

San José State University
Justice Studies
JS 114 (01), Research Methods, Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	(Sambuddha Ghatak, Ph.D.)
Office Location:	(MacQuarrie Hall 513, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 95192-0050)
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Office Hours:	Mondays- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm & Wednesdays- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Class Days/Time:	Mondays- 1:30 pm -2:45 pm & Wednesdays- 1:30 pm -2:45
Classroom:	MQ Hall 523

Course Format: **Lecture**

Course Description (Required)

Introduction to quantitative research methods used in Justice Studies includes exploring relationship of theory to empirical evidence and logic underlying methods of inquiry and ethics in conducting empirical research. Methodological design, operationalization, and data analysis are integral parts of this course.

Prerequisite: JS 10, 12, 25, or FS 11; JS 100W with a grade of "C" or better; JS15 or Stat 95 or equivalent with a "C" or better; Upper Division Standing; Restricted to JS majors and minors. Note: A grade of "C" or better is required for Justice Studies majors. Note that SJSU classes are designed in a way that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours a unit per week), including preparation for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments and so on.

This course will cover philosophy of science, fundamental techniques and procedures, research ethics, and methods of data collection and data analysis in criminal justice and criminological research, with emphasis on quantitative analysis.

Students will leave this course with a firm understanding of different research designs in criminal justice and criminological research. In addition, students will be able to initiate and conduct an independent research project, including proposing meaningful research questions, reviewing literature, and conducting data collection and basic analysis. It is useful to think of research methods as tools that can be used to answer questions about the social world. For example, social scientists have relied on statistics to answer questions such as “Do juvenile smokers commit more delinquent acts than nonsmokers?” or “Do higher levels of patrols by law enforcement officials decrease crime?” During this course, you will learn some of these research methods and statistical techniques and how to use them to answer questions commonly confronted by social scientists. As we move through the course material, you will find that an understanding of a given topic builds on what has been

covered previously. Thus, it is in your best interest to stay current on the readings, follow power-point slides, and ask questions through email if you are unsure about a topic.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) (Required)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

SLO 1: Understand why knowledge of research methods is valuable to criminal justice professionals and how to conduct a review of research literature, write a research proposal, design a research project.

SLO 2: Identify and frame a meaningful research question.

SLO 3: Understand causality as opposed to correlation.

SLO 4: Summarize three fundamental features of social science: theory, data collection, and data analysis; describe how theory and public policy can be closely linked.

SLO 5: Recognize how criminal justice research is shaped by ethical considerations.

SLO 6: Understand how the logic of probability sampling makes it possible to represent large populations with small subsets of those populations.

SLO 7: Recognize that public organizations produce statistics and data that are often useful for criminal justice researchers.

SLO 8: Understand the differences between descriptive and inferential statistics. For example, descriptive statistics are used to summarize data under study.

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

Textbook

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

Textbook

Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011). *The practice of research in criminology and criminal justice*. Los Angeles, CA: Sage. ISBN: 978-1-4129-7875-0.

Other Readings

Other required readings will be posted on Canvas. The readings are subject to change by instructor.

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

Homework: There will be about 6-7 homework assignments to be posted on Canvas. Completed homework must be submitted online. You will get the weekends (Saturday and Sunday) to complete the assignments. These assignments are based on previous week's readings. No late submission will be accepted. Some probable dates of homework assignment are given in the schedule.

Participation. Participating means engaging actively with ideas from readings, lectures, and your peers. You might participate in a number of ways—sharing your own ideas and critiques, working collaboratively in small groups, listening and responding to your classmates, asking thoughtful questions, bringing in relevant articles, or attending office hours. Speaking comfortably about social movements is an important part of your learning in this class, so if you feel uncomfortable speaking in a classroom environment, I encourage you to see me about it.

Midterm Exam: The exam will cover the topics covered before the exam. The exam will include short as well as essay questions.

Final Exam: The final will follow the format of midterm.

Research Paper: Writing a research paper is a major part of this class. The students are required to select a topic in consultation with the instructor and write a research paper on a topic of his/her interest. The research paper should include among others a research question, literature review, theory and hypothesis/ hypotheses.

Other Readings

Other required readings will be posted on Canvas. The readings are subject to change by instructor.

Grading Information (Required)

Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence

A plus = 100 to 96%	A = 95 to 93%	A minus = 92 to 90%	B plus = 89 to 86%	B = 85 to 83%	B minus = 82 to 80%	C plus = 79 to 76%
C = 75 to 73%	C minus = 72 to 70%	D plus = 69 to 66%	D = 65- 63%	D minus = 62 to 60%	F = 59-0%	

Determination of Grades

- Homework: 15%
- Midterm Exam: 25%
- Final Exam: 30%
- Class participation: 15%
- Research Paper: 15%

University Policies (Required)

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/>”

Justice Studies Department Reading and Writing Philosophy

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and

ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

JS 114-01, Research Methods, Spring, 2020, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice and the notice will be made available by email.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	January 27	Introduction
1	January 29	Social Science Research: The basics
2	February 3	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 1: Science, Society, and Criminological Research (Cont.)
2	February 5	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 1: Science, Society, and Criminological Research (Cont.)
3	February 10	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 2: The Process and Problems of Criminological Research
3	February 12	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 2: The Process and Problems of Criminological Research (Cont.) HW assigned
4	February 17	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011). Chapter 3: Research Ethics and Philosophies
4	February 19	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011). Chapter 3: Research Ethics and Philosophies (Cont.) HW assigned
5	February 24	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011). Chapter 4: Conceptualization and Measurement
5	February 26	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011). Chapter 4: Conceptualization and Measurement (Cont.) HW assigned

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	March 2	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011). Chapter 4: Conceptualization and Measurement (Cont.)
6	March 4	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011). Chapter 5: Sampling (Cont.) HW assigned
7	March 9	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011). Chapter 5: Sampling (Cont.)
7	March 11	**Midterm Exam
8	March 16	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 6: Causation and Research Design
8	March 18	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 6: Causation and Research Design (cont.) HW assigned
9	March 23	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 7: Experimental Designs
9	March 25	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 7: Experimental Designs (Cont.) HW assigned
10	March 30 & April 1	Spring Break: No class
11	April 6	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 8: Survey Research
11	April 8	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 8: Survey Research (con.) HW assigned
12	April 13	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 9: Qualitative Methods and Analysis
12	April 15	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 9: Qualitative Methods and Analysis (Cont.)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	April 20	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 12: Quantitative Data Analysis HW assigned
13	April 22	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 12: Quantitative Data Analysis
14	April 27	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 12: Quantitative Data Analysis (Cont...)
14	April 29	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 12: Quantitative Data Analysis (Cont...) HW assigned
15	May 4	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 13: Reporting Research Results
15	May 6	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 13: Reporting Research Results HW assigned
16	May 11	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 13: Reporting Research Results
16	May 13	Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2011) Chapter 13: Reporting Research Results
17	May 18	Final Exam 12:15 – 14:30 pm