CJS 441_090 Understanding Criminal Justice Research

Spring 2020
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Office Hours:
• Mondays 9:30 am – 11:30 am
• Tuesday 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
• Wednesdays 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Additional hours by appointment only

Note: Since this is an online course, I will be available for video conference during my office hours (or other times by appointment). If you wish to meet via Zoom video conferencing, notify me via email at least 24 hours in advance of the day and time you wish to meet. If I do not have any other appointments during that day/time, I will send you a video conference link via email that will allow you to meet with me in cyberspace at the appointed time.

Required textbook:

Recommended textbook:

Course Protection and Intellectual Property
My personal work contained in this syllabus, the course calendar, and all handouts and assignments created by me are my intellectual property and are protected by law. You do not have authorization to duplicate any part of the work without my permission.

Course Description:
An Introduction to research methods in criminal justice. It will begin with basic intuition and curiosity and will lead students through the process of creating, understanding and interpreting research. This course is writing enhanced.

CJS 441 Understanding Criminal Justice Research (3 credits) is an upper-level fully online course that occurs over the course of 16 weeks. Students are required to complete weekly reading quizzes which are hosted online through Brightspace and require 30 minutes each to complete. The course also includes a comprehensive final exam hosted on Brightspace which requires one hour to complete. Students will have significant weekly reading assignments and will be required to complete a 10-15 page research proposal facilitated through a series of assignments throughout the semester. Students will spend an average of six hours each week in the completion of assigned work and preparation for in-class sessions.

1 My general office policy is, “if my door is open then I am available to help you.” Do not hesitate to drop by for help or to talk outside my regular office hours if my door is open. Note that I will generally at the Bradshaw State Jail on Thursday afternoons so plan on me not being on campus during those times.
Program Learning Objectives:
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of the purposes and operation of the major components of the criminal justice system, and the student will be able to critically analyze the criminal justice system and its aims and outcomes.
- The student will demonstrate a fundamental understanding of human behavior from a historical, criminological and sociological perspectives that influence the development of criminological theory and the application of theory to justice administration.
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of legal and/or social science research and will apply professional standards of writing and research to criminal justice issues.
- The student will demonstrate an awareness of multicultural and ethical issues in criminal justice, and will use ethical reasoning to formulate decisions and promote positive organizational and professional trust.

Student Learning Objectives: By completing this course, students should be able to:
- Explain the methods and ethical issues related to the study of crime patterns and criminal behavior.
- Develop operational definitions of concepts and measurement for the purpose of criminological research.
- Conduct experimental and quasi-experimental research utilizing appropriate sampling techniques and survey design.
- Demonstrate the basic processes used for program evaluation research related to criminal justice agencies.

“Attendance” Policy:
Since this is an online course, attendance is not relevant. Students who wish to be successful in this course, however, should log on to the course at least 3-4 times a week, complete all assignments, and make use of the professor’s office hours while creating their research proposal.

Grading Policy
Final course grades will be assessed on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>Chapter quizzes:</td>
<td>20% of grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>Mid-term &amp; Final exam:</td>
<td>20% of grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>Assignments:</td>
<td>40% of grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>Research proposal:</td>
<td>20% of grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
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Required Course Work:

- **Quizzes & Exams:**
  - **Chapter Quizzes:** Each week, there will be a quiz associated with the chapter being studied in class that week. All quizzes are due at the beginning of the week before you come to class. All quizzes are hosted on D2L/Brightspace. **Note:** students are required to complete at least one quiz attempt each week before being allowed to access other course material for the week.
  - **Mid-term & Final exam:** At the end of the semester, there will be a comprehensive final exam hosted on D2L/Brightspace. The final exam will utilize the same format as the chapter quizzes.
    - **note:** Students who earn a 90% or better average on the quizzes for chapters 1-5 & 7 will be exempt from the mid-term exam (the quiz average will be used as the mid-term exam grade). Students who earn a 90% or better average on the quizzes for chapters 8-13 will be exempt from the final exam (the quiz average for those quizzes will be used for the final exam grade).
Assignments: Students will be expected to complete two of three available assignments each week related to course material. Due dates and instructions for each assignment are available on the course calendar and with each week’s instructional material. Assignments names are title by week and assignment number. Hence the first assignment from week 2 is entitled W2A1.

Research proposal: Each student will produce a research proposal during the semester. More details regarding this project can be found on D2L/Brightspace.

Incomplete course work: Late assignments will not be accepted, and make-up exams will not be permitted without approval obtained from the instructor based on extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to military deployment, religious holidays/observances, court appearances, jury duty, family emergencies, personal or immediate family illness, or participation in student athletics or other university-approved activity.

Please note the following course policies regarding course work missed as a result of absences:

- Students who miss exams because of participation in student athletics or other university-approved activities will be permitted to take a make-up exam at the professor’s convenience. Such students will also be allowed to make up assignments given or completed in class on the day of the approved absence.
- Students who miss exams for reasons other than student athletics or other university-approved activities will need to provide acceptable documentation of the absence. Acceptable documentation includes, but is not limited to: notices from doctors/medical providers on official stationery that include the date(s) of illness; published obituaries that include the date of funeral services; a copy of military orders; or a copy of jury duty summons or other judicial document supporting a court appearance.
- Requests for make-up exams or late submission of assignments must be made in person during regular office hours. The professor will ignore such requests made by email.

Academic Integrity:
Academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways, including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism include (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Consequences: Students who, by a preponderance of the evidence as judged by the professor, engage in academic dishonesty or plagiarism may face the any or all of the following at the discretion of the professor: (1) receive a grade of zero on the relevant assignment or exam or (2) receive a grade of zero for the course.
Disabled Student Policy:

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Course Withdrawal and Withheld Grades:
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.