

SYLLABUS
JUST 200 Introduction to Research Methods (81807 601)
JUST 451 Research and Policymaking (81829 601)
Fall 2009, 10-11:15 a.m. T/R
ADM 142

PROFESSOR: Marny Rivera, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 11:00-12:30

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

Justice 200: Introduces social science research methods used in Justice studies, including explication of the scientific method, experimental and quasi-experimental designs, sampling, data collection methods and analytical strategies. Students will participate in exercises that develop their capacity to critically evaluate research designs routinely employed in Justice research and program evaluations. Credits: 3. Prerequisites: JUST A110.

Justice 451: An overview of social research methods and procedures as related to justice policy development, implementation and assessment. Students are exposed to the policymaking process, qualitative and quantitative information producing tools, research utilization strategies and research proposal writing.

ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS:

1. The investigation of complex social phenomena including crime and criminal justice practices requires the use of scientific methods of observation.
2. Clearly defining concepts and measurement strategies is essential in the scientific observation of social phenomena.
3. A variety of scientific methods of observation are available to social scientists and each has different strengths and weaknesses; the most appropriate method(s) is/are selected based on the research questions and goals of the study.
4. Both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods and analysis strategies are valuable in social scientific investigations.
5. Social scientists study social phenomena with shared standards related to ethical behavior, appropriate sampling strategies, data collection and analysis as well as reporting of results.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Chambliss, D.F. and Schutt, R.K. (2010). Making sense of the social world (3rd ed). Los Angeles: Pine Forge Press.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) cheating on exams, working with other students on quizzes, turning in papers that have not been written by the student claiming to have written them; plagiarizing the work of others and submitting the same paper twice in different (or the same) courses. Any evidence of academic dishonesty will result in zero points (grade of F) on the exam or assignment it was detected and will be reported to the Dean.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you are in need of academic support because of a documented disability (whether it be psychiatric, learning, mobility, health-related or sensory) you may be eligible for academic accommodations through Disability Support Services. Contact DSS at 786-4530, aydss@uaa.alaska.edu or Rasmusson Hall 105 for more information.

Your professor for this particular class considers herself an advocate for students and is more than willing to help students in need. However, students are encouraged to meet with the professor as early as possible in order to make arrangements for any necessary and/or helpful accommodations. Professors are not required to make retroactive accommodations, so please make arrangements in advance.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Students can accumulate points in the following ways

Requirements for all students:		
	JUST A200	JUST A451
Reading Quizzes (one per chapter)	75	75
Exam 1	100	100
Exam 2	100	100
Final Exam	125	125
Sampling Exercise	10	10
Data Analysis Exercise	10	10
Preparation & Participation	25	30
Additional requirement for students enrolled in JUST A451		
Data Analysis Exercises	N/A	60
Data Analysis Presentation	N/A	40
Total	445	550

Final grades will be assigned based on the following percentages:

- A = 89.5-100%
- B = 79.5-89.49%
- C = 69.5-79.49%
- D = 59.5-69.49%
- F = Below 59.5%

Reading Quizzes:

There will be a brief quiz of reading comprehension due on the day that discussion of the chapter is scheduled. Quizzes are due at the beginning of class. There are no make up quizzes. Students will be able to drop their lowest quiz score.

Exams:

Students must complete a total of three exams. Two of the exams will be taken during the semester and a comprehensive final exam will be taken during final exam week. The examinations will consist of multiple choice questions and essay questions.

PREPARATION & PARTICIPATION:

This course deals with difficult and sometimes complicated issues. The subject matter in this course is complex. Only those students that are committed to putting forth the time and effort

required to learn this material will earn passing grades and complete the course. Attendance will be taken and counted as part of your preparation and participation points. Given the rigor essential for the successful completion of the course, it is highly recommended that you spend at least two hours outside of class in preparation for every hour of course time spent in class.

Students are expected to complete assigned course readings prior to class meetings in order to provide a foundation for lecture content.

Each student's class participation is encouraged and expected. Comments and questions of everyone are considered valuable and will contribute to class discussion and learning. Your participation, preparation and attendance are worth roughly 10% of your final grade.

Students enrolled in Justice 451 must also complete the following course requirements:

Data Analysis Exercises and Presentation:

Justice 451 students will complete a number of exercises involving the analysis of quantitative data and the preparation of presentations. In these exercises they will become familiar with the Excel spreadsheet program and the PowerPoint presentation program.

The exercises and accompanying tutorials are provided on a CD-ROM that students will be able to use on their own computer or at one of the many computer labs located across campus. Each of these assignments is worth 10 points. See the schedule for the due-dates associated with the six exercises. Students will also complete a data analysis presentation due at the Final Exam that is worth 40 points.

Tentative Reading, Assignment and Exam Schedule

Day Date Class #	Topic or Activity	Reading Associated with Lecture	Assignments/Deadlines
Tues 8/24 1	Why research methods are important		Course Overview
Thurs 8/26 2	Epistemology, Errors in Reasoning, Validity and Research Purposes	Chapter 1	Quiz 1 Due
Tues 9/01 3		Chapter 1	
Thurs 9/03 4	Research Questions and the Research Wheel	Chapter 2	Quiz 2 Due
Tues 9/08			Labor Day Holiday
Thurs 9/10 5	Research Ethics	Chapter 3	Quiz 3 Due

Tues 9/15 6		Chapter 3	451: Exercise 1 (only students enrolled in JUST 451 complete the exercises)
Thurs 9/17 7	Conceptualization & Measurement	Chapter 4	Quiz 4 Due
Tues 9/22 8		Chapter 4	
Thurs 9/24 9	Exam Review		451: Exercise 2
Tues 9/29 10			Exam 1
Thurs 10/01 11	Sampling	Chapter 5	451: Exercise 3 Quiz 5 Due
Thurs 10/06 12		Chapter 5	
Tues 10/08 13	Questionnaire Construction and Survey Administration	Chapter 7	Quiz 6 Due
Tues 10/13 14		Chapter 7	451: Exercise 4
Thurs 10/15 15	Causation & Research Design	Chapter 6	Quiz 7 Due Sampling Exercise Due
Tues 10/20 16		Chapter 6	
Thurs 10/22 17		Chapter 6	
Tues 10/27 18	Exam Review		
Thurs 10/29 19			Exam 2

Tues 11/03 20	Qualitative Methods	Chapter 9	Quiz 8 Due
Thurs 11/05 21		Chapter 9	
Tues 11/10 22	Data Analysis	Chapter 8	Quiz 9 Due
Thurs 11/12 23		Chapter 8	
Tues 11/17 24		Chapter 8	451: Exercise 5
Thurs 11/19 25	Evaluation Research	Chapter 11	Quiz 10 Due Data Analysis Exercise Due
Tues 11/24 26	Measuring Crime	Lecture Only	451: Exercise 6
Thurs 11/26			Thanksgiving Holiday
Tues 12/01 27	Reviewing, Proposing and Reporting Research	Chapter 12	Quiz 11 Due
Thurs 12/03 28	Exam Review		
Tues 12/08	Final Exam	10-12:45 a.m.	Exam 3 Comprehensive Final Exam 451 Data Analysis Presentations Due

Your professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus and will notify you in a timely manner if changes are made.

CLASS POLICIES:

Late Work: No late work will be accepted in this class. Under special circumstances and based on an agreement between an individual student and your professor, any late work that is accepted will receive a 20% reduction in earned credit for the first day it is late and a 10% reduction in earned credit for each subsequent late day (including weekends). Arrange to submit all work on time to avoid a late work point reduction.

Cell Phones: NO CELL PHONES may be used in class. This means they should not vibrate or ring and no text messaging or accessing caller ID or other information is allowed during class time. If your cell phone goes off in class your professor reserves the right to deduct 5 points from your final grade for each instance and you will be asked to offset the class interruption you generated. If I see or hear your cell phone during a quiz or an exam I will assume you are using it for academically dishonest purposes, will confiscate your phone and will give you a zero on the quiz or exam. Please alert me to any emergencies that require you to have your cell phone on vibrate.

Email: When emailing your professor, include our course number in the subject line of your email along with the topic of your question (i.e. JUST 200/451, missing grade). Include your first and last name in the body of the email. Absolutely no emailed assignments will be considered for grading. Please use email appropriately. For most class issues including questions about assignments, your performance in class or feedback and direction on assignments, please arrange to meet with me in my office during office hours rather than send emails. Failing to follow this policy may result in my failure to reply to your email or it may get classified as "spam" and deleted.