

Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Public Affairs (J502)
Spring 2005

CLASSROOM: BS 3011
Meetings: R 5:45-8:25
Instructor: Thomas D. Stucky
Office: BS 4069
Phone: 274-3462
Office Hours: TR 12:30- 2:00 or by appointment
(I am generally around so feel free to email me
to set up a time that is convenient- T or R preferably).
Email: tstucky@iupui.edu
Website: oncourse.iu.edu

Required Texts:

Babbie, Earl. 2004. *The Practice of Social Research* (10th edition). Thomson Wadsworth
Publishing

Additional articles and book chapters will be required and will be announced at a later date.

Course Description:

This course examines research techniques necessary for systematic analysis of the criminal justice system, offenders' behavior, crime trends, and program effectiveness. The course requires that students actively pursue such techniques as conducting interviews, coding data, and designing studies. Criminological research will be critically examined.

This class will use an interactive format. It will contain some lecture but will be comprised mainly of group discussion.

Classroom Expectations:

Show respect for your fellow students and the instructor.

Be in class on time and prepared to participate- which means having read the assigned readings prior to class.

Attendance is *mandatory*.

You will sign in each day at the start of class. I do not make distinctions between excused and unexcused absences. The idea here is that emergencies will be rare events and won't hurt your grade. Regular failure to attend class will hurt your grade because you will lose participation points and because you won't understand the material.

Your course grade is ultimately based on the amount of effort you expend in this course. Therefore, if you need a certain grade in the course- be proactive- come and see me early and often. I will assist you in reasonable ways in meeting your goals.

Written assignments will be turned in typed and stapled (if more than one page). The margins will be 1 inch and in 12 point Times New Roman font. All work will be double spaced. Papers that contain more than 2 **fatal errors** may be returned to the student. Students may correct the fatal errors and resubmit the assignment. However, 25% will be automatically deducted from the final grade upon resubmission. **Fatal errors include (but are not limited to):** misspelled words, failure to follow any of the formatting requirements listed above, failure to staple papers, sentence fragments, failure to follow proper citation procedures, run-on sentences, and noun- verb disagreement. **You will learn to write better in this course.**

Course Requirements:

1. There will be two examinations- a midterm and a final. Each exam will be worth 100 points. The final examination is not comprehensive but will be given during finals week: **Thursday May 5th, 2005 5:45pm- 7:45pm**. Makeup exams will not routinely be allowed. You must have a documented excuse (death in the family, medical emergency, or immediate family emergency) to miss a test. You must notify me at 274-3462 or via email **prior** to the test if possible.
2. There will be out of class homework assignments worth a total of 40 points.
3. You will also be required to participate in class discussions and activities. This will be worth 60 points. 30 points will be allocated to generating questions for and leading classroom discussions on one week. The other 30 points will be awarded for thoughtful, timely contributions during the rest of the semester.
4. There will be a term paper worth 100 points. This paper will be a research proposal.

In it, you will discuss the literature in some area of criminal justice, outlining a criminal justice research question. Then you will describe the data and methods you plan to use to answer this research question. This proposal will be about 6000 words (approximately 20 double spaced typed pages in length). **You must include the word count on the title page.** You will receive more details on this paper in the coming weeks. This paper will be due by **4:00pm in BS4032T on Thursday April 14, 2005**. Late work will not be accepted under any circumstances. The fatal error rule and formatting issues discussed above apply.

As part of this project you will turn in a one- page summary of your project **and** a list of your references on **Thursday March 3rd, 2005**. You will bring your **actual references** to class with you. *Yes – this means that you will actually have books or articles to show me, not just a list you copied down. Too many students try to change topics midstream because they wait too long to get their references together and then realize they can't get them in time.*

There will be more details on oncourse.

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Exams	200
Homework	40
Participation	60
<u>Paper</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	400

Grades will be calculated as follows: .90 – 1.00 = A, .80- .899 = B, .70 - .799 = C, .60 - .699 = D, <.60 = F. Plus and minuses will be given according to the thirds rule. For example someone who earns .887 would earn a B+. Note that grades of C- or lower mean the course must be retaken.

Tentative Course Schedule:

		<u>Babbie Chapter</u>
Jan 13	Introduction / Human Inquiry and Science	1
Jan 20	Paradigms, Theory, and Social Research	2
Jan 27	The Ethics and Politics of Social Research	3
Feb 3	Research Design	4
Feb 10	Conceptualization, Operationalization and Measurement	5
Feb 17	The Logic of Sampling	7
Feb 24	Experiments	8
Mar 3	Survey Research	9
Mar 10	Exam 1;	

Spring Break March 14-20

Mar 24	Evaluation Research	12
Mar 31	Unobtrusive Research	11
Apr 7	Qualitative Field Research	10
Apr 14	No class - Paper Due 4:00pm BS4032T	
Apr 21	Crime Analysis	
Apr 28	Evaluation of Research Literature/ Meta-Analyses	

Final Exam Thursday May 5th, 2005 5:45-7:45pm

Note: final exams will not be rescheduled because of family vacations, flight plans, etc. The final exam schedule is inconvenient for everyone so plan to take the final at the scheduled time.

SPEA 2005 Policies

Academic Dishonesty

All faculty have the responsibility of fostering the “intellectual honesty as well as the intellectual development of students” and part of this responsibility means that faculty must investigate cases of potential academic dishonesty promptly and thoroughly. Faculty members also have the responsibility of taking appropriate action when academic dishonesty occurs. The penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to lowering a grade on an assignment, lowering a course grade, or failing a student for a course. SPEA faculty take their responsibilities seriously and do not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty. If you have not done so, you should read the IUPUI *Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct*, which can be accessed at <http://www.hoosiers.iupui.edu/studcode/stucode.htm> so you will be sure to understand what these terms mean and what penalties can be issued for academic dishonesty. Significant violations of the Code can result in expulsion from the University. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty for a course you are taking, be sure to ask the instructor for an explanation.

The *IUPUI Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct* defines four areas of academic misconduct: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and interference. The prohibited activities and actions include the following:

1. **Cheating.** A student must not use or attempt to use unauthorized assistance, materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. A student must not use external assistance on any "in-class" or "take-home" examination, unless the instructor specifically has authorized external assistance. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, the use of tutors, books, notes, and calculators.
 - b. A student must not use another person as a substitute in the taking of an examination or quiz.
 - c. A student must not steal examinations or other course materials.
 - d. A student must not allow others to conduct research or to prepare work for him or her without advance authorization from the instructor to whom the work is being submitted. Under this prohibition, a student must not make any unauthorized use of materials obtained from commercial term paper companies or from files of papers prepared by other persons.
 - e. A student must not collaborate with other persons on a particular project and submit a copy of a written report which is represented explicitly or implicitly as the student's individual work.
 - f. A student must not use any unauthorized assistance in a laboratory, at a computer terminal, or on field work.
 - g. A student must not submit substantial portions of the same academic work for credit or honors more than once without permission of the instructor to whom the work is being submitted.
 - h. A student must not alter a grade or score in any way.
2. **Fabrication.** A student must not falsify or invent any information or data in an academic exercise including, but not limited to, records or reports, laboratory results, and citations to the sources of information.
3. **Plagiarism.** A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, words, or statements of another person without appropriate acknowledgment. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge an indebtedness whenever he or she does any of the following:
 - a. Quotes another person's actual words, either oral or written;
 - b. Paraphrases another person's words, either oral or written;
 - c. Uses another person's idea, opinion, or theory; or
 - d. Borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.
4. **Interference.**
 - a. A student must not steal, change, destroy, or impede another student's work. Impeding another student's work includes, but is not limited to, the theft, defacement, or mutilation of resources so as to deprive others of the information they contain.
 - b. A student must not give or offer a bribe, promise favors, or make threats with the intention of affecting a grade or the evaluation of academic performance.

Civility

Civility is important in an academic community to ensure that all parties—students, staff, and faculty—are working in an environment that fosters achievement of the individual's and community's goals and objectives. Civility requires all parties to demonstrate personal integrity and conduct themselves in a manner that shows respect, courtesy and tolerance to others. Examples of discourteous behaviors during class include reading the newspaper, listening to headphones, talking or laughing with others, chronically arriving late, and so forth. These behaviors are distracting to the instructor and classmates, and SPEA faculty will address these problems as they arise. Maintaining and fostering civility inside and outside the classroom is especially important to SPEA, which is a professional school.

Pursuant to the Indiana University Student Code of Conduct, disorderly conduct which interferes with teaching, research, administration, or other university or university-authorized activity will not be tolerated and will be immediately reported to the Office of The Dean of Students for appropriate disposition which may result in disciplinary action including possible suspension and/or expulsion from the university.

Communication between Faculty and Students

In order to verify the identity of all parties involved, effective September 1, 2004, all email communication from current SPEA students to SPEA staff must originate from an Indiana University email account. For email communication with SPEA faculty, current SPEA students should refer to course syllabi for instructors' preferences (Oncourse, Webmail, etc.). This policy applies to current students only. Instructions for forwarding your IUPUI email to another account can be found at

<http://support.uits.iu.edu/scripts/ose.cgi?http://kb.indiana.edu/data/beoj.ose.help?osecat=email>

Course Withdrawals

Students who stop attending class without properly withdrawing from the class may receive a grade of F. It is important to withdraw from a course within specified timeframes (see chart below). Note that withdrawals after Week 12 of a regular session or Week 4 of a summer session are rarely granted. **Poor performance in a course is not grounds for a late withdrawal.**

No withdrawal forms will be processed in the Office of the Registrar after the last day of classes. Any requests for a late withdrawal after the last day of classes must go through the grade appeal process, but each student should remember that in accordance with campus policy, SPEA does not permit a student to withdraw from a course if he/she has completed the course requirements. Grade replacement should be used in this case. See the Office of the Registrar's website at <http://registrar.iupui.edu/withdraw.html> for more information. To withdraw, obtain a withdrawal slip (DROP/ADD Form) from the SPEA Student Services window. Instructions for completing it are given on the form.

Withdrawal Deadlines	
Course deleted from record, no grade assigned, 100% refund (Advisor signature IS NOT required)	Week 1 (last day)
Withdrawal with automatic <u>grade of W</u> (Advisor signature IS required)	Week 2– Week 7 (regular session) Week 2 – Week 3 (summer session)
Withdrawal with <u>grade of W or F</u> (Advisor and instructor signatures ARE required)	Week 8 – Week 12 (regular session) Week 3 – Week 4 (summer session)

Incompletes

A grade of incomplete (I) indicates that a 'substantial portion' of the work in a course has been satisfactorily but not entirely completed by the student as of the end of the semester. The incomplete can be given to a student facing a hardship such that it would be unjust to hold the student to the established time limits for completing the work. To be eligible for the incomplete in a SPEA course, the student's work must be of passing quality, and the student must have completed 75% of the course requirements. **Poor performance in a course is not grounds for an incomplete.** SPEA follows the campus guidelines, which may be accessed at the Office of the Registrar's website at <http://registrar.iupui.edu/incomp.html>, in awarding incompletes. Incompletes must be removed within a time period not to exceed one year after the semester in which the student was enrolled in the course. The incomplete will revert to an 'F' if the work is not completed within the allotted timeframe established by the instructor.

Grade Changes

Under certain circumstances, students can seek grade changes for previously taken courses if they believe that a grade has been calculated or assigned incorrectly. A student who is seeking a grade change must first contact the instructor and ask for the grade change. In the event the instructor does not change the grade, the student can file a Change of Grade Petition with the Registrar's Office. **This petition must be filed within 1 year of the date when the student was enrolled in the course.** In cases of extenuating circumstances, SPEA may consider petitions filed after this date, but in no case will it consider petitions filed 5 years or more after the date the course is taken. SPEA will review the request and make a final decision. The Change of Grade petition form is located at the Office of the Registrar's website at <http://registrar.iupui.edu/grdfm.html>.

Students Called to Active Duty

SPEA encourages any student who is in the Indiana Military Reserves and is called to active duty to finish his/her coursework if at all possible. Students who cannot complete their courses have the option of withdrawing with 100% fee refund, but this request must be made within one week of being called to active duty. Students who are called to active duty may qualify for an incomplete (provided that all the above criteria have been met). For further information, please see the Office of the Registrar's website at <http://registrar.iupui.edu/activeduty.html>.

Final Exam Schedule

If a final exam is given, it must be held on the day and time set in the final exam schedule. If an instructor has changed the final exam date, the student should first consult with the instructor. Students who have more than three final exams in one day or insufficient time to get from one exam to another should consult with their instructors to resolve these conflicts. Exams may not be given in the week before the final exam week. If a student is not able to resolve a final exam problem with the instructor, the student may report the problem to the Director of Undergraduate or Graduate programs. See the Office of the Registrar's website at <http://registrar.iupui.edu/accal.html> for the final exam week schedule.