

CJ 2255 Methods of Criminal Justice Inquiry, Fall 2020

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Office Hours:	By appointment only

Course Information

Course Description

Examines the methods criminal justice professionals use to collect and analyze information. Includes locating the literature on a topic, reading scholarly articles, writing a literature review, and documenting properly.

Course Prerequisites/Requirements

CJ 2250: Introduction to Criminal Justice

Required Texts and Materials

Babbie, E. (2010). *The practice of social research* (12th ed.). Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Other materials will be posted to Canvas

Course Learning Outcomes

In Unit I: Students are expected to:

- Understand the basics of research
 - Explain human inquiry
 - Why do people inquire?
 - Where do people get information from?
 - Articulate the importance of methodological research
 - Avoiding the pitfalls of illogical reasoning
 - Types of methodical research in Criminal Justice
 - Legal
 - Philosophical
 - Empirical

- Distinguish between three different purposes of empirical research
 - Explorative
 - Descriptive
 - Explanatory

- Conceptualize and/or understand the importance of CJ/research concepts
 - Research questions
 - Theories
 - Hypothesis
 - Concepts
 - Attributes
 - Variables

In Unit II: Students are expected to:

- Understand basic components of research writing (Part I)
 - How to conduct research on a topic?
 - Proper usage of in-text and reference citation using APA
 - Proper usage of criminal justice databases
 - How to write a bibliography
 - How to write a literature review
 - Distinguish between primary and secondary sources
 - How to write a Introduction

In Unit III: Students are expected to:

- Understand basics of data collection and statistical analysis
 - Distinguish between different units of analysis
 - Distinguish between two types of sampling methods
 - Non-probability sampling
 - Probability sampling
 - Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative studies
 - Basics of survey research
 - Basics of qualitative field research
 - Basics of statistical research
 - Understand basic research ethics
 - Ethical issues and controversies in social research
 - Examples in Criminal Justice

In Unit IV: Students are expected to

- Understand basic components of research writing (Part II)
 - How to write a results/findings section?
 - How to write summaries and conclusions?

In Unit V: Students are expected to:

- Generate/ construct a university level research paper
 - Generate a CJ research question (approved by instructor based on list provided)
 - Conduct research on chosen CJ topic
 - Based on CJ topic, generate
 - Abstracts
 - Introduction
 - Literature review
 - Findings
 - Conclusion/Discussion
 - Bibliography/References

Course Assignments and Grading

Major Assignments

There will be **two (2) exams** and **one (1) final paper**

Unit I Exam: This written exam is on understanding the basic components of research. At this point, students should be able to identify three types of research and their definitions. Students should also be able to conceptualize and understand the purpose of research questions, hypothesis, variables, etc.

Unit III Exam: This written exam is on understanding how to conduct data collection and statistical analysis. At this point, students should be able to: 1) distinguish between different units of analysis; 2) distinguish between primary and secondary sources; 3) distinguish between two types of sampling methods; 4) distinguish between qualitative and quantitative studies.

Final Paper: This is a cumulative seven (7) to nine (9) page final paper (excluding bibliography) for students to demonstrate their knowledge of the basics of research and how to collect data and conduct statistical analysis covered in units II and IV. As such, students will choose a Criminal Justice (CJ) topic and conduct research on chosen CJ topic (using criminal justice related databases). Then, students will write a research paper based the chosen topic. The components of this paper must include the: 1) abstract; 2) introduction; 3) literature review; 4) findings; 5) conclusion/discussion; and 6) bibliography/ references in proper APA format. Deductions will be made if the paper is missing components or there is an improper usage of APA. Examples of papers will be posted.

Each student will work on an independent research project applying what we have learned in class towards investigating a particular topic or question related to criminal justice. Using the General Social Survey, each student will select a question (or dependent variable) of interest, write a literature review to identify relevant theories, causal factors, and published findings, offer one hypothesis to be tested, perform an appropriate statistical analysis using the relevant variables, and interpret and discuss the results.

General Social Survey Data Set: <https://sda.berkeley.edu/sdaweb/analysis/?dataset=gss18>

Minor Assignments

Annotated Bibliography: Students will do scholarly research on their approved chosen CJ topic and write an annotated bibliography. For this assignment, students will choose a MINIMUM of five (5) and a MAXIMUM of eight (8) scholarly, peer reviewed, journal articles and generate an annotated bibliography. Students must follow APA style. This assignment will assist students in writing a draft of the literature review. Students should take this assignment seriously because this assignment will feed into the final paper.

Draft of Literature Review: Students will use the annotated bibliography to produce a draft of the literature review that will feed into will feed into the final paper. The literature review must include ALL of the scholarly resources contained in the annotated bibliography AND must be in APA style. Students are HIGHLY encouraged to paraphrase and synthesize. The sole use of direct quotes will result in a lower grade.

Draft of an Introduction: Lastly, students will write an introduction about their topic.

Course Grading

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Draft Lit Review	10%
Draft of Introduction	10%
Final Paper	40%
Total	100%

Grade Scale

Percentage	Letter Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60%	F

Late Work Policy

Other than a result of unforeseen circumstances, there are *no* make-ups for the two (2) exams and for the (1) final paper. Students will be emailed the exam and will have 3 days to complete each exam, which, then, will be turned in into Canvas. Exams turned in late will be assessed a penalty: a half-letter grade if it is one day late, or a full-letter grade for 2-7 days late. Essays will not be accepted if overdue by more than seven days.

** Since this instructor wants you to pass, if anything weird happens (e.g.: your laptop falls into Turlock Lake, you get food poisoning from a bad order of take-out, you forget to hit “ctrl-S” and lose progress ...) PLEASE don’t hesitate to let me know. You have my e-mail here (and on Canvas). Speaking of, do be sure to hit “ctrl-S” liberally.**

Extra Credit Policy

There would be *no* extra credit assignments.

Grades of "Incomplete"

**Grades of “Incomplete” follow university guidelines (see below) **

An incomplete signifies (1) that a portion of required coursework has not been completed and evaluated in the prescribed time period due to unforeseen but fully justified reasons beyond the student’s control, and (2) that there is still a possibility of earning credit. It is the responsibility of the student to bring pertinent information to the attention of the instructor and to determine from the instructor the remaining course requirements which must be satisfied to remove the Incomplete. The conditions for removal of the Incomplete shall be put in writing by the instructor and given to the student, with a copy placed on file with the department chair. A final grade will be assigned when the work agreed upon has been completed and evaluated.

Any Incomplete must be made up within the time limit set by the instructor; in any case, no more than one calendar year following the end of the term in which the Incomplete was assigned. An incomplete should never be used to (1) give a failing student an opportunity to redo unsatisfactory work or complete additional work; or (2) give a student more time to complete his/her work when the reasons for the delay have been within his/her control. This limitation prevails whether or not the student maintains continuous enrollment. Failure to complete the assigned work will result in an incomplete reverting to a grade of NC for grading options 1 and 2, and to a grade of IC for grading option 3. (See the Academic Standards section of this catalog and the Schedule of Classes Informational Guide for grading options.)

In cases of prolonged illness or any emergency which necessitates an extension of time to complete the course, the student may petition through the academic department where the course was offered. Students may not be permitted to graduate until all Incompletes are removed or evaluated as “IC” grades. Students are not to reregister in courses in which they have an Incomplete.

Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email: As this is an asynchronous class, students are encouraged to email the instructor. Class-related questions will be responded to or acknowledged via email within a 24 hour period. The instructor’s office hours are another appropriate way to ask questions pertaining to assignments, exams, and all other matters relating to this course.

- Email messages from the instructor are considered received as soon as they are sent.
- You are expected to regularly check your email and to have your CSU-Stanislaus email functioning at all times.
- All electronic communication from the instructor will be directed to your CSUSTAN email account.

Online Courses: As this is an asynchronous class, Canvas will be used to submit assignments. This syllabus and other logistical materials (e.g.: *Grading Rubric for Assignment for the Final Paper*) will also be posted on Canvas.

Course Policies: Attendance and Plagiarism

Attendance Policy

As this is an asynchronous class, students are not expected to attend class at a set time and date. However, it is expected that students must complete work assigned in order to receive credit. It is the instructor’s hope that students will complete work on time to receive full credit for their work.

Academic Conduct Policy

There will be zero-tolerance for plagiarism/cheating. Plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a 0.0 for the class. For further information, please see the CSU Stanislaus catalog for [Student Code of Conduct](#).

****For the purposes of this class, all direct quotes and indirect paraphrases from a source MUST be cited in proper APA format****

****Failure to cite in APA format will result in a lower grade****

Cheating

Cheating on exams or copying another person's assignment will not be tolerated; anyone violating this policy will receive an "F" for the course. Plagiarism is a form of cheating and will not be tolerated. Attempting to cheat or assisting another in cheating is cheating.

Resources

University Library

From the instructor's own experiences, the library and the librarians are most helpful. The Library offers face-to-face sessions as well as online tutorials and [research guides](#).

Disability Resource Services

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, you are encouraged to contact me and Disability Resource Services (DRS) at (209) 664-3159 or via the contact options on the [DRS website](#) - - as soon as possible. Drawing upon Universal Design concepts, every effort has been made to make this course accessible to students with disabilities and supportive of students with a variety of learning styles and preferences, but please let me know right away if you have difficulty engaging with the course.

University Writing Center

The Writing Center offers free individual and small group tutoring to students from all disciplines and at all levels of proficiency. Dedicated to encouraging dialogue among writers and helping students become successful writers, the Writing Center provides a supportive, judgment-free atmosphere in which tutors share strategies and experiences at each stage of the writing process. Graduate and undergraduate tutors are evolving writers who, through experience and training, continue to develop their abilities as tutors and writers.

[Writing Center website](#)

Phone: (209) 667-3465

Email: writingcenter@csustan.edu

Other Non- University Resources

Purdue Owl APA Guide: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

APA Quick PDF: <https://apastyle.apa.org/instructional-aids/reference-guide.pdf>

Course Schedule

Important Dates to Remember

Add a short statement that describes that all the dates and assignments are tentative and can be changed at the discretion of the professor. Dates to remember are included in the [official class schedule](#).

For your convenience, the instructor has listed important dates for the fall of 2020, which was retrieved from the [official class schedule](#):

August 24 – December 11
Last day to waitlist for a class: August 23
Last day to add a class: September 21
Last day to drop a class: September 21
Census Date: September 21
Reading Day: n/a
Finals: December 14-18

Tentative Course Schedule/Due Dates*

General Dates

Exam 1- October 9th
CJ RQ Due: October 9th
Annotated Bibliography: October 30th
Draft of Literature Review: November 13th
Draft of Introduction: November 27th
Exam 2- December 4th
Final Paper- December 18th

Weekly Breakdown

Week 1: What to expect from this class?
Week 2: Explain human inquiry
Week 3: Articulate the importance of methodological research
Week 4: Types of methodical research in Criminal Justice
Week 5: Distinguish between three different purposes of empirical research
Week 6: Conceptualize and/or understand the importance of CJ/research concepts
Week 7: Exam on Unit I
Week 8: How to conduct research on a topic?
Week 9: How to write a bibliography
Week 10: How to write a literature review
Week 11: How to write a Introduction
Week 12: Distinguish between different units of analysis
Week 13: Distinguish between two types of sampling methods
Week 14: Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative studies/ Basic research ethics
Week 15: Exam on Unit III
Week 16: How to write a findings section/ How to write summaries and conclusions

*** Note: The Schedule is subject to revision***

This syllabus has been adapted from the following resources:

- [San Jose State University Accessible Syllabus Template](#). Accessed 11/28/11
- [University of Central Florida, Syllabus Template](#). Accessed 11/23/11
- Dr. Abu Mboka's CJ2255 Fall 2020 Syllabus. Accessed 6/8/20
- Mr. Mark Perry CJ 2255 Fall 2018 Syllabus 6/10/20