

**Syllabus subject to change**

**CRJ 70000 RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE I**

Dennis Jay Kenney  
Patricia Zapf  
Fall 2004

**PURPOSE:**

The overall purpose of this class is to explore the major issues confronting criminal justice research and researchers. In doing so, you will advance your knowledge of the methods of research beyond the basic rudiments to achieve mastery of the tools and methods required. As the second of a required two-semester sequence, you will complete a fundable research proposal during the semester. In addition, class exams and critiques of existing research will be required.

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

Maxfield, M. and E. Babbie (2001). *Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing.

King, R. and E. Wincup (2000). *Doing Research on Crime and Justice*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Chin, Ko-Lin (1996). *Chinatown Gangs*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Liebow, E. (1967). *Tally's Corner*. New York, NY: Little, Brown and Company.

Kenney, D., et al., (1999). *A Conflict of Rights: Public Safety and Abortion Clinic Conflict and Violence*. Washington, DC: Police Executive Research Forum.

Finckenauer, J. and P. Gavin (1999). *Scared Straight and the Panacea Phenomenon*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press.

Additional readings will be assigned as appropriate.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

To attend **ALL** classes, participate in classroom discussions, and read **ALL** assigned readings. All assigned work must be completed **AS SCHEDULED**.

Since we share a mutual obligation to contribute to a classroom atmosphere that promotes learning, conduct that is destructive to the ability of others to learn from classroom activities is a serious violation of the academic code and will result in disciplinary action.

Academic dishonesty is an equally serious infraction. Any papers involving cheating will receive zero points and may result in a failing grade for the class as well as additional disciplinary action. In

addition, you are expected to be familiar with the rules of plagiarism. Please see the *Bulletin*, pp. 38-39 for a description.

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**Dr. Kenney:**

Regular hours are on Tuesday, 2:00-4:00. Please give me advance notice that you wish to meet. Additional times may be available by appointment. My office is in the Department of Law and Police Science, Room 34.

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<b>GRADING:</b>	1.)	Project Reviews (3):	15% each
	2.)	Project Design:	30%
	5.)	Final Exam	25%

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

- 1.) Politics and the ethical dilemmas in criminal justice research. Why we have IRBs and how do we deal with them.
- 2.) Understanding the complexities of criminal justice research
- 3.) Doing field research: Observations, ethnographies, and case studies.
- 4.) Program evaluations and the experimental method.
- 5.) Conducting surveys.
- 6.) More on the issues of validity and reliability
- 7.) Analyzing your data: Correlations, causation, and those pesky alternative explanations. What are the issues to be mindful of?
- 8.) Finally, reporting what I found. How did it take so long and why were the reviewers so mean?

