



47: 202: 301 Criminal Justice Research Methods
3 Credits
Spring 2019

Tuesday/Thursday
5:30-7:30PM – Northern State

I. Course Information

Instructor Information:

Instructor: *Dr. Douglas Evans*

Course Overview:

This introductory course offers a comprehensive review of how research is conducted in criminal justice. It is designed to provide students with a broad understanding of the development of social science research (i.e., sociology, psychology and criminal justice) and its current epistemological debates. The course will also trace the history of unethical research and the current structures that have been developed to curtail such abuses (i.e., Institutional Review Boards and peer-review processes). Students will learn how to apply various research designs (qualitative and quantitative) to topics of inquiry that they find most fascinating. Finally, the course will provide students with an elementary understanding of how to collect, analyze and interpret qualitative and quantitative data.

Learning Objectives:

This course aims to help students:

1. Understand the importance of protecting special populations and more broadly, human subjects.
2. Collate findings from a comprehensive search of the literature on a topic of interest.
3. Differentiate between quantitative and qualitative research design and sampling strategies.
4. Recognize the benefits of mixed-methods research (triangulation).

Required Readings:

Babbie, E. (2011). *The Basics of Social Research*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing. (ISBN: 0495812242)

Course Structure:

This course will consist of lectures, class discussions, and individual and group activities.

II. Course Schedule

Date	Class Topic	Readings & Assignments Due
Week 1	Human Inquiry and Science	Babbie chapter 1
Week 2	Research Questions & Variables	Babbie chapter 2
Week 3	Ethics of Social Research	Babbie chapter 3
Week 4	Research Design	Babbie chapter 4
Week 5	Conceptualization, operationalization, measurement	Babbie chapter 5
Week 6	Sampling	Babbie chapter 7
Week 7	Exam	
Week 8	Experiments	Babbie chapter 8
Week 9	Survey Research	Babbie chapter 9
Week 10	Qualitative Field Research	Babbie chapter 10
Week 11	Unobtrusive Research	Babbie chapter 11
Week 12	Evaluation Research	Babbie chapter 12
Week 13	Qualitative/Quantitative Data Analysis	Babbie chapters 13 & 14
Week 14	Reading and Writing Social Research	Babbie chapter 15
Week 15	Final Exam	

III. Grading

The final grade will be assessed based upon performance on the following:

Grading Weights:

1. Participation/Attendance	20%
2. Writing Assignments	20%
3. Research Paper/Presentation	20%
4. Midterm Exam	20%
5. Final Exam	20%

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Attendance and participation (20%)

Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions in an informed manner. Students should have completed the assigned readings **prior** to class so that the discussions are meaningful and add to the class' understanding of the topic. Students are allowed one free absence. Subsequent absences will result in lost points and more than 3 absences will result in a failing grade.

2. Writing Assignments (20%)

Students will be given assigned writings both in and out of class. The purpose of the writing will be to think critically about the issues we discuss in class. Examples of writing assignments include formulating a research question and designing a study methodology, properly citing sources in APA, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative Quiz, designing a close-ended survey that would measure a phenomenon, and creation of a semi-structured interview guide.

3. Research Paper and Presentation (20%)

Students will conduct original research on a topic TBD. You will first submit a proposal (including topic, research question, and method of data collection) that must be approved by me before beginning your research. The final paper must include 1) an introduction to the issue, 2) a Literature Review that includes citations from several academic sources, 2) a review of your Method of data collection that includes a description of your sample and procedures (including survey/questionnaire instruments if utilized), 3) a summary of your Findings that may include themes and selected quotes, 4) a Discussion in which you summarize your findings and their implications, list your limitations, and offer future directions, and 5) APA references section.

4. Midterm Exam (20%)

Students will be given a short essay midterm examination covering the first half of the course. Handwritten notes may be used.

5. Final Exam (20%)

Students will be given a short essay final examination covering the second half of the course. Handwritten notes may be used.

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

A	90–100%
B+	85-89%
B	80-84%
C+	75-79%
C	70-74%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

Late or Missing Assignment Policy:

Each day an assignment is late students will lose ONE letter grade.

IV. Course Policies**Classroom Rules**

Be courteous to one another despite differing viewpoints. Communicate with me honestly about any issues – clarification of course material or assignments, absences, and late work.

Academic Integrity

As a member of the Rutgers University community you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity>

Your academic work should be the result of your own individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not your own. Violations of the university's policy will result in appropriate action.

Students with Disabilities

Rutgers University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Nondiscrimination Policy of the University and in compliance with § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For additional information please visit the website <https://ods.rutgers.edu/> or contact the representative for the Newark Campus.

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Psychological and Counseling Services

If you experience psychological or other difficulties as a result of this course, or because of other issues that may interfere with your performance in the course, please contact the university's psychological and counseling service center (<http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu>; 973-353-5805), which is located in Blumenthal Hall, room 101. The center offers a variety of free, confidential services to part-time and full-time students who are enrolled at Rutgers.