# 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

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## **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 <u>understanding</u> 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 bmthe 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 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 *View materials in the order they appear	for lecture	& Key Terms
1	Aug 19			
2	Aug 25	Hour 1: The Scientific Method and the Research Process in Justice Studies		
		Reading: Textbook Chapter 1		
		Hour 2		

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

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

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

**Hour 2: Reliability** 

See above

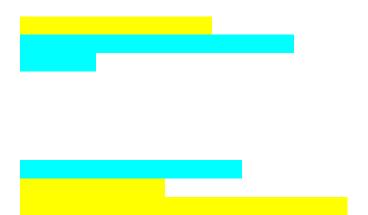
Discussion Post: Having confidence in what we measure

In-Class Assignment: Operationalization Exercise

**Double-barreled question** 

Reliability Inter-rater reliability Matrix question





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