**CJ 681: Thesis (3 cr.)**



Fall 2014

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00-4:00 (or by appointment)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

American Psychological Association [APA] (2010). *Publication manual of the American*

*Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC.

Bachman, R. & Schutt, R.K. (2014). *The practice of research in criminology and criminal justice* (5th

Ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. [ISBN #:978-1-4522-5819-5] *(*plus a statistics book)

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE & CRIMINOLOGY PROGRAM**

Upon completion of the Master of Science degree in criminal justice, and in part emphasized and reinforced through this course, graduate students will be able to:

Exhibit specialized knowledge in the criminal justice and criminology field by

1. demonstrating advanced knowledge of the terms, laws, theories, processes, research methods, statistics, and key principles and
2. analyzing and critiquing concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and trends.

Demonstrate oral, written, and analytic abilities by

1. evaluating contemporary criminal justice issues using analytical reasoning, problem solving, and effective communication skills;
2. preparing and delivering a presentation using effective oral communication skills that contains sustained, coherent arguments or explanations; and/or
3. interpreting descriptive and inferential statistical data.

Integrate and apply advanced knowledge of the criminal justice and criminology field by:

1. designing and producing an applied, investigative, paper or project with real-world implications that draws on scientific literacy, theoretical criminology, and research methods
2. supporting the paper or project with appropriate information from the scholarly literature and using citations in APA format; and
3. assessing and articulating the relevant public policy implications of that project.

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES MATRIX**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Course Objectives** | **How *Practiced* in this Course** | **How *Evaluated* in this Course** |
| 1. Students will *practice* research methods and statistical analysis skills. | Data collection process, statistical analysis | Research methods chapter and preliminary analysis report |
| 1. Students will *create* data entry tools and demonstrate data entry skills. | Draft SPSS database/spreadsheet | SPSS database/spreadsheet and code book |
| 1. Students will *demonstrate* knowledge of research ethics and the IRB process and protocol. | Draft IRB documents | Abstract, application, resume, attachments, appendices |
| 1. Students will *produce* a preliminary data analysis. | Draft report | Preliminary analysis report |

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND DETERMINATION OF GRADES**

To evaluate your progress in reaching the aforementioned course outcomes, you will be assessed in the following ways:

Grading Scale:

IRB proposal and documents 25% 100%-90% = A 69%-60% = D

Data collection, SPSS, and data entry 45% 89%-80% = B Below 60% = F

Revised research methods chapter 15% 79%-70% = C

Preliminary data analysis report 15%

# **COURSE POLICIES:**

# Emails and Teacher-Student Correspondence:

# If you have any questions about the course material, exams, or assignments you may email me, visit me during my office hours, or schedule an appointment. If you email me, under most circumstances, I will get back to you within 24 hours. However, there may be times when I am out of the office (for meetings, class, or conferences), hence, delaying my response.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend class and participate regularly. I understand that there are circumstances that may arise throughout the semester that prevent a student from attending class. Documentation of an excused absence can be obtained from the Dean of Student Affairs, MSC 2W38. Excused absences include: death or illness of an immediate family member, pre-approved university sponsored activity, athletics, academic activities, short-term military obligation, jury duty/court appointment, and/or religious holiday (see MU Graduate Catalog). Nonetheless, if you miss class it is your responsibility as a student to obtain any lecture notes or assignments that you missed on that day.

University Policies:

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy be going to [www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs) and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.” Or, you can access the policies directly by going to <http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802>

Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Graduate Students/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ Sexual Harassment

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Course Assignments | Items Due |
| Week 1 | Review course syllabus and course requirements |  |
| Week 2 | Finalize IRB documents and approvals | IRB protocol |
| Week 3 | Tentatively draw sample |  |
| Week 4 | Finalize sample, copy surveys, prepare instruments and letters, begin data collection |  |
| Week 5 | Set up SPSS for data entry; continue data collection | SPSS code book and data entry template |
| Week 6 | Data collection and data entry |  |
| Week 7 | Data collection and data entry |  |
| Week 8 | Data collection and data entry |  |
| Week 9 | Revise and finalize methods chapter; continue with data entry |  |
| Week 10 | Preliminary data analysis | Revised methods chapter |
| Week 11 | Preliminary data analysis |  |
| Week 12 | Preliminary data analysis |  |
| Week 13 | Prepare and write preliminary analysis |  |
| Week 14 | THANKSGIVING BREAK |  |
| Week 15 | Prepare and write preliminary analysis | Preliminary analysis |
| Week 16 | List steps for the next research phase; review Graduate College Thesis Guidelines | Send progress report to committee members |

\*The *Guide for Preparation and Submission of Electronic Theses and Dissertations* can be found on the Graduate College website.