



Fall 2007
Course Syllabus
CJ592: Survey of Research
Methods



Instructor: Brian A. Lawton Office: C127
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Class Hours: Monday 12:00-3:00pm Classroom: A181
Office Hours: Monday 3-6pm and Wednesdays 1-3pm

Required Texts:

Babbie, Early. (2007). *The Practice of Social Research (11th Edition)*. Thomson Higher Education: Belmont, California.

Pope, Carl E.; Lovell, Rick & Brandl, Steven G. (2001). *Voices from the Field: Readings in Criminal Justice Research*. Wadsworth Thompson Learning: Stamford, Connecticut.

Course Description: This course will reintroduce graduate students to current methodology employed in the study of the criminal justice system. Emphasis will be placed on understanding different methods of research as well as critically evaluating current research in the field. Students will be required to critique current research, work in groups to outline research methodology as well as prepare a research plan of their own design.

Course Objectives:

1. To provide a more complete understanding of different methods of research.
2. To better understand research presented in peer reviewed journals.
3. To apply methodology learned in presenting a comprehensive research proposal before the class.
4. To understand the effort involved in planning and participating in social science research.
5. To be a better, more responsible, social science researcher.

Attendance Policy: In accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401 (2004)

- 1.01 *Regular and Punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.*
- 1.02 *It is expected that each faculty member will keep a record of student attendance.*

Students will be excused for no more than 1 missed class without documentation.

Grading Policy:

Final Exam	25%	A=90-100
Midterm	25%	B=80-89
Critical Papers	25%	C=70-79
Research Proposal	25%	F=69 and below

Make-up Exam: A make-up exam will only be considered when a student can demonstrate appropriate cause for missing an exam. The student must inform me prior to missing the exam, or following when the situation is warranted. Students who cannot demonstrate appropriate cause will receive a failing grade for the exam.

Midterm & Final Exam: Each exam will require students to answer multiple essay questions. Questions will include material from all texts as well as class discussions. The midterm will be a traditional closed book exam, while the final will be a cumulative open book test. *Note: I will keep all exams following the class. If you wish to see your test and discuss your grade please make an appointment.*

Critical Papers: Upon starting Chapter 4 of the Babbie text students will hand in a single typed page critical response paper to articles from the Pope, *et al.* text. These papers will be turned in at the beginning of the class and will be returned at the beginning of the following class. The lowest critical paper grade will be dropped for calculating the final class grade.

Class Participation: As a graduate class it is expected that the students will have opinions and knowledge that they would like and be willing to share. While an open discussion is strongly encouraged, it must be done in a respectful manner.

Research Proposal: Over the course of the semester students will outline a proposed research project. Some class time will be dedicated towards this, however, students should also schedule time outside the classroom toward this endeavor.

Academic Honesty: In accordance with Academic Policy Statement 810213(1990)

- 5.3 Academic Honesty. The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 5.31 The University and its official representatives, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Disabled Student Policy:

"Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired". The physically impaired may contact the Director of the Counseling Center as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (x-1720). Students are also encouraged to discuss any concerns with the instructor.

Services for Disabled Students:

Information on a variety of services available to disabled students can be found at: www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html

Student Absences on Religious Holiday Policy: In accordance with Academic Policy Statement 861001(2004)

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student who is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

Students should meet with the instructor in the first two weeks of the course to discuss appropriate times to make up any work to be missed.

Schedule

Week 1	8/20	Class Introduction and Overview of Syllabus	
Week 2	8/27	Babbie-	Chapter 1: Human Inquiry and Science
		Babbie-	Chapter 2: Paradigms, Theory and Social Research
		Pope-	Chapter 18: Schneider et al.
Week 3	9/3	No Class – Labor Day	
Week 4	9/10	Babbie -	Chapter 3: Ethics and Politics of Research
		Pope-	Chapter 9: Schmid and Jones
Week 5	9/17	Babbie-	Chapter 4: Research Design
		Pope-	Chapter 15: Worden
Week 6	9/24	Babbie-	Chapter 5: Conceptualization and Operationalization
		Pope-	Chapter 10: Crutchfield et al.
		Pope-	Chapter 13: Wells and Rankin
Week 7	10/1	Babbie-	Chapter 6: Indexes, Scales and Typologies
		Pope-	Chapter 4: Frank et al.
Week 8	10/8	Babbie-	Chapter 7: Sampling Logic
		Pope-	Chapter 6: Decker and Rosenfeld
Week 9	10/15	Midterm	
Week 10	10/22	Babbie-	Chapter 8: Experiments
		Pope-	Chapter 2: Leiber and Mawhorr
		Pope-	Chapter 3: Sherman and Weisburd
Week 11	10/29	Babbie-	Chapter 9: Survey Research
		Pope-	Chapter 5: Singer et al.
Week 12	11/5	Babbie-	Chapter 10: Qualitative Field Research
		Pope-	Chapter 8: Decker
Week 13	11/12	Babbie-	Chapter 11: Unobtrusive Research
		Pope-	Chapter 7: Vander Ven

Week 14	11/19	Babbie- Pope-	Chapter 12: Evaluation Research Chapter 1: McKenzie and Shaw
Week 15	11/26	Babbie- Babbie- Pope- Pope-	Chapter 13: Qualitative Data Analysis Chapter 14: Quantitative Data Analysis Chapter 14: Barkan and Cohn Chapter 16: Mastrofski and Ritti
Week 16	12/3	Babbie- Babbie- Pope-	Chapter 15: Elaboration Model Chapter 17: Reading and Writing Social Research Chapter 17: Durham et al.
Final Exam	12/10		The Final Exam is scheduled for 2pm to 4pm.