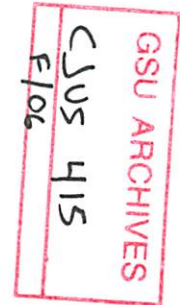


GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
DIVISION OF LIBERAL ARTS

Index Number: CJUS 415  
Course Title: Criminal Justice Research Design  
Credit Hours: 3.0  
Trimester: Fall 2006  
Class Room: D2441  
Day/Time: Friday 12:30 – 3:20 p.m.  
Instructor: Dr. Coldren  
E-mail: j-coldren@govst.edu  
Office: E2538  
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Thursdays, 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
By Appointment  
Phone: (708) 534-4390 (office), 4570 (backup)



CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to social science and criminal justice analysis, research design, problem-solving approaches, conceptualization, and implementation of various research methods in the field of criminal justice.

PREREQUISITES:

CJUS 410 or SOS450 or permission of instructor

DISABILITY STATEMENT:

Students who have a disability or special needs and require accommodation in order to have equal access to the classroom must register with the designated staff member in the Division of Student Development. Please go to Room B1201 or call (708) 534-4090 and ask for the Coordinator of Disability when an accommodation is needed.

### ACADEMIC HONESTY/NO PLAGIARISM:

All students are expected to adhere to the Governors State University Honor Code. Infractions may result in an "F" grade for the course as well as other, more serious, sanctions.

Students are expected to fulfill academic requirements in an ethical and honest manner. This expectation pertains to the following: use and acknowledgement of the ideas and work of others, submission of work to fulfill course requirements, sharing of work with other students, and appropriate behavior during examinations. These ethical considerations are not intended to discourage people from studying together or from engaging in group projects. The university policy on academic honesty appears in the appendix of the Governors State University Catalog, and the disciplinary policy appears in the Student Handbook. A failing grade, for a project or the entire class, may result from a finding of cheating or plagiarism.

### EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES/COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Apply different research designs to criminal justice problems.
2. Conduct a literature review regarding a particular criminal justice problem.
3. Understand and conduct field research methods.
4. Understand the logical steps in research design and advancement of knowledge in criminal justice.
5. Understand and interpret research results.

### REQUIRED TEXT:

Hagan, Frank E. Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology, Pearson Education (Prentice Hall). There are various editions of this text available; any recent edition may be used for this course.

### COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMINATIONS:

1. Students will work in research teams (instructor assigns students to teams). Each team will produce one 30-page research paper, based on a topic that the team chooses. The research paper will be worth 40% of the student grade.
2. Each student will develop an annotated bibliography pertaining to the topic selected by the group, based on 5 scholarly (research-based, peer reviewed) sources. See the "Annotated

Bibliography Guidelines” for instructions on how to prepare the annotated bibliography. The annotated bibliography will count for 30% of the student grade.

3. Attendance and participation will count for 20% of the student’s final grade; this will include a final in-class presentation in which every team member must participate.
4. Team members will grade each other’s participation and contribution to the final paper; this will account for 10% of the student’s final grade.
5. Research teams will develop research plans covering:
  - a. Proposed topics and research questions
  - b. Research ethics and informed consent documentation
  - c. Logical sequence of steps and tasks to complete the research project
  - d. Tasks and duties assigned to each team member that are approximately equal in level of effort required
  - e. Schedule of tasks/timeline/responsibilities
  - f. Potential backup and contingency plans

The instructor must approve the plan, and the research team must receive GSU Institutional Review Board approval, before data collection can begin.

6. Research papers must include the following:
  - a. Statement of research question, underlying theory(ies), and testable hypothesis(es).
  - b. Literature review covering at least 20 different and recent (within the last 5 years) bona fide research resources related to the research topic.
  - c. Research design and methodology (including details such as interview questions, surveys, the field research experience, and observation protocols. Methodologies must include quantitative and qualitative approaches).
  - d. Informed consent and other materials related to research ethics (these must be approved by the University Institutional Review Board (IRB) before data collection begins).\*
  - e. Pretests of data collection tools, and discussion of any revisions.
  - f. Copies of all data collected (completed surveys, field notes, qualitative materials)\*
  - g. Data collection
  - h. Data analysis
  - i. Findings, conclusions, recommendations
  - j. List of references\*
  - k. List of research subjects, data collection activities, and field work accomplished\*

\* These sections should be attachments, not included in the required 30 pages.

All students are expected to adhere to the Governors State University Honor Code.

GRADING/EVALUATION:

A = .90-1.00

B = .80-.89

C = .70-.79

D = .60-.69

F = Below .60

Final grade calculations are made as follows:

{(team research paper \* .40) + (literature review \* .30) + (attendance and participation \* .20) + (team member evaluation \* .10)} = final course grade

## COURSE OUTLINE AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

- Week 1: Introduction and overview of course  
9/8 Introduction to criminal justice research
- Week 2: Theory Development and the Research Process, Research Ethics  
9/15 Hagan: Chap. 1, 2
- Week 3: The Literature Review, Writing Research Papers  
9/22
- Week 4: Research Design and Methods, Writing Research Papers  
9/29 Hagan: Chapter 3, Appendix A
- Week 5: Overview of Research Methods  
10/6 Hagan: Chap. 4  
Group Preliminary Plans due
- Week 6: Survey research  
10/13 Hagan: Chap. 5-6  
Lit. Review Completed
- Week 7: Participant Observation, Unobtrusive Measures, Case Studies  
10/20 Hagan: Chap. 7, 8  
Develop Surveys
- Week 8: Data collection and tabulation  
10/27 Hagan: Chap. 11
- Week 9: No class  
11/3
- Week 10: Data tabulation and analysis  
11/10 Hagan: Chap. 9  
Survey Data Collected
- Week 11: Measurement  
11/17 Hagan: Chap. 10
- Week 12: Working with qualitative data  
12/1
- Week 13: Data analysis, statistical concepts  
12/8 Hagan: Chap. 12  
Qualitative data collected

Week 14: No class  
12/15

Week 15: Policy analysis and evaluation research  
4/18 Hagan: Chap. 13

Week 16: Class presentations, extra credit assignment due  
4/25 Group reports due