

**SYLLABUS****JUST 200 Introduction to Research Methods in Justice (32168 001)****Spring 2014, 2:30-3:45 p.m. M/W****SSB 119****PROFESSOR:** Marny Rivera, Ph.D.**OFFICE:** LIB 213**PHONE:** 786-1126**E-MAIL:** [mriviera11@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:mriviera11@uaa.alaska.edu)**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00-5:00 p.m. Thursdays 11-12.**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

Justice 200: Introduces social science research methods used in Justice studies, including explication of the scientific method, experimental and quasi-experimental designs, sampling, data collection methods and analytical strategies. Students will participate in exercises that develop their capacity to critically evaluate research designs routinely employed in Justice research and program evaluations. Credits: 3.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Describe how the scientific method is a vehicle for "knowing" and differentiate the scientific method from other epistemologies.
2. List and discuss principles of ethical research practices involving human participants.
3. Identify sources of research questions and characteristics of strong research questions.
4. Discuss how conceptualization and operationalization are used in the measurement of social phenomena.
5. Explain how research studies using surveys, experiments, evaluations, and qualitative research methods are designed to achieve valid and reliable results.
6. Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of various research methods and data collection strategies. Select the most appropriate method(s) based on the research questions and goals of the study.
7. Identify and describe the quantitative analytic strategies available to researchers depending on the level of measurement employed.
8. Demonstrate enhanced information literacy.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

Chambliss, D. F., & Schutt, R. K. (2013). Making sense of the social world (4th ed). Los Angeles: Pine Forge Press.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) cheating on exams, working with other students on quizzes, turning in papers that have not been written by the student claiming to have written them, plagiarizing the work of others, and submitting the same paper twice in different (or the same) courses. Any evidence of academic dishonesty will result in zero points (grade of F) on the exam or assignment it was detected and will be reported to the Dean.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

If you are in need of academic support because of a documented disability (whether it be psychiatric, learning, mobility, health-related or sensory) you may be eligible for academic accommodations through Disability Support Services. Contact DSS at 786-4530, [aydss@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:aydss@uaa.alaska.edu) or Rasmusson Hall 105 for more information.

Your professor for this particular class considers herself an advocate for students and is more than willing to help students in need. However, students are encouraged to meet with the professor as early as possible in order to make arrangements for any necessary and/or helpful accommodations. Professors are not required to make retroactive accommodations, so please make arrangements in advance.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

Students can accumulate points in the following ways

Requirements:	
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Comprehensive Final Exam	100
Quizzes	75
Information Literacy Assignments	50
Information Literacy Project	55
Preparation & Participation	50
Sampling Exercise	10
Data Analysis Exercise	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>

**Final grades will be assigned based on the following percentages:**

A = 89.5-100%

B = 79.5-89.49%

C = 69.5-79.49%

D = 59.5-69.49%

F = Below 59.5%

**Exams:**

Students must complete a total of three exams. Two of the exams will be taken during the semester and a comprehensive final exam will be taken during final exam week. The exams will consist of multiple choice and essay questions.

**Information Literacy Assignments & Project:**

Information literacy refers to the ability to “recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information” (American Library Association, 1989). Enhancing your information literacy will be one of the goals of this course. Your information literacy skills will be developed and assessed through five assignments and a final project. Each assignment will involve library research and will be submitted in the form of a brief (one or two page) document that you will post electronically to Blackboard and submit hard copy in class. Information literacy assignments are also designed to enhance your research methods knowledge and skill. Details about assignment expectations will be posted to the Blackboard site. Proposed assignment due dates are listed in the schedule. Students may be asked to share the results of their information literacy assignments in class and will be awarded points for doing so. The final information literacy project will be informed by the information literacy assignments preceding it.

**Preparation and Participation:**

This course deals with difficult and sometimes complicated issues. The subject matter in this course is complex. Given the rigor essential for the successful completion of the course, it is

highly recommended that you spend at least two hours outside of class in preparation for every hour of course time spent in class. Students are expected to complete assigned course readings prior to class meetings in order to provide a foundation for lecture content. Attendance will be taken and counted as part of your preparation and participation points. Only those students who are committed to putting forth the time and effort required to learn this material will earn passing grades and complete the course. Each student's class participation is encouraged and expected. Comments and questions of everyone are considered valuable and will contribute to class discussion and learning. Your participation and preparation are worth roughly 10% of your final grade.

### Reading Quizzes:

There will be a brief reading comprehension quiz due by 1:30 p.m. on the day that discussion of the chapter is scheduled. Quizzes will be completed on Blackboard and will be made available immediately after class the class period before they are due (sometimes under 48 hours). Students must complete the quiz once it is launched, but will have two opportunities to complete each quiz in order to learn from and correct errors made. There are no makeup quizzes. Students' top 10 quiz scores (out of 12 possible quizzes) will count toward their final grade. Please carefully review the handout on taking Blackboard quizzes to minimize technological errors.

### Study Guides:

Study guides for each chapter of the text and associated lecture content will be provided for students to use in preparation for quizzes and exams. Study guides can be printed from the Blackboard site (preferably double sided) and answers hand written or typed onto the study guides immediately following the question or topic. Paper copies of completed assignments can be submitted at the beginning of class on exam days for extra credit. Study guides should be completed independently; students should NOT work together to complete them.

**Note:** Answers to questions must be provided on the same paper as and immediately following each question or topic in the order in which the questions were provided. Extra credit study guides not following this format will immediately lose 25% of extra credit points.

**Tentative Reading, Assignment and Exam Schedule**

Day Date Class #	Topic or Activity	Reading Associated with Lecture	Assignments/Deadlines
Mon 1/13 Class 1	Why research methods are important		Course Overview
Wed 1/15 Class 2	Reviewing, Proposing and Reporting Research Epistemology and Errors in Reasoning	Chapter 12 Chapter 1	Quiz 1 Due (chapter 12) (available 1/13 @ 3:45 until 1/15 @ 1:30 p.m.)
Mon 1/20	No class		UAA Closed

Wed 1/22 Class 3	Epistemology and Errors in Reasoning Validity and Research Purposes	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	<b>Quiz 2 Due (Chapter 1)</b>
Mon 1/27 Class 4	Validity and Research Purposes	Chapter 2	<b>Quiz 3 Due (Chapter 2) Info Lit Assignment #1 Due</b>
Wed 1/29 Class 5	Research Questions and the Research Wheel	Chapter 2	<b>Profile Card Due</b>
Wed 2/03 Class 6	Appendix A: Finding Information <b>Library Instruction Session #1</b>	Appendix A	<b>Quiz 4 Due (Appendix) Read Appendix A: Finding Information</b>
Mon 2/05 Class 7	Research Ethics Conceptualization & Measurement	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	<b>Quiz 5 Due (Chapter 3)</b>
Mon 2/10 Class 8	Conceptualization & Measurement Levels of Measurement, Reliability and Validity	Chapter 4	<b>Info Lit Assignment #2 Due Quiz 6 Due (Chapter 4)</b>
Wed 2/12 Class 9	Exam Review		
Mon 2/17 Class 10			<b>Exam 1</b>
Wed 2/19 Class 11	Sampling	Chapter 5	<b>Info Lit Assignment #3 Due Quiz 7 Due (Chapter 5)</b>
Mon 2/24 Class 12		Chapter 5	
Wed 2/26 Class 13	Questionnaire Construction and Survey Administration	Chapter 7	<b>Quiz 8 Due (Chapter 7)</b>
Mon 3/03 Class 14	<b>Library Instruction Session #2</b>		<b>Sampling Exercise Due</b>
Mon 3/05 Class 15		Chapter 7	
3/10	Spring Break		<b>No Class</b>
3/12	Spring Break		<b>No Class</b>

Wed 3/17 <i>Class 16</i>	Causation & Experimental Design	Chapter 6	<b>Quiz 9 Due (chapter 6)</b>
Wed 3/19 <i>Class 17</i>		Chapter 6	
Mon 3/24 <i>Class 18</i>		Chapter 6	<b>Info Lit Assignment #4 Due</b>
Wed 3/26 <i>Class 19</i>	Exam Review		
Mon 3/31 <i>Class 20</i>			<b>Exam 2</b>
Wed 4/02 <i>Class 21</i>	Data Analysis	Chapter 8	<b>Quiz 10 Due (chapter 8)</b>
Mon 4/07 <i>Class 22</i>		Chapter 8	<i>UAA withdrawal deadline 4/04</i>
Wed 4/09 <i>Class 23</i>		Chapter 8	
Mon 4/14 <i>Class 24</i>	<b>Library Instruction Session #3</b>		
Wed 4/16 <i>Class 25</i>	Qualitative Methods	Chapter 9	<b>Quiz 11 Due (chapter 9) Data Analysis Exercise Due</b>
Mon 4/21 <i>Class 26</i>		Chapter 9	<b>Info Lit Assignment #5 Due</b>
Wed 4/23 <i>Class 27</i>	Evaluation Research	Chapter 11	<b>Quiz 12 Due (chapter 11)</b>
Mon 4/28 <i>Class 28</i>	Measuring Crime	Lecture Only	<b>Information Literacy Project Due</b>
<b>Friday</b> 5/02	<b>Final Exam</b>	1:00-3:45	<b>Comprehensive Final Exam</b>

**Your professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus and will notify you in a timely manner if changes are made.**

**CLASS POLICIES:**

Late Work: No late work will be accepted in this class. Under special circumstances and based on an agreement between an individual student and your professor, any late work that is accepted will receive a 20% reduction in earned credit for the first day it is late and a 10% reduction in earned credit for each subsequent late day (including weekends). Arrange to submit all work on time to avoid a late work point reduction.

Cell Phones: NO CELL PHONES may be used in class. This means they should not vibrate or ring and no text messaging or accessing caller ID, data, or other information is allowed during class time. If your cell phone goes off in class or you are caught using your cell phone, your professor reserves the right to deduct 5 points from your final grade for each instance and you will be asked to offset the class interruption you generated. If I see or hear your cell phone during a quiz or an exam I will assume you are using it for academically dishonest purposes, and will give you a zero on the quiz or exam. Please alert me to any emergencies that require you to have your cell phone on vibrate.

Email: When emailing your professor, include our course number in the subject line of your email along with the topic of your question (i.e. JUST 200 missing grade). Include your first and last name in the body of the email. Absolutely no emailed assignments will be considered for grading. Please use email appropriately. For most class issues including questions about assignments, your performance in class or feedback and direction on assignments, please arrange to meet with me in my office during office hours rather than send emails. Failing to follow this policy may result in my failure to reply to your email or it may get classified as "spam" and deleted.

Laptops/tablets, similar devices: If you use your laptop or similar device for anything not directly related to class (i.e., taking notes) your professor reserves the right to deduct 5 points from your final grade for each instance.