

JUST 398 - INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH
COURSE CONTENT GUIDE
(Last updated September 21, 1993)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Participation in Justice Center research projects or use of Center databases. Students learn to formulate hypotheses, collect and enter data, and perform computer analyses. Students will review the literature on similar projects and submit a final research paper.

COURSE DESIGN AND ACTIVITIES:

Individual Research was established to provide students an opportunity to expand their understanding of the justice field and improve their abilities in organizing and conducting justice related research. Further, this variable credit (1-4) course is designed to cultivate in students qualities of professional maturity such as acceptance of responsibility, persistence, independence and self-confidence.

In order to successfully complete this course, a Research student must perform the following activities to the satisfaction of the Research Advisor:

- ! Meet with the Research Advisor to identify and define an appropriate, justice related research problem. Prior to the end of the second week of class, a description of this research project should be prepared for the files of the Research Advisor and/or Research Coordinator.
- ! Attend meetings every other week with all students who are registered for Justice 398. The Research Coordinator and students will spend this time discussing issues associated with the research process. These issues may include: developing a conceptual framework associated with the problem under study; formulating specific research questions of interest; designing the study which takes into consideration and research design, instrument construction, and sampling design; collecting data; analyzing and interpreting data; and disseminating the findings and implications vis-a-vis written report(s) and oral presentation(s).
- ! Outline a research proposal prior to fourth week of class that addresses the critical issues to be discussed in the biweekly sessions. The Research Coordinator will provide the proposal format in the first biweekly meeting. For the record, a Student Project Approval Form must be signed by the Research Advisor prior to proceeding with the research.
- ! Make at least biweekly progress reports to the Advisor. At the discretion of the Advisor, these may be either written or oral.
- ! Prepare a final comprehensive report on the Research project and make an oral presentation as required by the Advisor.

PREREQUISITES: Junior standing, 6 credits writing courses, faculty permission

COURSE EVALUATION:

The procedure for determining a letter grade for this course will be established by the Advisor and recorded on the Student Project Proposal Form at the outset of the project.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Each Research student is required to use a standard thesis guide (*The Manual for Writers*, by Kate Turabian, University of Chicago Press, 1973, is available in the University Bookstore) in the preparation of the final, comprehensive report. In addition, the Research Advisor will assist each student by providing biographical information on materials which the student is expected to use in conducting independent study to complement the project field research. Students are expected to obtain and independently study materials from the bibliography. In some instances, the Advisor may require students to purchase appropriate supplementary course related materials.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Written progress reports, the final comprehensive report for this project, and any other course related materials deemed appropriate by the Advisor which are produced in the course of the work on a Research project will be maintained permanently in the student's personal folder. Hence, students should make personal copies of materials prior to submitting work to the Advisor. Such material will be available to Justice faculty members who wish to obtain information concerning a student's work in this course.