

CJ285 Basic Criminal Justice Research Methods**Credit hours:** 3**Scheduled hours per week**

Lecture: 2.5

Lab: 0

Other: 0

Catalog course description:

Explores basic concepts and terminology related to social science research used in CJ. Emphasis is placed on reading and understanding academic research articles and other relevant sources of data and information pertinent to criminal justice.

Pre-requisites: CJ111 with a "C" or better. ENGL102 with a "C" or better.

Co-requisites: None

Course learning outcomes:

- demonstrate the process of locating, evaluating, and citing research sources
- define and explain basic social science terminology and concepts
- understand various research articles

Topics to be studied:

This course will cover the history and ethics of research; qualitative and quantitative research methods; conceptualizing and operationalizing variables; sampling strategies; and research design.

Relationship of course to program or discipline learning outcomes:

Demonstrate proficiency in the vocabulary pertaining to the Criminal Justice field.	X
Explain the history and evolution of the CJ system in the US.	
Explain the investigative process and applicable laws.	
Demonstrate a basic understanding of the law and the legal system in the US.	
Examine the history and theories of and current practices within the corrections system.	
Explain ethics and how it applies to the CJ system and various CJ professionals.	
Recognize the root causes of crime and criminal behavior and the role criminological theory plays in the study of CJ.	
Display decision making and critical thinking skills as they relate to CJ.	X
Apply learned concepts by bridging the gap between theories and practice.	X
Display an advanced level of understanding of CJ theories and concepts.	
Demonstrate a proficiency in writing, research, and critical thinking pertaining to the CJ field.	X
Recognize the underlying societal problems that lead to crime and victimization.	

Utilize CJ theories and concepts to combat social problems and distribute resources effectively.	
--	--

Relationship of course to general education learning outcomes:

Composition and Rhetoric: Students illustrate a fundamental understanding of the best practices of communicating in English and meet the writing standards of their college or program-based communication requirements.	X
Science and Technology: Students successfully apply systematic methods of analysis to the natural and physical world, understand scientific knowledge as empirical, and refer to data as a basis for conclusions.	X
Mathematics and Quantitative Skills: Students effectively use quantitative techniques and the practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts.	
Society, Diversity, and Connections: Students demonstrate understanding of and a logical ability to successfully analyze human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication.	
Human Inquiry and the Past: Students interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives by identifying patterns, applying analytical reasoning, employing methods of critical inquiry, or expanding problem-solving skills.	X
The Arts and Creativity: Students successfully articulate and apply methods and principles of critical and creative inquiry to the production or analysis of works of art.	
<i>Updated 05-03-2016</i>	

Special requirements of the course:

None

Additional information:

None

Prepared by:

Andrew Walker

Date last edited:

October 19, 2017