

**San José State University  
Justice Studies Department  
Summer 2022  
JS 114 Research Methods**

**Contact Information**

**Instructor:** Wilson Yuan Ph.D.

**Office Location:** Online office hours by Zoom only

**Email:** [wilson.yuan@sjsu.edu](mailto:wilson.yuan@sjsu.edu)

**Classroom:** SJSU Canvas

**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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.

**MYSJSU Messaging**

You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU. Course materials including syllabus, notes, assignment, and journal articles can be found on the Canvas website. I will respond to your email within 24 hours from Monday to Friday. All email correspondence should contain your name, class title and section. If you are having difficulty with the material or an assignment, please email me your questions before the Friday when it is due.

**Course Description**

**Catalog 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.

**Course Goals**

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 proposal. 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 “Has the level of violent crime in American cities increased over the past decade?” or “Do juvenile smokers commit more delinquent acts than nonsmokers?” 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. That said, it is important that you do not fall behind in this class. 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, take detailed notes, and ask questions if you are unsure about a topic.

### **Student Learning Objectives are as follows:**

Upon completion of this course, students should 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: Summarize three fundamental features of social science: theory, data collection, and data analysis; describe how theory and public policy can be closely linked.

SLO 3: Understand that survey research involves the administration of questionnaires in a systematic way to a sample of respondents selected from some population

### **Required E-book:**

Maxfield, M. G., & Babbie, E. R. (2017). *Research methods for criminal justice and criminology (8th Edition)*. Nelson Education. ISBN-13: 978-1337091824

### **Other Readings**

- Richlin-Klonsky, J., Strenski, E., & Giarrusso, R. (2001). *A guide to writing sociology papers*. Macmillan.
- Galvan, J. L. (2006). *Writing literature reviews. A guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences (3rd ed.)*. Glendale, CA: Pyrczak.
- Articles on Canvas

### **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. *Late homework, quizzes and exams will not be accepted.*

**Requirements:** You are required to read all books, book chapters, and articles in advance. Your grade is based on class participation (discussion on Canvas), quizzes, midterm, and final exam. [SJSU Respondus Monitor](#) will be your midterm and final exam proctor.

**Participation:** Success in this class is predicated on regular on line 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 one of your classmates with meaningful comments. Discussion Rubric will be posted in Canvas.

**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.

**Final Grade (total points possible: 200 points)**

The point totals break down as follows:	
On-line discussion	50 points
Quizzes	50 points
Midterm	50 points
Final exam	50 points
Total	200 points

**Total Points Possible: 400 points (There is no possibility of extra credit)  
Percent to Letter Grade Correspondence**

A plus = 100-96%	A = 95-93%	A minus = 92-90%
B plus = 89-86%	B = 85-83%	B minus = 82-80%
C plus = 79-76%	C = 75-73%	C minus = 72-70%
D plus = 69-66%	D = 65-63%	D minus = 62-60%
F = 59-0% 0-179		

**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.

### **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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>”

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<b>Tentative Class Schedules</b>
<b>Online orientation</b>
Crime, Criminal Justice, and Scientific Inquiry
Foundations of Criminal Justice Research
Ethics and Criminal Justice Research
General Issues in Research Design
Concepts, Operationalization, and Measurement
Measuring Crime
Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs
Sampling
Survey Research
Qualitative Interviewing
Field Observation
Evaluation Research and Problem Analysis