4: Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

Required Materials

Textbooks

Rennison & Hart (2019). *Research Methods in Criminal Justice & Criminology*. Sage Publications. ISBN 9781506347813

Available for free [online](#) and on CANVAS as a PDF

Other Readings

Journal articles, news articles and book excerpts are listed on the Course Schedule below and posted on the CANVAS website.

Campus Resources

CASA Student Success Center

The Student Success Center in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) provides advising for undergraduate students majoring or wanting to major in programs offered in CASA Departments and Schools. All CASA students and students who would like to be in CASA are invited to stop by the Co%

you do not attend lecture, you must upload the homework to CANVAS by 12pm on the due date. Electronic-only submissions will incur a 10% penalty. Late submissions will incur a 10% penalty for each day late; after 12pm on the due date counts as day one. Each homework is worth approximately 12 points.

your understanding of the course material. **To ensure confidentiality, I am required to communicate with you using only your university account.**

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/>"

JS 114 Sec 03/ Research Methods / Fall 2021 Course Schedule

* The schedule is subject to change with fair notice by the Announcements section on the website and emails to your University account.

Week	Date	Topics, Materials, and Homework Assignments , and In Class Assignments	for lecture	& Key Terms
		*View materials in the order they appear		
1	Aug 19			
2	Aug 25	Hour 1: The Scientific Method and the Research Process in Justice Studies		
		Reading: Textbook Chapter 1		
		Hour 2		



		<p>Reading: Textbook Chapter 2 Optional Reading: I need help choosing a topic Optional Reading: I need to turn my topic into a research question (watch the video on concept mapping) Video: How to Develop a STRONG Research Question (4 mins) Video: Tutorial: How to Read a Scientific Article (5 mins) Video: How to Read a Scholarly Journal Article (5 mins)</p> <p><u>Hour 2: Criminological Theory and the Scientific Method</u></p> <p>Reading: Criminological Theory & Corrections</p> <p>Discussion Post: Criminological Theory In-Class Assignment: Formulating Research Questions</p>	<p>Relevance</p> <p>social theory</p> <p>Induction/Deduction Correlation/Causation Criminology Penology</p>
4	Sept 8	<p><u>Hour 1: Legal Realism, Sociological Jurisprudence, & the Sociology of Law</u></p> <p>Reading: The Need of a Sociological Jurisprudence Reading: What am I? A Potted Plant?</p> <p><u>Hour 2: Writing a Literature Review Part 1: Finding Sources</u></p> <p>Reading: Textbook Chapter 3 to page 172 (stop at “Writing the Literature Review”) Video: The Structure of a Literature Review (10 mins) Reading: What Works? Questions and Answers about Prison Reform</p> <p>Discussion Post: Potted Plants and Room for Discretion in Law</p>	<p>Sociology of law Sociological jurisprudence Legal Formalism/Legal Realism Law on the Books/Law in Action</p> <p>The Gap Literature review</p> <p>Peer-reviewed research Scientific/Scholarly Journal Research Databases Primary/Secondary sources Meta Analysis</p>

5	Sept 15	<p><u>Hour 1: Evaluation Research and Policy Analysis</u></p> <p>Reading: Skim Textbook Chapters 11 & 13</p> <p><u>Hour 2: Writing a Literature Review Part 2: Summarizing the Literature</u></p> <p>Reading: Textbook Chapter 3 page 172 (start at “Writing the Literature Review”) to end</p> <p>In-Class Assignment: Find Five Sources -- Moved to next week</p> <p>In-Class Assignment: Outline a literature review!</p>	
6	Sept 22	<p><u>Hours 1 & 2: Choosing a Research Design</u></p> <p>Video: Qualitative vs. Quantitative Research: the Differences Explained (4 mins)</p> <p>Video: How to Create a Strong Research Design: 2-Minute Summary (2 mins)</p> <p>Video: Research Design: Choosing a Type of Research Design (5 mins)</p> <p>Video: Research Design: Defining Your Research Aims and Approach (5 mins)</p> <p>Due: Literature Review Draft</p> <p>In-Class Assignment: Research Designs</p> <p>Q: The Social Scientific Study of Crime and La Sept</p>	<p>Qualitative/Quantitative</p> <p>Cross-Sectional/Longitudinal</p> <p>Non-/Quasi-/True/Experiment</p> <p>Causation</p> <p>Correlation</p>
7	Sept 29	<p><u>Hour 1: Conceptualization</u></p> <p>Reading: Textbook Chapter 4 to p. 247 (stop at “The Role of Validity”)</p> <p><u>Hour 2: Levels of Measurement</u></p> <p>Due: Literature Review - Final</p> <p>In-Class Assignment: Concepts & Measurements</p>	<p>Concept</p> <p>Level of measurement</p> <p>Nominal/Ordinal/Interval/Ratio</p> <p>Discrete/continuous</p> <p>Likert Scale</p> <p>Dependent/Independent Variable</p> <p>Mutual exclusivity</p> <p>Exhaustiveness</p>
8	Oct 6	<p><u>Hour 1: Validity</u></p> <p>Reading: Textbook Chapter 4 p. 247 to end (start at “The Role of Validity”)</p>	<p>Validity</p> <p>Face Validity</p> <p>Criterion Validity</p>

Reading: Textbook Chapter 7 pp. 411 - 422
("Designing Your Own Survey - "Survey
Administration")

Hour 2: Reliability

See above

Double-barreled question

Reliability

Inter-rater reliability

Matrix question

Discussion Post: Having confidence in what we
measure

In-Class Assignment: Operationalization Exercise

9 Oct

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

		<u>Hour 2: Quantitative Data Analysis</u> Due: Methods Section (Descriptive) - Final	
13	Nov 10	<u>Hours 1 & 2: True Experiment Exercise</u>	
14	Nov 17	<u>Hour 1: Quasi-Experimental Designs</u> <u>Hour 2: TBD</u> Due: Draft Methods Section (Experimental)	
(15)	(Nov 24)		
16	Dec 1		
FIN AL EX AM			