CJ615E01 Syllabus

Jiabo Liu, Ph.D.

Department of Criminal Justice
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Academic Term & Year	**Fall 2018-2019 (Aug - Dec 2018)**
Course Prefix & Number	CJ615E01
Course Title	**Advanced Research Methods**
Time & Location of Class Meeting	Online
Instructor's Contact Information	
Name:	Jiabo Liu, Ph.D.
Office Location:	Social Science Building: Office "K"
Office Hours:	Mondays 2:00 – 3:30pm Tuesdays 2:00 – 5:00pm Wednesdays 10:00am – 12:00pm; 2:00 – 3:30 pm Thursdays 2:00 – 4:00pm or By Appointment at least 6 hours in Advance
Office Phone Number:	662-254-3368
E-Mail Address:	Blackboard E-Mail & jliu@mvsu.edu
Core Objectives of Criminal Justice Graduate Program:	Upon completion of the graduate program the student should be able to: 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the core issues and principles governing the operations of the different components of the criminal justice system (Police, Courts and Corrections). 2. Analyze the theoretical formulations that explain crime, its prevention and control. 3. Apply research methodological skills appropriate for criminal justice research. 4. Express knowledge of the discipline through competent writing.
Course Description	Extensive coverage of methods and techniques for

	social research.
Expected Student Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to: 1. Identify basic principles for research practices; 2. Discuss crucial techniques for criminal justice researches; 3. Develop deep perspectives on criminal justice researches.
Course Requirements	
Required Textbook(s):	*The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice* Ronet Bachman & Russell Schutt SAGE Publications, Inc ISBN: 9781506306810 6th Edition (2017).
Technology Skills	Basic computer skills, working within Windows system environment, navigating the internet, and familiarity with E-mail.
Class Attendance Policy:	Each student is required to participate in using Blackboard Communication Tools, taking online exams, and other aspects of Blackboard. You are expected to log in regularly (daily, perhaps several times per day) to submit assignments, check grades, personal messages, and view course materials. Student(s) who fail to participate in the online course during a course week will be deemed absent for that week. The absence will be annotated as absent unexcused (AU), unless the professor has been informed beforehand and deemed the absence as absent excused (AE). The professor shall report all absences to the main campus as required. A student who has not participated for 7 consecutive days regardless if the absences were deemed AU or AE shall be recommended for administrative withdrawal to the main campus. In a traditional classroom just because a student contacts the professor and is excused from a scheduled class meeting does not mean the student is given credit for participation or attendance. The student is still annotated as AU or AE**. The online classroom shall be no different in this respect.** It is the professor's sole discretion as to what he/she shall consider AU or AE.
Submission of Assignments:	**Scheduled assignments MUST be completed and successfully submitted through the Blackboard**

	Assignment Tool (drop box) by due date and time. Assignments automatically become unavailable after the due date/time expires. All assignments MUST be keyed using MS Word or saved as a .DOC or DOCX file and no multiple submissions will be allowed. **1. DISCUSSIONS** All discussions are designed as short essays and corresponding scheduled class discussion meetings. Meanwhile, some interactive discussions under the folder of "Discussion Forum" will be assigned. **Submit all discussion essays as an attached file.** Topics, Guidelines, and Rubric for discussion essays will be issued separately. The Rubric (Online Discussion Rubric) is applied for all discussion essays. Interactive discussions under the folder of "Discussion Forum" may not be bound by the Rubric but should be clear at least without grammar, spelling, or typing errors. **Do NOT submit interactive discussion as an attached file.** **2. QUIZZES** All quizzes consist of multiple choice questions. **Be certain to read ALL pertinent materials prior to taking quizzes. Not doing so will certainly lead to disappointing results.** **3. RESEARCH PROPOSAL** **Submit Research Proposal as an attached file.** Students are required to write a research proposal on a topic addressing issues concerning **research techniques/process**. The proposal should fully discuss the issue or topic to the comprehension of a lay person.

	Guidelines & Topics of Research Proposal will be issued separately. The proposal is to follow the APA style. For information on APA style, consult**:** http://www.wisc.edu/writing/handbook/DocAPAReferences.html. The textbook of this course can be used as a required reference book for this proposal. Please note that spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, grammar, and the general content will factor prominently in determining the proposal grades. Please note that "personal attack" is unacceptable during discussions or conversations. "Personal attack" refers to making any negative comments on the person her/himself who presents the ideas rather than on the presentation of ideas itself for downgrading the presentation of the ideas during discussions or conversations.
Make-up Policy:	Make up maybe allowed, depending on the circumstances with an excuse. It is at the professor's discretion and with students' request before the deadlines of quizzers, exams, or assignments.
Course Drops/Incompletes:	Students not completing the course for any reason are required to submit official drop notices to the Registrar's Office prior to the deadline date. **This is your responsibility**. Failure to comply with the procedure WILL result in your receiving a letter grade of "**F**".
Cheating and Plagiarism Policy:	Cheating in any fashion will not be tolerated, including but not limited to plagiarizing another's words, work or ideas on individual class assignments. To address the situation of plagiarism, the University has implemented *Turnitin* to fight plagiarism and improve reading, writing, and research skills. *Turnitin* is a comprehensive plagiarism prevention system that lets faculty quickly and effectively check all students' work. Results are based on exhaustive searches of billions of pages from both current and archived instances on the Internet. Plagiarism will result in at least a failing grade for the assignment(s) and/or course.

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<tr><td>Evaluation Procedures</td><td>
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<tr><td colspan="2">Evaluation Standards/Grading Scale:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total Points</td><td>100%</td></tr>
<tr><td>A</td><td>90 – 100%</td></tr>
<tr><td>B</td><td>80 – 89%</td></tr>
<tr><td>C</td><td>70 – 79%</td></tr>
<tr><td>D</td><td>60 – 69%</td></tr>
<tr><td>F</td><td>Below 60%</td></tr>
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<tr><td colspan="2">Assessments & Points of Evaluation
The final grade will be determined by evaluating the following Assessments.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assignments for Assessments/Evaluation</td><td>Points</td></tr>
<tr><td>Six short Class Discussion Essays and Corresponding Interactive Discussions (Each is worth 4 points)</td><td>24</td></tr>
<tr><td>Six Class Quizzes (Each is worth 6 points)</td><td>36</td></tr>
<tr><td>One Middle-Term Exam Quiz</td><td>10</td></tr>
<tr><td>One Final Exam Quiz</td><td>15</td></tr>
<tr><td>One Research Proposal</td><td>15</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Total Points — 100</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Online Communication
Observation of “Netiquette”:</td><td>Students MUST use Blackboard mail for contact with the instructor and other members of the class.

All your Online communications should be composed with fairness, honesty and tact. What you put into an Online course reflects on your level of professionalism.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Technical Problems:</td><td>If you experience technical/computer difficulties (need help downloading browsers or plug-in, logging into your course, using your course web site tools, or experience errors or problems while</td></tr>
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<tr><td></td><td>in your online course), contact Presidium Learning, Inc 1-888-383-4709) on campus support 662-254-3114 as well as your instructor.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Course Access</td><td>Access Blackboard course at http://mvsu.blackboard.com or www.mvsu.edu click on Blackboard for detailed instructions regarding assignments.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Teaching/Learning Strategies</td><td>The primary instructional model for this course is collaborative learning.

Specifically, the professor will set course content, course objectives, and methods of classroom assessment. The course will incorporate the following instructional strategies: class discussion, online activities, assigned readings, quizzes, and/or individual projects. Students are encouraged to actively participate in activities, ask questions, and contribute comments for discussion. Students are also encouraged to offer input regarding instructional strategies and assignments.

Most importantly, it is students' responsibility to be active learners and to ask for clarification when they have any questions. In order to be successful in the class, it is important that students must read the assigned material, submit assignments and participate in discussions of what they have read. The goal of this approach is to develop a safe learning environment that addresses a variety of learning styles, promotes critical thinking, and fosters creativity.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Technology Infusion:</td><td>Hardware:

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<tr><td>Operating System:</td><td>Windows 98, 2000, NT, XP or a Macintosh System 8.1 or higher</td></tr>
<tr><td>Processor:</td><td>200 MHz or higher</td></tr>
<tr><td>Memory:</td><td>32 MB of RAM</td></tr>
<tr><td>H Drive Space:</td><td>100 MB free disk space</td></tr>
<tr><td>Modem:</td><td>28.8 kbps or higher</td></tr>
<tr><td>Monitor:</td><td>800x600 resolution</td></tr>
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Software:

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<tr><td>Internet Access:</td><td>Any Internet Service Provider</td></tr>
<tr><td>Browser:</td><td>Internet Explorer, Netscape r 4.7 or higher*, AOL 5.0 or higher**</td></tr>
<tr><td>Application</td><td>Recommend Microsoft Word or application file name .doc</td></tr>
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	Audio & Video: RealPlayer, Quick Time
ADA Statement	Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact the University College, Office of the ADA Coordinator. The coordinator can be contacted directly at 662.254.3446 or through the University College office number at 662.254.3442. The student requiring special instructional strategies should, in writing, make these special needs known to the instructor during the first week of the course.

Course Schedule

Weeks (Aug – Dec 2018)	**Topics/Readings (Including Related Video Watching) /Assignments**	**Time**
Week 1 (August 20 – 24)	**Topics:** Science, Society, and Criminological Research Process and Problems of Criminological Research **Required Readings:** Chapters 1 & 2	3 Hours (180 Minutes)
Week 2 (August 27 – 31)	**Topics:** Science, Society, and Criminological Research Process and Problems of Criminological Research **Required Readings:** Chapters 1 & 2 Assignment: Class Discussion Essay 1 Due	4 Hours (240 Minutes)
Week 3 (September 3 – 7)	**Topics:** Research Ethics **Required Readings:** Chapter 3 **Assignment:** Class Quiz 1	3 Hours (180 Minutes)
Week 4 (September 10 – 14) September 3 Labor Day Holiday. September 10 Last Day to Add/Drop Courses.	**Topics:** Conceptualization and Measurement **Required Readings:** Chapter 4 **Assignment:** Class Discussion Essay 2 Due	3 Hours (180 Minutes)
Week 5 (September 17 – 21)	**Topics:** Conceptualization and Measurement Sampling **Required Readings:** Chapters 4 & 5	3 Hours (180 Minutes)

	Assignment: Assignment: Class Quiz 2	
	Topics: Conceptualization and Measurement Sampling **Required Readings:** Chapters 4 & 5 **Assignment:** Class Discussion Essay 3 Due	4 Hours (240 Minutes)
Week 6 (September 24 – 28)	**Topics:** Causation and Research Design **Required Readings:** Chapter 6 **Assignment:** Class Quiz 3	3 Hours (180 Minutes)
Week 7 (October 1 – 5)	Course Review for Middle-Term Exam Cover: Chapters 1 – 6	6 Hours (360 Minutes)
Week 8 (October 8 – 12)	Middle-Term Exam Week Middle-Term Exam Quiz Cover: Chapters 1 – 6	3 Hours (180 Minutes)
Week 9 (October 15 – 19)	**Spring Break** **Topics:** Experimental Designs **Required Readings:** Chapter 7 **Assignment:** Class Discussion Essay 4 Due	4 Hours (240 Minutes)
Week 10 (October 22 – 26)	**Topics:** Survey Research **Required Readings:** Chapter 8 **Assignment:** Class Discussion Essay 5 Due	4 Hours (240 Minutes)
Week 11 (October 29 – November 2) November 2 Last Day to Withdraw from a Class.	**Topics:** Qualitative Methods & Analysis **Required Readings:** Chapter 9 **Assignment:** Class Quiz 4	3 Hours (180 Minutes)
Week 12 (November 5 – 9) November 9 Last Day to Withdraw from the University.	**Topics:** Analyzing Content (Secondary Data Analysis, Content Analysis, Crime Mapping, & Big Data)	4 Hours (240 Minutes)

	Required Readings: Chapter 10 **Assignment:** Class Quiz 5	
Week 13 (November 12 – 16)	**Topics:** Evaluation & Policy Analysis **Required Readings:** Chapter 11 **Assignment:** Class Discussion Essay 6 Due	3 Hours (180 Minutes)
Week 14 (November 19 – 23)	**Topics:** Reporting Research Results **Required Readings:** Chapter 15 **Assignments:** Class Quiz 6 Research Proposal – Due on 16th November 2018	39 Hours (1980 Minutes - Research Proposal needs at least 36 hours during the period from posting the guidelines to your final submission.)
Week 15 (November 26 – 30)	Final Exam Review Cover: Chapters 1 - 11 & 15	4 Hours (240 Minutes)
Final Exam Week (December 3 – 7)	Final Exam Cover: Chapters 1 - 11 & 15	4 Hours (240 Minutes)
Total Time: 97 Hours (5820 Minutes)		
Final Comments:	This syllabus is not a contract. It is only a guideline. The professor reserves the right to make changes and additions (depending on the needs and level of the class) to this syllabus at her/his discretion. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, you will be notified of changes via Blackboard mail.	