

CJ 520 –RESEARCH METHODS & PLANNING

University of Southern Mississippi ~ Fall 2009

MW 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. CH 100

Instructor: Wendi Goodlin

Office: 120 Arthell Kelley Hall

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **AND ALWAYS** by appointment

Phone: 601-266-5660

Email: Wendi.Goodlin@usm.edu

Required Textbook:

Maxfield, M.G., & Babbie, E. (2009). Basics of research methods for criminal justice and criminology (2nd Edition). Belmont: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-0-495-50385-9

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To provide an overview of the basic components of research in the social sciences
- To understand ethical issues in social science research
- To comprehend the steps in a research project
- To be able to interpret basic statistical results

ATTENDANCE:

Although an attendance grade will not be assigned, students, whether present or not, are responsible for all assigned readings, materials presented in class, class discussions, assignments, and any announcements concerning course procedures or changes in the course schedule. If you do not attend class regularly, it is unlikely that you will do well in the class.

GRADING SCALE:

Your grade will be based on three exams in the course, with each constituting 20% of your final grade. Each exam will be based on material from the readings as well as material from lecture and class discussion. Exams **MUST** be taken on the scheduled date unless there are **serious extenuating** circumstances (e.g. **YOU** are in the hospital), which are determined by the instructor. **Also, you MUST let the instructor know the serious extenuating circumstances PRIOR to the start of the original exam time.** Appropriate documentation from a physician, clinic, or hospital **MUST** be provided for documentation in order to make-up an exam. Failure to take the exam on the scheduled date can result in a one-half letter grade penalty per day. A score of zero will be assigned after two weeks have elapsed. If a make-up exam is given, it will be an alternative version to the original exam.

The remaining 30% of your grade will be based on assignments and a final research paper (please see “Research Paper Guidelines” below) that you will write throughout the semester. Assignments and paper topics will be explained and given throughout the semester. For help with the writing assignments, please see <http://www.usm.edu/cj/goodlin.htm> for additional Writing Tips. Papers are due by the day and time they are scheduled to be turned in. **Late papers will be accepted but for every day late (including the weekends), your grade will drop one-letter grade. E-mail submissions will NOT be accepted.** Your last name and page number **MUST** be included on every page (except for the first page) in case your papers become loose. In addition, **headings for EACH assignment/paper should look like this:**

Your Name
Dr. Wendi Goodlin
AJ 520 (Fall 2009)
Date Due
Assignment Name

Grading Scale for Each Assignment/Paper:

A = 95% = Answered ALL questions thoroughly, cited correctly, & NO grammatical errors

B = 85% = Answered all questions but not thoroughly, OR Has 5 grammatical errors, OR Failed to answer one of the questions

C = 75% = Answered all questions but not thoroughly, OR Has 10 grammatical errors, OR Failed to answer two of the questions

D = 65% = Answered all questions but not thoroughly, OR Has 15 grammatical errors, OR Failed to answer three of the questions

F = 0% = Failure to turn-in an assignment/paper

RESEARCH PAPER GUIDELINES:

These guidelines provide a brief outline of the parts of the paper as they should appear in the final paper. This paper is to be at least 15 pages in length (not including title, abstract, and works cited pages). Please place the headings of each section below as headings for sections of your paper; this will help you ensure you are not leaving something out. Please use APA format, Times New Roman 12 point font, one inch margins, and double-spacing. Please use proper grammar as well as correct spelling and punctuation. You MUST write this paper using the third person and do not use contractions.

Title Page: This should be in the format of a traditional journal article title page.

Abstract: This should summarize what you did for this paper and any important findings.

Introduction: The introduction should include what you are studying and explain why the issue (MUST BE AN ISSUE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE FIELD AND IT MUST BE APPROVED BY DR. GOODLIN!) is not only socially important but important to criminal justice agencies.

Literature Review: This section of the paper should discuss the current literature available on the topic of your choosing and why it is still lacking in trying to explain what you are studying.

Statement of hypotheses and rationale for hypotheses: First, give a brief introduction to your project indicating what you are looking at and why it is important. Then, give hypotheses relating each independent variable to the dependent variable. That is, you need to state what relationships you expect to find between your independent and dependent variables. In addition, please make sure you support why you expect to find each relationship.

Methods and descriptive results: In this section, please describe the data set that you are using (i.e. what is the name of the dataset, why did you choose this dataset, what type of respondents are included in the dataset, how many males/females, what races are included, etc.). Make sure you include the total number of respondents in the dataset and how many are used in your study. In addition, you must indicate each variable that you used and making it very clear which variables are dependent, independent, and control. Moreover, you must describe each variable in detail including what variables were used, how they were phrased, what the alpha levels are, if and how they were recoded, what the means/distributions are, etc.

Bivariate and Multivariate Results: In this section please tell explain what you found. Where your hypotheses supported? Please include p-values and interpret your results. Why or why not? Please include evidence from previous research to support your explanations.

Conclusion: In this section, please summarize your findings, discuss any limitations of your study, and any suggestions for future research.

Works Cited Page: Please use APA format and ONLY USE PEER-REVIEWED journal articles. Books can also be used but please make sure they are books that are relevant to your research topic.

PLAGIARISM TUTORIALS ASSIGNMENT:

An additional 5% of your grade will be based on signing and submitting the last page of the syllabus stating that you understand the classroom policies and rules and USM's plagiarism policy to Dr. Goodlin by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 28th**. Failure to do so will result in a "0" for 5% of your grade. **DR. GOODLIN WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT!**

The last 5% of your grade will be based on completing the Plagiarism Tutorial (found on the Library's website at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php>) and e-mail BOTH your PRE- AND POST- scores to the instructor by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 28th. Failure to e-mail BOTH scores by the schedule time will result in a "0" for 5% of your grade. DR. GOODLIN WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT!

GRADING SCALE:

Your grades for the semester will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90% and above
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = Below 60%

Final Grade Based on Above Scale

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Papers & Assignments	30%
Academic Honesty Statement	5%
Plagiarism Score Assignment	5%

Final Grade = (Exam 1*0.20) + (Exam 2*0.20) + (Exam 3*0.20) + (Average of Assignments*0.30) + (Academic Honesty Statement*0.05) + (Plagiarism Score Assignment*0.05)

Although a "class participation grade" will not be assigned, you are encouraged to ask questions and initiate class discussion. Those who contribute regularly increase the likelihood of receiving a higher grade in the course, especially for those who have a borderline grade.

COURSE POLICIES:

- Extra credit work will **NOT** be accepted under any circumstances.
- E-mailed assignments will **NOT** be accepted under any circumstances.
- Incompletes are warranted **ONLY** under unusual or extenuating circumstances. A grade of “INC” will be assigned **only if prior and explicit arrangements have been made with me.**
- You will receive a failing grade if all requirements for the course are not completed.
- When sending e-mails to the instructor, **ALWAYS** include your name!
- **THE USE OF CELL PHONES, PAGERS, LAPTOP COMPUTERS, AND PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANTS (PDAS) IS NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS. THIS INCLUDES TEXT MESSAGING. CELL PHONES, PAGERS, AND PDAS MUST BE TURNED OFF AND PUT OUT OF SIGHT DURING CLASS. IF THESE ELECTRONICS ARE USED IN CLASS, DR. GOODLIN WILL ASK YOU TO LEAVE THE CLASSROOM.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

The instructor and students in this course will adhere to the University’s general Codes of Conduct defined in the *USM Student Handbook*. Specifically, the Code of Academic Conduct (Academic Honesty Policy) requires that students do not cheat, fabricate, plagiarize or facilitate academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism is scholarly theft, and it is defined as the unacknowledged use of secondary sources. More specifically, any written or oral presentation in which the writer or speaker does not distinguish clearly between original and borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Because students, as scholars, must make frequent use of the concepts and facts developed by other scholars, plagiarism is not the mere use of another's facts and ideas. However, it is plagiarism when students present the work of other scholars as if it were their own work. Plagiarism is committed in a number of ways:

1. Reproducing another author's writing as if it were one's own.
2. Paraphrasing another author's work without citing the original.
3. Borrowing from another author's ideas, even though those ideas are reworded, without giving credit.
4. Copying another author's organization without giving credit.

Plagiarism is a serious offense. An act of plagiarism may lead to a failing grade on the paper and in the course, as well as sanctions that may be imposed by the student judicial system.

According to the USM Undergraduate Bulletin “When cheating is discovered, the faculty member may give the student an F on the work involved or in the course. If further disciplinary action is deemed appropriate, the student should be reported to the Dean of Students. In addition to being a violation of academic honesty, cheating violates the Code of Student Conduct and may be grounds for probation, suspension, and/or expulsion. Students on disciplinary suspension may not enroll in any courses offered by The University of Southern Mississippi.”

As a reminder, students must sign and return to Dr. Goodlin the sheet at the end of the syllabus stating that they understand USM’s academic honesty policy and also understand that if they do not uphold the standards of academic honesty, the instructor will enforce all applicable punishment by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 28th. Failure to do so will result in a score of “0” for 5% of your grade.

DISABILITY SERVICES:

In accordance with University policy, if a student has a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

Address: The University of Southern Mississippi Office for Disability Accommodations 118 College Drive # 8586 Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Voice Telephone: (601) 266-5024 or (228) 214-3232 Fax: (601) 266-6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the *Mississippi Relay Service* at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or email Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu.

OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

University policy requires that every reasonable effort be made to allow students to observe religious holidays without academic penalty. It is the student's obligation to provide the instructor with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which he or she will be absent. Absence from classes or examinations for religious reasons, however, does not relieve the student of responsibility for completing required work that is missed. Following the necessary notification, the student should consult with the instructor to determine what appropriate alternative opportunity will be provided to allow the student to fully complete his or her academic responsibilities.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, & EXAMS:

Introduction to Research Methods: Aug. 24 & 26
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 1

Ethics in Criminal Justice Research: Aug. 31 & Sept. 2
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 2

SEPT. 7: LABOR DAY ~ NO CLASSES!

General Issues in Research Design: Sept. 9 - 23
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 3-4

Review for First Exam: Sept. 28

FIRST EXAM: SEPT. 30 BRING A SCANTRON WITH YOU!

Research Design: The Experimental Model & Its Variations: Oct. 5 & 7
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 5

Sampling: Oct. 12 & 14
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 6

Sampling & Survey Research: Questionnaires: Oct. 19 & 21
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 7

Field Research: Oct. 26 & 28
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 8

Review for Second Exam: Nov. 2

SECOND EXAM: NOV. 4 BRING A SCANTRON WITH YOU!

Secondary Data: Nov. 9 & 11
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 9

Interpreting Data: Nov. 16 & 18
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 11

Policy Analysis and Evaluation Research: Nov. 23 & 30
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 10

Review for Final Exam: Dec. 2

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9 1:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

This schedule is tentative in nature and Dr. Goodlin reserves the right to alter this schedule throughout the semester. Any changes will be announced in class.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **SEPT. 1: LAST DAY TO DROP FULL-SEMESTER CLASSES W/O FINANCIAL PENALTY**
- **SEPT. 30: EXAM 1**
- **SEPT. 30: LAST DAY TO DROP FULL-SEMESTER CLASSES W/O ACADEMIC PENALTY**
- **NOV. 4: EXAM 2**
- **NOV. 6 LAST DAY FOR GRADUATION APP.**
- **DEC. 9: FINAL EXAM (1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.)**
- **DEC. 11: GRADUATION**

Please Sign and Return the following page to Dr. Goodlin by Friday, August 28th by 5:00 p.m. Failure to return this sheet by this time will result in a “0” for 5% of your grade.

By signing this document, I acknowledge receipt of the current syllabus for AJ 420 (Fall 2009) and I have read and understand the course policies and classroom rules. In addition, I understand USM’s academic honesty policy and also understand that if I do not uphold the standards of academic honesty, Dr. Goodlin will enforce all applicable punishment. I also understand that I am not to use cell phones, pagers, computers, PDAs, or any other electronic devices in class and if I fail to adhere to this rule, I will be asked to leave the classroom.

Student Printed Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Professor Signature

Date