

CJ 321: Research Methods

Course Number: CJ 321

Course Title: Research Methods

Department Name: Criminology and Criminal Justice

College/School/Division Name: School of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Term: Fall 2024

Course Credits: 3

Class Location: Sullivan Library, Library Hall 201, MWF 9:30-10:20 am

Instructor: Laura Johnston, Ph.D.

E-Mail: laura.johnston@chaminade.edu

Office Hours: As scheduled; by appointment

University Course Catalog Description

This course will introduce students to the research methodology used to assess practices and policies within the criminal justice system and in criminology overall. Students will be equipped with the range of quantitative and qualitative tools available to the criminal justice researcher. Students will also learn the ethical limitations and obligations of the social science researcher.

Course Overview

In this course we will cover both quantitative and qualitative methods used in social science and criminal justice research. Foundations of research, research design, analysis of findings, and ethical issues in researching criminal justice issues will be addressed.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the B.S. degree program in Criminology & Criminal Justice the student will be able to:

1. Describe the interrelated institutions and processes of the criminal justice system, including the basic rights guaranteed to each individual by both state and federal constitutions and laws.
2. Apply theories of crime and criminal justice to explain actual and hypothetical scenarios, behaviors, and trends.
3. Evaluate social, cultural, and technological change and its impact on the criminal justice system.
4. Assess social inequities in crime and criminal justice processes by race, social class, gender, region and age.
5. Articulate a working knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods by explaining the various social science methods of inquiry and use these to test specific criminological research questions.
6. Engage the Marianist tradition of education for service, peace, and justice as it pertains to local and national social justice, injustices, and inequities in the criminal justice field.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop hypotheses that can be tested through a research proposal design project.
2. Apply research methodologies and individual research to design a quality research proposal appropriate to test a selected hypothesis.
3. Identify and critique research methodologies including stages of conducting research and threats to reliability and validity.
4. Identify and assess ethical issues in criminal justice research and potential sources of ethical violations when conducting research.
5. Develop appropriate methodologies in a research proposal to answer a research question sufficiently and ethically.

Course Prerequisites

EN 102 and COM 101

Required Learning Materials

Research Methods in Crime and Justice, 2nd ed. Brian L Withrow. Routledge. (ISBN: 9781138124233) available in the bookstore Additional materials will be posted on Canvas as needed.

Technical Assistance for Canvas Users

Search for help on specific topics at help.instructure.com. Chat live with Canvas Support 24/7/365. Watch this video to get you started with online guides and tutorials. Contact the Chaminade IT Helpdesk for technical issues: helpdesk@chaminade.edu, or call (808) 735-4855

Assessment

Quizzes (x6) 5 points each= 30 points
Discussion Posts (x6) 5 points each= 30 points
Research Proposal Presentation= 10 points
Research Proposal= 30 points
Total = 100 points

Grading will be based on student points earned from attendance/communication, quizzes, discussion posts, and a final research proposal. Quizzes will be multiple choice and conducted through Canvas. Discussion posts will generally be essay answer format and will be based on weekly chapter readings.

Research proposals will be developed based on material and sources discussed in class.

Research proposals will include:

1. Literature review/background section= 10 points
 2. Research Question and Hypotheses=5 points
 3. Methodology=10 points
 4. Sample Questionnaire or research tool= 5 points
- Total= 30 points

Grading Scale

Letter grades are given in all courses except those conducted on a credit/no credit basis. They are interpreted as follows:

A 90-100% 90 points or more: Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative

B 80-89% 80-89 points: Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner

C 70-79% 70-79 points: Average grade indicating a competent grasp of subject matter

D 60-69% 60-69 points: Inferior work of the lowest passing grade, not satisfactory for fulfillment of prerequisite course work.

F <60% 59 points or less: Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter; no credit given

Marianist Educational Values

This class represents one component of your education at Chaminade University of Honolulu. An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles and you should take every opportunity possible to reflect upon the role of these characteristics in your education and development:

1. Education for formation in faith.
2. Provide an integral, quality education.
3. Educate in family spirit.
4. Educate for service, justice and peace.
5. Educate for adaptation and change. For this course specifically, the course will tend to emphasize on #4 (educate for service, justice and peace) and #5 (educate for adaptation and change). These values are important considerations when working with research and research populations.

Native Hawaiian Values

Education is an integral value in both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture. Both recognize the transformative effect of a well-rounded, value-centered education on society, particularly in seeking justice for the marginalized, the forgotten, and the oppressed, always with an eye toward God (Ke Akua). This is reflected in the 'Olelo No'eau (Hawaiian proverbs) and Marianist core beliefs:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith (Mana) E ola au i ke akua ('Olelo No'eau 364) May I live by God.
2. Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Na'auao) Lawe i ka ma'alea a kū'ono'ono ('Olelo No'eau 1957) Acquire skill and make it deep.
3. Educate in Family Spirit ('Ohana) 'Ike aku, 'ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohana 'ohana ('Olelo No'eau 1200) Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship.
4. Educate for Service, Justice and Peace (Aloha) Ka lama kū o ka no'eau ('Olelo No'eau 1430) Education is the standing torch of wisdom.
5. Educate for Adaptation and Change (Aina) 'A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi ('Olelo No'eau 203) All knowledge is not taught in the same school.

Late Work Policy

Requests for extensions due to extenuating circumstances (medical problems, for example) will be considered but in general work received after the deadline will not be graded. Computer problems and poor time management are not an excuse for late work.

Grades of "Incomplete"

Students and instructors may negotiate an incomplete grade when there are specific justifying circumstances. An Incomplete Contract (available from the School Secretary and the Portal) must be completed. When submitting a grade, the "I" will be accompanied by the alternative grade that will automatically be assigned after 90 days. These include IB, IC, ID, and IF. If only an "I" is submitted the default grade is F. The completion of the work, evaluation, and reporting of the final grade is due within 90 days after the end of the semester or term. This limit may not be extended.

Writing Policy

Paper requirements and formatting will be discussed during the course when the assignment is given.

Instructor and Student Communication

Questions for this course can be emailed to the instructor at laura.johnston@chaminade.edu. Online, in-person, and phone conferences can be arranged. Response time will take place within 2 days. The University provides a Chaminade email address for all students. Official Chaminade communications will be sent to the students' Chaminade email address and instructors will use only this email to communicate with students. It is the responsibility of the student to check their email frequently. Report email-related problems to the Helpdesk at 808-735-4855 or helpdesk@chaminade.edu

Cell phones, tablets, and laptops Music Devices and Cellular Phones

Unless specifically permitted by your instructor, use of music devices and cell phones is prohibited during all classes, as it is discourteous and may lead to suspicion of academic misconduct. Students unable to comply will be asked to leave class. Out of consideration for your classmates, please set your cell phone to silent mode during class. Students are encouraged to bring laptops or tablets to class as the instructor will assign online activities and readings that will require the use of a laptop or tablet. Laptops and tablets should not be misused, such as checking distracting websites. Use your best judgment and respect your classmates and instructor.

Disability Access

If you need individual accommodations to meet course outcomes because of a documented disability, please speak with me to discuss your needs as soon as possible so that we can ensure your full participation in class and fair assessment of your work. Students with special needs who meet criteria for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions must provide written documentation of the need for accommodations from the Counseling Center by the end of week three of the class, in order for instructors to plan accordingly. If a student would like to

determine if they meet the criteria for accommodations, they should contact the Kokua Ike Coordinator at (808) 739-8305 for further information (ada@chaminade.edu).

Title IX Compliance

Chaminade University of Honolulu recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated at CUH. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources by visiting Campus Ministry, the Dean of Students Office, the Counseling Center, or the Office for Compliance and Personnel Services. Should you want to speak to a confidential source you may contact the following:

- Chaminade Counseling Center| 808 735-4845.
- Any priest serving as a sacramental confessor or any ordained religious leader serving in the sacred confidence role

Attendance Policy

If you are not feeling well, please do not come to campus! Please email Dr. Johnston to let her know that you will not be attending. Most lectures will be posted online and participation in online components will be considered attendance. Repeated unexcused absences without email notification may lead to a grade reduction for the course.

University Statement on Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated. Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism. Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of the Academic Division and may range from an 'F' grade for the work in question to an 'F' for the course to suspension or dismissal from the University.

Example of Honor Code violations include:

- Giving or receiving information from another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized sources for answers during an examination;
- Illegally obtained test questions before the test;
- Any and all forms of plagiarism – submit all or part of someone else's work or ideas as your own;
- The destruction and/or confiscation of school and/or personal property. A violation is reported either to the professor involved, who will report it to the Dean of Students, or directly to the Dean

of Students. Violations of the Honor Code are serious. They harm other students, your professor, and the integrity of the University. Alleged violations will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs. If found guilty of plagiarism, a student might receive a range of penalties, including failure of an assignment, failure of an assignment, and withholding of the final course grade until a paper is turned in on the topic of plagiarism, failure of the course, or suspension from the University. Violations of Academic Integrity include, but are not limited to:

- Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise.
- Fabrication and Falsification: Intentional and unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification is a matter of inventing or counterfeiting information for use in any academic exercise.
- Multiple Submissions: The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work for credit (including oral reports) more than once without authorization.
- Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source).
- Abuse of Academic Materials: Intentionally or knowingly destroying, stealing, or making inaccessible library or other academic resource materials.
- Complicity in Academic Dishonesty: Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

1. Copying or borrowing liberally from someone else's work without his/her knowledge or permission; or with his/her knowledge or permission and turning it in as your own work.
2. Copying of someone else's exam or paper.
3. Allowing someone to turn in your work as his or her own.
4. Not providing adequate references for cited work.
5. Copying and pasting large quotes or passages without properly citing them.

Plagiarism Checker

Upon submission your assignments will show a plagiarism checker (Turn it in) has been activated. The checker tool is designed to help both the student and the instructor. Once your assignment is submitted you will receive a color coded flag and percentage next to your submission. This indicates how much your assignment is similar to other work out there. If it is above 20%, I suggest revising and resubmitting your assignment prior to the due date. Whatever the last submission is prior to the due date and time is the one that will be graded. If you notice that there are a lot of similarities in the reference section, please disregard. If you are citing correctly in the reference section they should match with other published work. Any instances of plagiarism will be subject to discipline (see above section on academic honesty).

Artificial Intelligence Checker

This course prohibits the use of AI software in completing any assignments, projects, papers, or exams/quizzes. The use of AI software is defined as the use of any computer program or algorithm that utilizes machine learning, natural language processing, or any other form of artificial intelligence to assist in completing coursework. In addition to checking for plagiarism,

Turn It In also checks for assignments that are likely written by AI software. It has a 98% reliability rating. Any assignment that is flagged for high levels of likelihood to be written by AI software is subject to review. The review may include an interview with the student, an investigation of the assignment, and/or documented proof that AI was not used. Violating this policy will result in a penalty as described in the Academic Dishonesty policy noted in the handbook (and listed above in the syllabus).

Credit Hour Policy

This is a 3 credit hour course requiring 135 hours of student engagement, per the official CUH Credit Hour Policy. Students enrolled in this course are anticipated to spend an estimated 194 hours engaging in course material via class videos, readings, discussions, assignments, and quizzes. Credit hours are listed in the course schedule below.

Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topics and Assignments	Course Credit Hours	SLO/PLO
Week 1 8/19-8/23	Syllabus Introductions Ch. 1 Research Practice Discussion post due by 8/24 11:59pm	1 10 1	0/ 0 1/ 3, 4 1/ 2, 3, 4
Week 2 8/26-8/30	Ch.2 Research Process Ch. 2 Quiz due by 8/31 11:59pm	10 1	1, 2/ 3, 4 1, 2/ 3, 4
Week 3 9/2-9/6	Ch. 3 Ethics in Research Discussion post due by 9/7 11:59pm	10 1	4/ 1, 4, 6 4/ 1, 4, 6
Week 4 9/9-9/13	Ch. 4 Classifying Research Ch. 4 Quiz due by 9/14 11:59pm	10 1	3, 5/ 5 3, 5/ 5
Week 5 9/16-9/20	Ch. 5 Causality Background/literature review due and research question and hypotheses due	10 8	5/ 5 5/ 5

	by 9/21 11:59pm		
Week 6 9/23-9/27	Ch. 6 Measurement Discussion post due by 9/28 11:59pm	10 1	3, 5/ 5 3, 5/ 5
Week 7 9/30-10/4	Ch. 7 Variables Ch. 7 Quiz due by 10/5 11:59pm	10 1	3, 5/ 5 3, 5/ 5
Week 8 10/7-10/11	Ch. 8 Sampling Discussion post due by 10/12 11:59pm	10 1	5/ 5 5/ 5
Week 9 10/14-10/18	Ch. 9 Experimental Design Methodology due by 10/19 11:59pm	10 8	5/ 5 2, 5/ 5
Week 10 10/21-10/25	Ch. 10 Surveys and Interviews Ch. 10 Quiz due by 10/26 11:59pm	10 1	5/ 5 5/ 5
Week 11 10/28-11/1	Ch. 11 Non-Reactive Research Discussion post due by 11/2 11:59pm	10 1	5/ 5 5/ 5
Week 12 11/4-11/8	Ch. 12 Qualitative Research Ch. 12 Quiz due by 11/9 11:59pm	10 1	5/ 5 5/ 5
Week 13 11/11-11/15	Ch. 13 Evaluation Discussion post due by 11/16 11:59pm	10 1	5/ 5 5/ 5
Week 14 11/18- 11/22	Ch. 14 Data and Information Analysis Ch. 14 Quiz due by 11/23 11:59pm	10 1	5/ 5 5/ 5
Week 15	Research Proposal	15	1, 2, 5/ 5, 6

11/25- 11/29	Presentations Due in class 11/25-11/29		
Week 16 12/2- 12/6	Research Proposal Due on Canvas by 12/4 11:59pm	10	1, 2, 5/ 5, 6

Note: Course schedule is tentative and subject to change according to course progression at the discretion of the instructor.