

COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
P.O. Box 2296
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CJ 694 SPECIAL TOPICS: CURRENT ISSUES IN CJ SCHOLARSHIP

Professor: Dr. Michael S. Vaughn, Ph.D.
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Office: C-117 Criminal Justice Center
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Office Hours: W 2:00-3:30 pm
and by appointment

Credit Hours: 3
Semester/Year: Summer I, 2008
Class Day/Time: T, TH 1:00-4:50 pm
Class Location: CJC A205

Course Prerequisites: Graduate Students

Course Abstract: The process of criminal justice research will be examined, so students have the opportunity to create well-developed projects. The course allows students to narrow their research interests by reading current criminal justice literature. The course takes students beyond consumers of criminal justice scholarship to the world of creators of such scholarship.

Course Objectives: 1-To familiarize students with current issues in criminal justice scholarship. 2-To show students how to take specific research projects and develop them beyond classroom requirements. 3-To have students demonstrate critical thinking skills through written work. 4-To have students develop their specific projects into publishable manuscripts.

Required Text: American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Attendance: Students are referred to the Sam Houston State University Graduate Catalog, 2007-2009 for the official university policy on class attendance.

Academic Honesty: All students at this University are expected to engage in academic pursuits on their own with complete honesty and integrity. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The Graduate Faculty of Sam Houston State University expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit), the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college. The University's policy on **academic honesty** and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled Student Guidelines, distributed by Division of Student Services. (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines).

Disability Student Policy: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html

Services for Disabled Students: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

Student Absences on Religious Holy Day Policy:

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

Withdrawals: Students wishing to withdraw are cautioned to follow formal procedures outlined by the university. Consult the Sam Houston State University Graduate Catalog, 2007-2009 for official policies under "tuition and fees refund policy" and "dropping courses."

Incompletes: Except for the gravest of emergencies, a grade of "incomplete" will not be allowed for the course. Any missing grades, whether for examination or assignments, will be assumed to be zeros and will be averaged as such.

Tests: There will be no exams.

Choosing a Current Issue in CJ Scholarship: Each student will write a publishable manuscript. Students will either write a 10-page book review or a 30-page paper on a current issue in CJ Scholarship. Students without a previous course paper they want to develop will choose the book review option. Students with a previous class paper will develop it into a publishable article.

Writing a Book Review Essay on One Book: Students writing the book review will read a small 10-page paper, which explains how to complete the assignment: Vaughn, M.S. (1993). *How to write a book review in criminal justice and criminology*. Unpublished manuscript.

Tutorials with Professor: Students are required to schedule at least two (2) tutorials with Dr. Vaughn. The first tutorial is for Dr. Vaughn and the student to go over the student's research idea and get the student on the right track before the paper is written. The second tutorial is after Dr. Vaughn has read the draft of the manuscript and handed it back to the student. This second tutorial is designed to help the student meet the expectations for the final version of the manuscript. It is each individual student's responsibility to set up tutorials with Dr. Vaughn. **33% of the final grade**

Draft of Manuscript: Each student will submit one draft (typed; double-spaced; pages numbered; APA style) of their paper to Dr. Vaughn prior to submitting the final copy at the end of the Summer 1 session. Dr. Vaughn will edit the draft and return it to students for modification. **Due June 18. 33% of the final grade.**

Final Publishable Paper: The final copy of the student's book review or manuscript will be of publishable quality. It will contextualize the project within the existing criminal justice, criminology, and/or social science literature. **Due June 29. 34% of the final grade.**

Turning in Papers/Assignments: Students must submit papers directly to the professor and not submit them to the receptionists in the college office.

Distribution of Grades at the End of the Semester: Students may find out their grades in the course, if they email Dr. Vaughn on, or after, July 3 to get a breakdown of their grades. According to university policy, grades cannot be posted, nor can grades be given over the telephone.

Grade Distribution: The final grade will be based on the two (2) tutorials (33%), the draft of the manuscript (33%), and the final manuscript (34%). 100-90%=A, 89-80%=B, 79-70%=C, 69-60%=D, 59% and below=F.

NOTE--This syllabus is primarily for planning purposes; the instructor reserves the right to alter it in any fashion.

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2008 SUMMER I SESSION

Professor: Dr. Michael S. Vaughn, Ph.D.

GUIDELINES FOR GRADING ASSIGNMENTS

All students must consult with Dr. Vaughn prior to starting the writing of their book review or paper, so that Dr. Vaughn can assist students in framing their argument in a scholarly defensible manner.

Assignments will be graded based on the following criteria:

1-40% content

2-20% organization and presentation

3-20% grammar, spelling, punctuation, and readability

4-20% citation and reference style

1-Content

Extent to which students address the issue(s) of the assignment and answer directly the question(s) posed.

2-Organization and presentation

Assignments are to be presented in a neat and professional fashion. Assignments must be well organized.

3-Grammar, spelling, punctuation, and readability

Assignments should use correct grammar and punctuation. Assignments should contain no spelling errors and read well.

4-Citation and reference style

Assignments should conform to the American Psychological Association (APA) citation and reference style as outlined in the APA Style Manual.