The University of Southern Mississippi
School of Criminal Justice

Methods of Criminal Justice Research and Planning (CJ420 H001)
Fall 2017
Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00 am – 9:15 am
Arthell Kelley Hall 107

Instructor: Dr. Charlie Scheer
Office: 117 Arthell Kelley Hall
Phone: 601-266-4516
Email: charles.scheer@usm.edu

Office Hours (also by appointment):
Monday 9-4
Wednesday 9-12

Course Description
This course is designed to provide undergraduate students with an understanding of the various methodologies used by social science researchers and practitioners in pursuit of answers to criminal justice research questions. It is my expectation that by course’s end, you will be able to more accurately assess the nature of problems and challenges in this field, choose from a variety of social science research techniques, and apply these methods of research to responding to different challenges. Criminal justice professionals are faced with challenges each day, and the field’s growing reliance on “best practices” and “evidence-based response” is an indication of the importance of these skills. At every level of criminal justice organization there is a need for accurate and reasonable problem solving: in this course, you’ll learn not only what that implies, but how the need for better methodologies of problem solving often constitutes a separate challenge in itself. We’ll navigate these issues (and more) as we survey the methodologies and the exercise of inquiry behind them.

Text

Grading Criteria
Exam 1 20%
Exam 2 20%
Exam 3 (Final Exam) 20%
Writing assignments (4) 40%
TOTAL 100%

Grading scale
A = 90-100%  D = 60-69%
B = 80-89%  F = 59% or less
C = 70-79%

Exams: Exams will consist of SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS and MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS. Exam essay grading criteria will be discussed in class and posted on Canvas. Any make-up exams will be scheduled on a case-by-case basis with instructor approval, and will only be considered for emergencies or special cases. Documentation will be required. Exam material will be drawn from class lectures, readings, and discussions.
Attendance: Class attendance is required. If you miss more than 1 class session during the semester without documentation or prior contact with me, two points will be deducted from your final grade for each class missed beginning with the second absence. Exam material will be drawn from class lectures, readings, and discussions. Students are responsible for obtaining missed lecture or discussion notes from other students and not the instructor.

Student responsibilities

Disruptive Behavior: Policy STUA-DS-011 of the Code of Student Conduct for students at The University of Southern Mississippi outlines prohibited student conduct in classroom environments and campus-wide. All University of Southern Mississippi students have a right to scholarly relationships with faculty based on mutual trust and civility. No student shall interfere with, obstruct, or disrupt classroom learning. At the instructor’s discretion, students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom will be dismissed and may be subject to disciplinary action through judicial processes.

Academic Honesty: Policy STUA-DS-015 of the Code of Student Conduct for students at The University of Southern Mississippi states: "Students at The University of Southern Mississippi are expected to practice academic honesty in all their work at the university." In addition, the School of Criminal Justice adheres to these policies on academic honesty. The policy may be viewed here: http://www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-stua-ds-015

The coursework you develop and turn in, here and elsewhere, will always be your own. You cannot submit work for this course that you have used elsewhere. Violations of USM rules for academic honesty may result in a penalty grade, including - but not limited to - a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact the instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work.

Academic Integrity Syllabus Statement
All students at The University of Southern Mississippi are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all that they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):

- Cheating (including copying from others’ work)
- Plagiarism (representing another person’s words or ideas as your own; failure to properly cite the source of your information, argument, or concepts)
- Falsification of documents
- Disclosure of test or other assignment content to another student
- Submission of the same paper or other assignment to more than one class without the explicit approval of all faculty members’ involved
- Unauthorized academic collaboration with others
- Conspiracy to engage in academic misconduct

Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting others who do so will result in academic penalties and/or other sanctions. If a faculty member determines that a student has violated our Academic Integrity Policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including the possibility of receiving a grade of “XF” for the course, which will be on the student’s transcript with the notation “Failure
due to academic misconduct.” For more details, please see the University’s Academic Integrity Policy: https://www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-acaf-pro-012 Note that repeated acts of academic misconduct will lead to expulsion from the University.

Schedule details & reminders
Wednesday, August 16 – All classes begin
Thursday, August 17 – First class session for this course
Wednesday, August 23 – Last day to drop this class without financial or academic penalty
*** After this date, no tuition refund will be issued, and all approved drops will result in a grade of W.
Thursday & Friday, October 19 & 20 – FALL BREAK (no classes)
Friday, October 27 – Last day to withdraw from the University and receive a grade of “W”
***After this date, no course withdrawals are permitted (meaning an actual grade will be issued)
Wednesday - Friday, November 22-24 – Thanksgiving holiday
Thursday, November 30 – Last class session for this course
Tuesday December 5, 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM - Final Exam

Accommodations for students with disabilities:
I will make every effort as your instructor to accommodate students with special needs. 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.

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

Contact Information:
Telephone: (601) 266-5024
TTY: (601) 266-6837
Fax: (601) 266-6035
www.usm.edu/oda

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

Course outline

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic/Assignment</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (Aug 17)</td>
<td>Purposes of the criminal justice research process</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 (Aug 22 &amp; 24)</td>
<td>The relationship between theory and research methodology <strong>Writing Assignment #1 due (Aug 24)</strong></td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
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<td>3 (Aug 29 &amp; 31)</td>
<td>Conducting ethical research</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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4 (Sep 5 & 7) The structure of research methodology
Concepts, Operationalization, & Measurement Ch. 5

5 (Sep 12 & 14) Research design, part 1
Exam #1 (Sep 14) Ch. 4

6 (Sep 19 & 21) Research design, part 2
Writing Assignment #2 due (Sep 21) Ch. 4

7 (Sep 26 & 28) Scales and typologies Ch. 6

8 (Oct 3 & 5) Sampling methods Ch. 7

9 (Oct 10 & 12) Experimental research
Writing Assignment #3 due (Oct 12) Ch. 8

10 (Oct 17) Survey research Ch. 9

11 (Oct 24 & 26) Field research Ch. 10

12 (Oct 31 & Nov 2) Content analysis
Exam #2 (Nov 2) Ch. 11 & Outside reading

13 (Nov 7 & 9) Program evaluation part 1 Ch. 12

14 (Nov 14) Program evaluation part 2
No Class Nov 16 – ASC Conference Ch. 12

15 (Nov 21) Qualitative data & mixed-methods
Writing assignment #4 due (Nov. 21) Ch. 13

16 (Nov 28 & 30) Data analysis and interpretation Ch. 14 & 16

Tuesday, December 5 at 8:00 AM-- Final Exam (Exam #3)

Reading and exam dates are subject to change. All changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas if they occur.