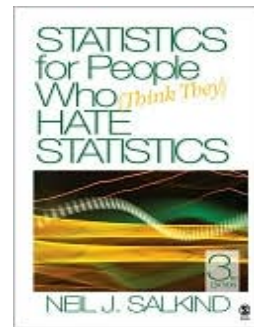
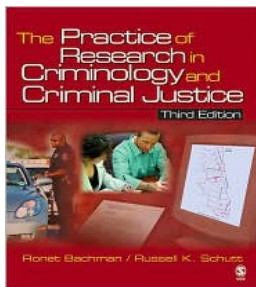


CJ634 – RESEARCH METHODS AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

College of Criminal Justice
Sam Houston State University
Spring 2008

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer L. Schulenberg
Campus Office: C-129
Office Phone: (936) 294-4480
Email: jls011@shsu.edu
Class Hours: Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 4:50 p.m.
Classroom: A213
Office Hours: By appointment

Required textbooks:



Bachman, R., & Schutt, R.K. (2007). *The practice of research in criminology and criminal justice* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Pope, C.E., Lovell, R., & Brandl, S.G. (2001). *Voices from the field: Readings in criminal justice research*. The Wadsworth Contemporary Issues in Crime and Justice Series. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Salkind, N.J. (2008). *Statistics for people who (think they) hate statistics* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Course Description:

The intent of this course is to provide you with an overview of current methodological techniques used to conduct research in criminal justice as well as a functional understanding of statistics that are commonly used to investigate questions in the social sciences. The emphasis is placed on the student's ability to recognize and interpret research methodologies and statistics so they become informed consumers. The course is built around providing

foundational knowledge to prepare students to evaluate, understand, and critique research in the field of criminal justice.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be expected to do the following upon completion of the course.

- To develop an understanding of how the scientific methods of research are used in criminal justice
 - To better understand research that is presented in journal articles, newspapers, reports, and other venues
 - To demonstrate an understanding of common statistical techniques applied in the social sciences
 - To understand the planning and effort involved in conducting criminal justice research
 - To enhance the ability of understanding statistical results when presented in criminal justice research
 - To become a better consumer of research in the social sciences
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Policies and Notifications:

Attendance Policy: Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and actively participate in the class. We meet only 7 times over the course of 4 months. Even one absence in the five core classes (February 2 – April 19) is unacceptable. However, exceptions can be made for emergencies that may arise. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain missed material from other class members. Participation and engagement on the part of the student will be an integral part of this course.

Academic Dishonesty:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Disabled 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>

Cellular Phone Policy: All cell phones, pagers, and other forms of communication must be silenced during the class period. If you need to have your device on for emergency purposes, please inform me as well as take steps to minimize the disturbance to the class.

Make-up Examinations: Make-up exams will not be given unless a student can provide appropriate cause for missing the exam. Examples of this would be:

- An illness that is certified with a licensed physician's note stating that the student should avoid participating in class functions.
- A certifiable death or other cataclysmic life course event that can be documented and/or verified.

A 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.

Grading Policy:

The requirements for the course are as follows:

Critical papers (5)	25%
Statistics assignments (5)	25%
Final exam	50%
Total	100%

The final grade will be based upon the following grading scale:

A	90% to 100%
B	80% to 89%
C	70% to 79%
F	69% or less

Grading Components:

Critical papers – Each worth up to 5% of the final grade (for a combined total of up to 25%)

You will respond in writing to readings from the Pope et al. (2001) text starting with the first substantive class scheduled for February 2. Each of these 2-3 page typed critical papers should demonstrate your familiarity with course material and incorporate your critical response by comparing and evaluating the readings from the Pope et al. (2001) text. Any critical paper that is analytical, thoughtful, and utilizes course content will be considered acceptable. However, a strong critical paper will take a stance on the substantive topic and use course material to support and/or refute that position. Critical papers will be returned via email.

Statistics assignments – Each is worth up to 5% of the final grade (for a combined total of up to 25%)

At each class meeting, questions will be assigned that concern the following week's statistics readings. Students will hand in answers to the questions at the beginning of the following class.

Final exam – May 3 – Worth up to 50% of the final grade

The exam is a comprehensive final exam comprised of a series of short and long essay questions. The exam will be open book thereby allowing you to incorporate personal notes as well as the material from the textbooks in your response. The questions will encompass both material discussed in class as well as that contained in the assigned readings. Note: I will retain all final

exams following the class. If you wish to see your exam and discuss your grade please make an appointment.

Class participation:

As a graduate class it is expected that students will have opinions and knowledge that they would like and be willing to share. While an open discussion is strongly encouraged in this class, it must be done in a respectful manner. Otherwise, we are going to have five very long days together... ☺

Course Outline:

Despite the short time frame for our class meetings we will be covering a full semester of work in the seven week format. Our five core classes are broken down into four “2 hour” modules. There will be a twenty minute break between Modules 1 and 2, and a twenty minute break between Modules 3 and 4. In addition, we will have a one hour break for lunch.

	MODULE 1 8:00 am – 9:50 am	MODULE 2 10:10 am – 12:00 pm	MODULE 3 1:00 pm – 2:50 pm	MODULE 4 3:10 pm – 4:50 pm
January 13	Syllabus Review Course introduction			
February 3	<u>Bachman & Schutt</u> Chapter 1 Chapter 2	<u>Salkind</u> Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3	<u>Bachman & Schutt</u> Chapter 3	<u>Pope et al.</u> Chapter 7 Chapter 8
February 23	<u>Bachman & Schutt</u> Chapter 4	<u>Salkind</u> Chapter 4 Chapter 5	<u>Bachman & Schutt</u> Chapter 5 Chapter 6	<u>Pope et al.</u> Chapter 2 Chapter 3
March 8	<u>Bachman & Schutt</u> Chapter 7	<u>Salkind</u> Chapter 7 Chapter 8	<u>Bachman & Schutt</u> Chapter 8	<u>Pope et al.</u> Chapter 4 Chapter 9
March 29	<u>Bachman & Schutt</u> Chapter 10	<u>Salkind</u> Chapter 9 Chapter 10 Chapter 11	<u>Bachman & Schutt</u> Chapter 11	<u>Pope et al.</u> Chapter 1 Chapter 13
April 19	<u>Bachman & Schutt</u> Chapter 9 Chapter 12 Chapter 13	<u>Salkind</u> Chapter 14 Chapter 15 Chapter 16	<u>Pope et al.</u> Chapter 5 Chapter 17	Review for the final exam
May 3	Final exam			