

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

CJ 4903 Criminal Justice Research I

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisites: Criminal Justice major or minor with junior standing or consent of instructor; CJ 3983 Introduction to Research Methods; STAT 2503 Probability and Statistics I or PSYC 2513 Introduction to Behavioral Statistics; and ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Guides students through the research process. Students will learn how to identify a research topic, conduct literature reviews, develop research questions, select an appropriate research design, development data collection and measurement instruments, write an IRB proposal and obtain approval to conduct their research. Students will select a sample and collect primary and/or secondary data under the direction of a criminal justice faculty member.

B. Additional Information

Specifically designed to provide junior and senior level undergraduate students with a research experience which will prepare them for similar activities in a graduate school or criminal justice environment. This a sequenced course and is intended to be taken prior to CJ 4913 Criminal Justice Research II which is to be offered during the second consecutive semester.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic principles of qualitative and quantitative research.
2. Write a research proposal and request IRB approval for the study.
3. Develop a research design appropriate for the study.
4. Identify appropriate sampling techniques for the particular study.
5. Create data collection instruments and collect data.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis.

Quantitative Reasoning: Students will assign and use numbers, read and analyze data, create models, draw inferences, and support conclusions based on sound mathematical reasoning.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will use essay format for written presentation of research projects and discuss particular aspects of various topics in a seminar setting.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will examine ethical dilemmas within the criminal justice field and develop ethical frameworks to resolve specific ethical issues.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Identifying a research topic
- B. Conducting literature reviews
- C. Finding the appropriate research design
- D. Creating data collection/measurement instruments
- E. Sample selection
- F. Writing an IRB proposal
- G. Collecting data