

## **CJ 520 –RESEARCH METHODS & PLANNING**

University of Southern Mississippi ~ Spring 2010

MW 3:30 – 4:45 p.m. CH 100

**Professor:** Wendi Goodlin

**Office:** 120 Arthell Kelley Hall

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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
- To understand basic SPSS procedures and analyze results in SPSS

### **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 lectures and class discussions. 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 Dr. Goodlin. **Also, you MUST let Dr. Goodlin 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 research paper that you will write throughout the semester. Assignments as well as topics for the research paper will be explained and given throughout the semester. For help with common writing errors, 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. **Your papers MUST be stapled BEFORE you turn them in!** In addition, **headings for EACH assignment/paper should look like this:**

Your Name  
Dr. Wendi Goodlin  
CJ 520 (Spring 2010)  
Date Due  
Assignment Name:

**Grading Scale for Each Assignment/Paper:**

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

**B = 85% = Answered ALL required questions but NOT thoroughly, OR Has 5 grammatical errors, OR Failed to answer one of the required questions**

**C = 75% = Answered ALL required questions but NOT thoroughly, OR Has 10 grammatical errors, OR Failed to answer two of the required questions**

**D = 65% = Answered ALL required questions but NOT thoroughly, OR Has 15 grammatical errors, OR Failed to answer three of the required questions**

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

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 12:00 p.m. on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**. **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 a Plagiarism Quiz that will be **randomly (unannounced)** given in class. **A make-up Plagiarism Quiz will NOT be given and you MUST be in class in order to complete the Plagiarism Quiz. Failure to be in class the day the Plagiarism Quiz is given will result in a "0" for 5% of your grade.**

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%
Research Paper & Assignments	30%
Academic Honesty Statement	5%
Plagiarism Quiz Score	5%

Final Grade = (Exam 1\*0.20) + (Exam 2\*0.20) + (Exam 3\*0.20) + (Average of Research Paper & Assignments\*0.30) + (Academic Honesty Statement\*0.05) + (Plagiarism Quiz Score\*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 Dr. Goodlin, **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:**

Dr. Goodlin 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, Dr. Goodlin will enforce all applicable punishment by 12:00 p.m. on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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 Dr. Goodlin 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 Dr. Goodlin 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: Jan. 25 & 27  
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 1

Ethics in Criminal Justice Research: Feb. 1 – 10  
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 2

**FEB. 15 & 16: MARDI GRAS ~ NO CLASSES!**

General Issues in Research Design: Feb. 17 & 22  
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapters 3-4

**FIRST EXAM: FEB. 24                    BRING A SCANTRON WITH YOU!**

Research Design: The Experimental Model & Its Variations: March 1 & 3  
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 5

Sampling: March 8 & 10  
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 6

**MARCH 15-19: SPRING BREAK ~ NO CLASSES!**

Sampling & Survey Research: Questionnaires: March 22 & 24  
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 7

Field Research: March 29 & 31  
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 8

Review for Second Exam: April 5

**SECOND EXAM: APRIL 7                    BRING A SCANTRON WITH YOU!**

Secondary Data: April 12 & 14  
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 9

Interpreting Data: April 19 & 26  
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 11

Policy Analysis and Evaluation Research: April 28 & May 3  
Read: Maxfield & Babbie Chapter 10

Review for Final Exam: May 5

**FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 10:45 A.M. – 1:15 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:**

- FEB. 1: LAST DAY TO DROP FULL-SEMESTER CLASSES & RECEIVE FINANCIAL CREDIT
- FEB. 24: EXAM 1
- MARCH 3: LAST DAY TO DROP FULL-SEMESTER CLASSES W/O ACADEMIC PENALTY
- MARCH 12: LAST DAY FOR GRADUATION APP.
- APRIL 7: EXAM 2
- MAY 12: FINAL EXAM (10:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.)
- MAY 15: GRADUATION

**Please Sign and Return the following page to Dr. Goodlin by Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> by 12:00 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 CJ 520 (Spring 2010) 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.

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Student Printed Signature

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Date

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Student Signature

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Date

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Professor Signature

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Date