

47: 202: 301
Introduction to Research Methods in Criminal Justice
Four Credits
Fall, 2018

Tuesdays & Thursdays
2:30pm-4:55pm

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: EDEM F. AVAKAME, Ph.D.
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Phone: 862-230-1589 (TILL 10PM)
Office Hours: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

COURSE OVERVIEW

This is a required course. It is an introduction to the logic, process, and methods of social scientific inquiry. It introduces the idea of science, the importance of science and scientific method, as well as the superiority of scientific knowledge over most other forms of human understanding. Students who take this course will become informed consumers of criminological research, and gain the abilities necessary to conduct their own basic research. Specific topics to be covered include the logic of scientific discovery, research design, principles of reliability and validity, sampling theory, survey preparation, and the differences between, and strengths and detriments of, experimental and quasi-experimental research designs.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

None

B.S., CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM LEARNING GOALS

Upon completion of the B.S. in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Newark, students should be able to:

- 1) Describe the development and functions of major criminal justice institutions (e.g., police, courts, corrections, and juvenile justice), the activities of actors within these institutions, and how they relate to one another as well as the broader social, political, and economic world.
- 2) Describe the mechanisms, correlates, theoretical underpinnings, and situational contexts of crime, criminal behavior and opportunity, and techniques for prevention and treatment.
- 3) Apply and analyze theories related to the policies and practices of the criminal justice system and its major institutions.
- 4) Demonstrate the ability to gather, explain, and apply empirical data in the field of criminal justice.
- 5) Obtain a comprehensive knowledge about the process of conducting criminal justice research, and develop the skills to conduct criminal justice research with appropriate methodologies.

CORE LEARNING OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Describe common methods of social science inquiry.
2. Discuss the linkage between research questions and research design.
3. Explore major debates about research methods, social science, and ethics in research.
4. Critically evaluate social scientific evidence and research.
5. Become better-informed consumers of news reports, political rhetoric, and public discussion about the social world and social scientific research.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The instruction will be delivered through lectures and classroom discussions.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Maxfield & Babbie (2015). Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- Topic # 1: Introduction to the Logic of Scientific Discovery (M&B Chap. 1)
- Topic # 2: Causation and Validity (M&B Chap. 4)
- Topic # 3: Research Design 1: Theory (M&B Chap. 2)
- Topic # 4: Research Design 2: Conceptualization (M&B Chap. 5)
- Topic # 5: Research Design 3: Operationalization (M&B Chap. 5)
- Topic # 6: Research Design 4: Measurement (M&B Chap. 5 and 6)
- Topic # 7: Sampling and Sampling Distributions (M&B Chap. 8)
- Topic # 8: Survey Research (M&B Chap. 9)
- Topic #9: Quasi-experiments, True Experiments, and Evaluations (M&B Chap. 7)
- Topic #10: Program Evaluation and Policy Analysis (M&B Chap. 13)
- Topic # 11: Qualitative Field Research (M&B Chap. 10)
- Topic # 12: Ethics and Politics of Social Research (M&B Chap. 3)

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

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

- Three examinations (20% each)
- Written Assignment – 40%

Late or missing assignments will not be accepted.

ATTENDANCE & CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class attendance and participation are mandatory. Students are responsible for what takes place in class during their absence.

THE FOLLOWING GRADING SCALE WILL BE USED IN ASSIGNING FINAL GRADES

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

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.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

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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Robeson Campus Center, Suite 352
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Website: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

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.

If you are interested in finding out more about

- Accelerated Master's Program (B.S. /M.A.)
- Criminal Justice National Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma)

Please refer to the School of Criminal Justice website <http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/>

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