General Purpose
This is an upper division course required for the major in Criminal Justice. This course will cover methods of research in Criminal Justice and in the social sciences. The importance of collecting and processing primary data in Criminal Justice will be emphasized and key policy issues in the field will be reviewed. Concepts and methods of program evaluation will be presented and discussed. The scientific method will be highlighted throughout the course.

The following quotation addresses the nature and thrust of the course:

“The knowledge which confronts us with the dangers by the same token presents us with opportunities. It may be that we will learn enough to destroy ourselves, but if we turn our backs on knowledge, forego the opportunity to ward off danger, we are as if already dead.” A. Kaplan

Objectives

• To provide the student with an understanding of the scientific method of analysis as applied to research in the social sciences and criminal justice.

• To introduce the student to the survey research process as an important method of collecting primary data.

• To familiarize the student with critical social and political issues in the field of Criminal Justice.

• To introduce the student to applied descriptive statistics, statistics of dispersion, tests of statistical significance, measures of association, and table construction.

• To introduce the student to concepts of program evaluation.

Requirements

• Exam 1  20%
• Exam 2  35%
• Exam 3  35%
• Class participation (10%)
Class attendance is strongly recommended since much of the examination material will be presented and discussed in class.

**Readings**

- Pearson Criminal Justice Booklet
- Choices Custom Resources for Political Science
- Other material will be provided in class or on Blackboard

**Class Schedule**

**January 18:** Introduction to Course; Introduction to Criminal Justice Method and Theory

- Glossary of Terms in Criminal Justice
- “Introduction to Criminal Justice Research Methods, in Pearson Criminal Justice Booklet, pp. 1-30

**January 25:** Ethics in Criminal Justice Research; Introduction to Survey Research

- Rea and Parker, Chapter 1
- “Ethics in Criminal Justice Research” in Pearson’s Criminal Justice Booklet, pp. 31-72

**February 1:** Development of the Survey Instrument; Levels of Measurement

- Rea and Parker, Chapters 2 and 3

**February 8:** Development of the Survey Instrument (continued); Measures of Central Tendency

- Rea and Parker, Chapter 5 (pp. 89-97)

**February 15:** Exam 1; Measures of Central Tendency (continued)

**February 22:** Measures of Dispersion/Normal Distribution

- Rea and Parker Research, Chapter 5 (pp. 98-109)

**February 29:** Sample Size and Sample Selection

- Rea and Parker, Chapter 8 (pp. 142-150); Chapter 9 (pp. 157-166).

**March 7:** Table Construction; Chi Square; Measures of Association
• Rea and Parker, Chapter 10 (pp. 179-190)

March 14: Thoughts on Crime and the Criminal Justice System; Environmental Impact Statements Applied to Jails and Prisons; Concept of the Community Court

• Handouts provided in class

March 21: Exam 2

April 4: Tests of Statistical significance (independent samples t test; provided samples t test); Introduction to program evaluation

• Rea and Parker, Chapter 11 (pp. 202-205)

April 11: Methods of Program Evaluation

• Handouts in class

April 18: Illegal Immigration; Race; Ethnicity

• Handouts in class
• “Social Equity”, in Choices booklet, pp. 1-40
• Honor, Ethics and Accountability” in Choices booklet, pp. 41-82

April 25 Ethics in Public and Urban Affairs

May 2 Exam 3