

**CCJS 300 (SG91)**  
**Criminological and Criminal Justice Research Methods**  
**Fall 2007**

Tuesdays and Thursdays  
 11:00 – 12:15

**Instructor:**

Dr. Stephanie Gerstenblith

Email: [sgerstenblith@crim.umd.edu](mailto:sgerstenblith@crim.umd.edu) Phone: (301) 738-6307 Office: SG III Rm. 5105

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00-11:00; 12:15-1:00 or by appointment

**Teaching Assistant:**

Charlie Karim

Email: [ckarim@umd.edu](mailto:ckarim@umd.edu) Office: SG III Rm. 5101

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:15-1:00 or by appointment

**Course Objectives:**

This course deals with how to conduct research in the criminal justice field. We will cover various topics, such as problem formation, research designs, survey construction, sampling issues and data sources. This class will also cover the basic use of the statistical software package SPSS, which is commonly used to analyze social science data. You will not re-learn statistics in this class but you will learn how to interpret the computer output, which will include statistical information. Previous computer experience is NOT required.

**Required Text:**

Bachman, R. and Schutt, R. (2007). *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Third Edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.

Additional required readings will be assigned periodically throughout the semester.

**Course Grading:**

Your final grade will be determined based on your performance on 2 exams, 10 unannounced (pop) quizzes, 4 assignments and class participation.

1. Midterm Exam:	20%
2. Final Exam:	20%
3. Assignments: 4 x 10% each	40%
4. Pop quizzes: 10 x 1% each	10%
5. Class Participation:	10%
TOTAL	100%

F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
<60	60-63	64-66	67-69	70-73	74-76	77-79	80-83	84-85	87-89	90-93	94-100	Instructor's Discretion

The midterm and final exams will consist of the following types of questions: multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blanks, and short answer. There will be 50 questions on each exam. Please refer to the attached class schedule for the dates of the exams and the material to be covered on each exam, as well as the assignment due dates. Further information regarding the assignments will be provided by the professor at a later date.

### **Makeup Policy:**

I have a very strict policy regarding makeup quizzes, exams or assignments.

**Quizzes:** Missed pop quizzes cannot be made up for any reason and will be counted as 0%.

**Midterm and Final Exam:** Makeups on the midterm and final exam will only be given in cases of excused absences (official documentation is required). Excused absences are: illness with a doctor's note, death in the immediate family, required court appearance, and University sponsored activities, such as athletic contests. For those instances when you know in advance that you will miss an exam (University sponsored activities and court appearances), you are expected to make up the exam BEFORE your scheduled absence. For all other occurrences, you must notify me in person or by phone within TWO days of a missed exam or assignment to be considered eligible for a makeup.

**Assignments:** Assignments are due by the end of class on the scheduled dates. Any assignments that are not turned in by the end of class are considered late. Points will be deducted from late assignments at a rate of 10 points (1 letter grade) per day.

### **Blackboard:**

Please be sure to check blackboard regularly for important class announcements and materials (powerpoint presentations). Login at [www.elms.umd.edu](http://www.elms.umd.edu).

### **Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations with me, please talk to me by September 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Academic Integrity:**

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards in this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.shc.umd.edu>.

Academic dishonesty of any kind will NOT be tolerated. All students are expected to abide by University rules governing academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty encompasses behavior such as cheating on exams and assignments, giving false statements, etc. Any cheating will be immediately turned over to the Office of Judicial Programs.

To further exhibit your commitment to academic integrity, remember to sign the Honor Pledge on all examinations and assignments: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)."

### **Statement on Classroom Disruptions:**

The success of this class depends both on my ability as an instructor and on the classroom environment that we are able to create. We need to work together to create a positive environment conducive to learning. As a Department and a University, we expect the faculty and the students to be prepared for class and to be actively engaged in the classroom activities. Unfortunately, disruptive behaviors in the classroom cheat other students of opportunities to learn.

The University of Maryland's Code of Academic Integrity defines classroom disruptions as "behavior that a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the code of conduct of a class." Examples include coming in late, repeatedly leaving or entering the classroom without authorization, making loud or distracting noises, and persisting in speaking without being recognized. As the instructor of this class, I also find the following distracting: ringing cellular phones/beepers, reading outside material, sleeping, and side conversations. Please turn off ringers on cell phones and beepers during class.

### **General Information on Center for Academic Success**

The Center for Academic Success (CAS) offers onsite academic assistance for students attending classes at the Shady Grove Center.

Here's what CAS can do for you:

- Run your paper by a professional writing consultant ( in person or over the phone)
- Find an individual tutor for a course you could use a boost in
- Take advantage of weekly reviews, called Guided Study Sessions (GSS), in business, social work, psychology, nursing and other areas led by peer tutors who aced the class last year and who knows the ropes
- Offer workshops in speed reading, memory strategies or textbook reading strategies that could save you hours of time and reduce your stress level
- Have a session with your personal academic trainer to see how you can do more work with less time
- Help you tackle and conquer writing snags with grammar assistance handouts, online exercises (with answers) and software programs on our computers

\*For instruction on how to submit papers for phone tutoring, please visit the website at [www.shadygrove.umd.edu/resources/cas](http://www.shadygrove.umd.edu/resources/cas)

### **Contact information:**

SG Bldg. 3, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Student Services suite  
(301) 738-6315; Email: [sg-cas@umd.edu](mailto:sg-cas@umd.edu)  
Dr. Marsha Youngblood, Associate Director

### **Hours:**

MW 9:00 – 5:30  
Tues 9:00 – 7:00  
ThFri 9:00 – 5:00

(Other times by appt: M-F 8:30 – 5)

<b>CCJS 300: Criminal Justice Research Methods Fall 2007 Schedule</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assigned Reading (due on day listed)</b>	<b>Assignments and Important Information</b>
8/30/07	Introduction		
9/4/07	Science, Society and Criminological Research	Chapter 1	
9/6/07	The Process and Problems of Criminological Research	Chapter 2	
9/11/07	The Process and Problems of Criminological Research	Chapter 2	
9/13/07	Rosh Hashanah- NO CLASS		
9/18/07	Conceptualization and Measurement	Chapter 3	
9/20/07	Sampling	Chapter 4	
9/25/07	Causation and Research Design	Chapter 5	
9/27/07	Library Research	Appendices A, B and C	Class in library
10/2/07	Research Article Review, Causation and Research Design	Chapter 5	
10/4/07	Causation and Research Design	Chapter 5	
10/9/07	Review for midterm exam		Assignment 1 due
10/11/07	Midterm Exam	Chapters 1-5 and Appendices A-C, additional readings, films, speakers	
10/16/07	Go over midterm exam, begin Experimental Designs	Chapter 6	
10/18/07	Experimental Designs	Chapter 6	
10/23/07	Survey Research	Chapter 7: 205-235	
10/25/07	Survey Research	Chapter 7: 235-256	
10/30/07	Survey Research	Chapter 7	
11/6/07	Qualitative Methods	Chapter 8	Assignment 2 due
11/8/07	Qualitative Methods	Chapter 8	
11/13/07	Evaluation Research and Policy	Chapter 11	
11/15/07	Evaluation Research and Policy	Chapter 11	

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11/20/07	Introduction to SPSS	Appendix E on <a href="http://www.sagepub.com/prccj3">http://www.sagepub.com/prccj3</a>	
11/22/07	Thanksgiving- NO CLASS		
11/27/07	Quantitative Data Analysis	Chapter 12	Assign. 3 due; Class in computer lab
11/29/07	Quantitative Data Analysis	Chapter 12	Class in computer lab
12/4/07	Quantitative Data Analysis	Chapter 12	Class in computer lab
12/6/07	Reporting Research Results	Chapter 13	Assig. 4 due
12/11/07	Review for final exam		
12/18/07	Final Exam	Chapters 6-8, 11-13, Appendix E, additional readings, films, speakers	