

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 114; Sec 04: Research Methods (Spring 2021)

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Janella Tolbert
Office Location:	N/A
Telephone:	Email is the best way to reach me.
Email:	Janella.tolbert@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday – Thursday (2pm to 5pm – appointment only via Zoom)
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	Online via Canvas
Note:	Must achieve a grade of “C” or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Canvas, E-mail

- Canvas Course Page and E-mail Copies of course materials will be posted on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking your e-mail and Canvas (multiple times per week is recommended) regarding announcements, reminders, and any additional course materials. The majority of course materials will be posted in Adobe PDF format; if you choose to download them, you will need Adobe Reader to view the documents. There is no cost to download Adobe Reader (<http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>). Some course materials may need to be accessed via the internet (i.e., web sites).

Course Format

- This course adopts an online classroom delivery format. You will need the access to the internet, computer, and video/word processing software, in order for students to participate in the classroom activities. See University Policy F13-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.
- Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during tests. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible or at the latest one week before the test date to determine an alternative.

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. Prerequisite: JS 10, 12, 25, or FS 11; JS 100W with a grade of "C" or better; JS 15 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. 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.

E-mail Policy

Feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time; however, please adhere to the email guidelines below:

- Please include in the “subject line” the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS114, Your Name, subject). The instructor will not respond to “no subject” e-mails, or any e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.
- E-mailed inquiries should be relatively short in nature. Students should request a time to chat (via Canvas) with me to discuss more extensive inquiries. Students will be referred to the course syllabus with respect to questions that are addressed by simply reading the syllabus.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

- CLO 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.
- CLO 2: Summarize three fundamental features of social science: theory, data collection, and data analysis; describe how theory and public policy can be closely linked.
- CLO 3: Understand that survey research involves the administration of questionnaires in a systematic way to a sample of respondents selected from some population

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

Textbook

- Rennison, Callie M. & Hart, Timothy C. (2018). *Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.

ISBN: 9781506347813

Other Readings

- Will be provided throughout the course by the instructor via canvas.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

- Computer and reliable internet connectivity.

Library Liaison

- For help with library resources and library research (including the use of databases and online research materials—such as journal search engines), students are strongly encouraged to contact the Justice Studies Library Liaison: Nyle Monday, nyle.monday@sjsu.edu.

Course Requirements and Assignments

- SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit, including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on.

- Be sure to submit assignments before the due date. Late work will not be accepted without a documented excuse, and will result in a “0” (zero) grade for the assignment. If you know you will be unable to meet a deadline, email the professor in advance of the due date

Requirements

- You are required to read all books, book chapters, and articles (if any). Your grade is based on class participation (discussion on Canvas), quizzes, and final exam.

Participation

- Success in this class is predicated on regular online discussion. If you do not discuss regularly, your grade will certainly suffer. To be more specific, your participation grade is graded upon your discussion on the CANVAS discussion board. You must post original contributions based on each discussion question and reply to at least TWO of your classmates with meaningful comments.

Grading Information

- You will not be able to drop the class after the official DROP Day (<http://www.sjsu.edu/winter/academic/calendar/>) except when you have medical emergency with your doctor’s note. There will be no make-ups for your missed exams. There will be only one exception to this policy. Those students who provide written notice in advance who must miss class for university business will have special tests arranged usually before the scheduled test. A final grade of incomplete (I) will be reserved for emergency situation only with your doctor’s note. After you submit each task (i.e., quizzes, discussion posts and exams), you should expect to receive feedback for within a week.

Written Assignments

- General formatting requirements for written assignments include a cover page, page numbering, 1” margins, strict double-spacing, and Times New Roman 12pt. font. All assignments must be written in formal English, with college-level writing mechanics, and APA-style formatting, inclusive of in-text citations and references.
- Written assignments must be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise noted by the instructor. Students are 100% responsible for uploading the correct file when submitting an assignment. Failure to upload the correct file will result in a zero or an incomplete for the assignment depending on the grading structure. Assignments must include proper APA citation. Students must reference their journal articles in APA-style formatting. Students should refer to an APA style guide or the Online Writing Lab (OWL) from Purdue University at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/> if unclear about APA guidelines on in-text citations and reference pages.

Final Grade (total points possible: 350 points)

Assignment	Points
Discussion Post (15 total)	150 (10 points each)
Participation (Response to Peer’s Discussion Post – 15 total)	30 (2 points each)
Research Paper	50
Small Project (4 total)	20 (5 points each)
Quizzes (5 total)	50 (50 points each)
Final Exam	50

Grading Information

Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade
98.0 to 100	A plus	84.0 to 87.99	B	71.0 to 73.99	C minus
94.0 to 97.99	A	81.0 to 83.99	B minus	68.0 to 70.99	D plus
91.0 to 93.99	A minus	78.0 to 80.99	C plus	64.0 to 67.99	D
88.0 to 90.99	B plus	74.0 to 77.99	C	61.0 to 63.99	D minus

Other Important Information

- In order to participate in an online course, one must: (1) regularly access the Canvas page for the course; (2) pay close attention to any module prerequisites (i.e., what must be accomplished before accessing the next module) and module completion requirements; (3) be very mindful of due dates and times for all time-restricted components of the course; and (4) carefully read the syllabus, fully read all announcements made by the instructor via Canvas, read all directions for course components. Beyond the completion of assigned readings, sufficient time must be spent contemplating the material for the purpose of being prepared to complete exams and written assignments.
- E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Assignments will only be accepted if submitted in Canvas unless otherwise directed. If you have issues uploading to Canvas, it is your responsibility to contact the IT department and resolve the issue. I will not accept technical issues as an excuse for late or missing assignments.

Quizzes & Exams on Canvas

- Quizzes and exams will be completed online via Canvas and will be available for specific windows of time. Once a student begins a quiz, a limited amount of time will be given to complete it. See the course agenda for more information.
- Exams will be proctored in this course through Respondus Monitor and LockDown Browser. Please note it is the instructor's discretion to determine the method of proctoring. If cheating is suspected the proctored videos may be used for further inspection and may become part of the student's disciplinary record. Note that the proctoring software does not determine whether academic misconduct occurred but does determine whether something irregular occurred that may require further investigation. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor if unexpected interruptions (from a parent or roommate, for example) occur during an exam.
 - Please ensure that you have LockDown installed on your computer.

Canvas Discussions (Participation)

- Students will be required to post original comments, and replies to other students' comments, in response to topics posted by the instructor in the Discussions component of Canvas. Chosen topics will directly relate to readings. A set time frame will be in place for posting of comments and replies, students will only be able to post during said time frames.
- Each initial post (i.e., your original post) will have a minimum word expectation.
- Full credit (i.e., points) for each posted topic will require at least (3) substantive posts, one original post and two replies to other student's post.
 - Example: Amanda will post her original response to the discussion question.
 - There should be at least two responses to Amanda's post from her peers (i.e, Billy and Tim).

- Amanda will then respond to Tiffany and Cindy original post.
- When responding to your peers please read what is needed in the response post (i.e., agree/disagree, follow up questions, explanation, etc.).
 - No one should not have at least two responses under their original discussion post.
- Timely completion of Canvas Discussions will count towards course participation. See course schedule and check canvas.

Final Examination or Evaluation

- There will be a **final** exam in this course.

Technical Difficulties

- Internet connection issues:
 - Canvas autosaves responses a few times per minute as long as there is an internet connection. If your internet connection is lost, Canvas will warn you but allow you to continue working on your exam. A brief loss of internet connection is unlikely to cause you to lose your work. However, a longer loss of connectivity or weak/unstable connection may jeopardize your exam.
- Other technical difficulties:
 - Immediately email the instructor a current copy of the state of your exam and explain the problem you are facing. Your instructor may not be able to respond immediately or provide technical support. However, the copy of your exam and email will provide a record of the situation.

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to:

- Complete all readings and assignments as scheduled.
- Check canvas and mysjsu regularly and be aware of any changes in the class schedule.
- Be respectful to their classmates in discussions and debates.
- Late work will not be accepted.
- General questions (format, deadlines, etc.) can be posted on the course Q&A Board on Canvas.

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>

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately by emailing me or by making an appointment with me as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.

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This schedule is subject to change with fair notice from the instructor via email and/or canvas announcements.

Each Sunday, the module for that week will be published with all assignment and any quizzes.

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Week of: January 27, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction Discussion – post your response by 1159pm on January 31, 2021.
Week of: January 31, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 1 • Discussion Posts
Week of: February 7, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 2 • Discussion Posts
Week of: February 14, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 3 • Discussion Posts • Quiz #1 (Chapters 1-3)
Week of: February 21, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 4 • Discussion Posts
Week of: February 28, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 5 • Discussion Posts
Week of: March 7, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 6 • Discussion Posts • Quiz #2 (Chapters 4-6)
Week of: March 14, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 7 • Discussion Posts
Week of: March 21, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 8 • Discussion Posts
Week of: March 28, 2021	*SPRING BREAK*
Week of: April 4, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 9 • Discussion Posts • Quiz #3 (Chapters 7-9) • Research paper details given

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Week of: April 11, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter • Discussion Posts
Week of: April 18, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 11 • Discussion Posts
Week of: April 25, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 12 • Discussion Posts • Quiz # 4 (Chapters 10-12)
Week of: May 2, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 13 • Discussion Posts • Research paper due
Week of: May 9, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 14 • Discussion Posts • Quiz #5 (Chapters 13-14)
May 20, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Exam *Final will open up at 5:15pm and will close at 7:30pm*