

CJ 540 Assignments and Grading
Applied Planning, Research and Program Evaluation in Criminal Justice
Spring 2009 – Monday, 4:00 to 6:40 p.m.

Assignments/Tests	Due Date
Project	
Concept Paper (10% of grade)	2/23
Literature Review (10% of grade)	4/6
Research/Evaluation Methodology (20% of grade)	4/27
Midterm – 30% of grade	3/16
Final Exam – 30% of grade	5/18
TOTAL - 100%	
Extra Credit	
WSC Conference Attendance	2/6 or 2/7
Class Participation	Ongoing
Written Assignments	TBA

Course Description

Application of planning, research, and program development and evaluation principles to the field of criminal justice.

Grading

Assignments and exams will be given a letter grade and grades will be averaged using a four-point scale. **The grade for an assignment submitted after the due date will drop up to one grade level.**

Assignments

Project: Select a criminal justice issue/topic to research and 1) prepare a concept paper, 2) conduct a review of the literature, and 3) prepare your original research methodology/approach you would use to test your hypothesis. The total project will be five (5) to eight (8) pages and will be completed in three parts. **Citation of sources is required using the American Sociological Association format as described in “Citing Sources” by William A. Johnson, et al. which is available on Electronic Course Reserve.**

1. **Concept Paper.** Prepare a one-page concept paper describing the issue you selected as the topic for your project. If you are proposing a program evaluation, describe the components of the program. The concept paper should include: data supporting the need to conduct the research or program evaluation; the hypotheses to be tested; the research questions to be answered; and the potential policy implications of the proposed study.
2. **Literature Review.** Conduct a review of the literature and summarize the findings from articles and other studies related to the issue you have selected. The summary of the literature should be two (2) to three (3) pages plus the works cited page. You should include an introduction describing your topic and your hypothesis. You should also provide an analysis of the material and describe how the findings from other studies/literature relate to your research project. Your works cited page should include a minimum of seven (7) sources. Guidelines for preparing a literature review will be available on Blackboard.

3. **Research Methodology.** Prepare a two (2) to four (4) page paper. Prepare a description of your **original research methodology**, including the hypotheses to be tested, the research questions, the independent and dependent variables, the research design, data sources, and data collection methods. Include any data collection forms or surveys you will use in your research. You should incorporate information from the textbook and what you learn during class discussions into your research methodology. The document should be a complete, thorough research design for conducting a study to test your hypothesis. If your original research methodology is a follow-up to a study that has already been completed, you need to clearly demonstrate how your research would expand on or differ from work already done, with specific details about your research approach.

You may complete the project with one other student, or individually. If you partner, you need to complete all three phases of the project together and you will receive the same grade. You also need to identify the contribution of each partner of every paper indicating that you both share in the work.

Make sure you include all elements of each assignment listed in the syllabus. Additional information regarding the project will be provided during class discussions.

Extra Credit

- **Attendance at the Western Society of Criminology Conference in San Diego February 6th or 7th:** Students may attend one panel session at the conference and prepare a summary of the discussion, including names of presenters, topics/issues discussed, research methods, findings and conclusions. Information on the conference can be found at <http://www.sonoma.edu/ccjs/wsc/conference.htm>. There is a registration fee for conference attendance.
- **Written Assignments:** Students may complete up to three written assignments for extra credit. The assignments will cover selection of an appropriate research design, data collection, survey development, and data analysis. Additional information will be provided during class discussions and on Blackboard.
- **Class Participation:** Class participation includes asking questions, answering questions, and discussing current events, research topics and policy issues.

Information Required on Written Assignments

All assignments should be typed (1 ½ spaces with 1 inch margins) and should include:

Name and RedID

Date

Class (CJ 540, Monday 4:00)

Discussion of Current Events

Students are encouraged to bring in articles or topics for discussion related to criminal justice data, research and policies on Mondays. The discussion of current events will address the relevance of planning, research and evaluation to current events and policy.

CJ 540 Reading Assignments/LecturesResearch Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology, Frank Hagan, 7th Edition, 2005**Reading assignments should be completed by Monday each week so you are prepared for discussions and you can answer questions regarding the material.**

Date	Topics	Reading Assignments
1/26	Overview of Class; Introduction to Research Methods and Concepts; Theory and Method; Policy and Research	Hagan: Ch. 1
2/2	Introduction to Research Methods (Cont'd); Ethics in Criminal Justice Research; Citing Sources	Hagan: Ch. 2 ECR: Citing Sources, Johnson et al.
2/9	Research Design: The Experimental Model and Variations; Proposal Writing	Hagan: Ch. 3 Appendix G
2/16	Research Design continued; Examples of an Experiment; Policy Analysis and Evaluation Research Concept Paper Due	McGarrell, "Restorative Justice Conferences", http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/187769.pdf
2/23	Alternative Data Gathering Strategies; Sampling and Survey Research	Hagan: Ch. 5
3/2	Survey Research Interviews and Telephone Surveys	Hagan: Ch. 6; BJA, "Stalking Victimization in the US", http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/svus.pdf
3/9	Survey Construction; Participant Observation and Case Studies; Example of Field Research Review for Midterm	Wright and Decker, "Robbers on Robbery", http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/193800.pdf
3/16	Midterm	
3/23	Participant Observation and Case Studies; Unobtrusive Measures; Secondary Analysis	Hagan: Ch. 7 and 8
3/30-4/3	Spring Break	
4/6	Literature Review Due Speaker; Official Statistics; Validity and Reliability	Ch 4 pp.121-136 (UCR) Hagan: Ch. 9
4/13	Scaling and Index Construction	Hagan: Ch. 10
4/20	Data Analysis: Coding, Tabulation and Presentation	Hagan: Ch. 12
4/27	Methodology Due Data Analysis: A User's Guide to Statistics	Hagan: Ch. 13; Skip Sections on Calculation of Statistics; Skip ANOVA (pp. 376-378)
5/4	Data Analysis Continued	In Class Exercise
5/11	Examples of Research Studies Review for Final Exam	
5/18	FINAL EXAM – Monday 1600 to 1800	

Note: This syllabus is subject to change. Each student is responsible for conforming to all changes. Plagiarism and other forms of intellectual dishonesty will not be tolerated.