

Sample Only
Not Currently in Use

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Course # & Title: CJI 0540: Program Evaluation in Criminal Justice

Credit hours: 3 credits

Office hours: Scheduled by appointment on an as needed basis.
Email inquiries are encouraged and quite acceptable.

Required Text: The following required text book is available on-line or as a hard copy:

Trochim, William M. (2001). The Research Methods Knowledge Base
(2nd ed.). Atomic Dog Publishing.
The ISBN for this text is 0-9701385-9-8.

Recommended Text: The following recommended text book is available for purchases as a hard copy through the American Psychological Association at www.apa.org. This text may also be available through your local university bookstore.

American Psychology Association. (2001). *Publication Manual*
(5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
The ISBN for this text is 1-55798-791-2.

Course Objectives: This course will examine the research and statistical methods commonly applied by professionals working within the criminal justice field during the decision-making process. Traditional statistical computations will be performed and common research designs will be outlined. Familiarization with computations of central tendency and the application and appropriateness of these values in making judgments will be accomplished. The difference between descriptive and inferential statistics will be examined. How issues of variability, sample size, selection bias, and research design effect the reliability and validity of the achieved results will be explored. Limitations and issues related to validity and reliability will be reviewed. Integration of the methodological and statistical factors into the ability to make sound judgments will be discussed, while considering the real-life limitations of time, budget, personnel, importance of results, and the impact the results will have on the field of criminal justice and society at large. Current applications of how an integration of these concepts permits an individual working in the criminal justice field to evaluate program effectiveness and make other administrative and pragmatic decisions will be illustrated throughout the course. Through specific examples and case material shared by peers, particular emphasis will be placed on the ability to integrate empirically

based information into the decision making process and evaluate the effectiveness of a decision.

- Course Activities:**
1. Course material will be presented in weekly lectures, which will be posted every Sunday morning.
 2. Lectures often will be supplemented by assigned readings from the text book and on-line resources, such as the on-line library access through NSU.
 3. In addition to lectures and assigned readings, students will be responsible for participating in weekly discussions, which will be posted on the Discussion Board. There will be 8 structured discussion topics over the course of the semester.
 4. Students will also be required to complete weekly homework assignments that are related to that week's material. There will be 6 homework assignments over the course of the semester.
 5. There will be two exams given over the course of the semester, a mid-term and a comprehensive final.

- Grading Criteria:**
1. Discussion Topics: 30%
There will be 8 discussion topics. The initial response will always be due by Tuesday at midnight EST. There will usually be one or two additional responses required. The additional responses will always be due by Thursday at midnight EST. Late responses will be penalized by a 10% decrease in the grade for the discussion topic that week.
 2. Homework Assignments: 20%
There will be 6 homework assignments. Assignments will need to be saved as a word or excel document and uploaded into the "Assignment Dropbox." Assignments will always be due by Saturday at midnight EST. Late responses will be penalized by a 10% decrease in the grade for the homework assignment that week.
 3. Midterm Exam: 20%
Mid-term exam will be during the fifth week of class. Mid-term exam will need to be saved as a word or excel document and uploaded into the "Assignment Dropbox." Mid-term will be due by Saturday at midnight EST. Late responses will be penalized by a 10% decrease in the grade for each day the mid-term is late.
 4. Final Exam: 30%
Final exam will be during the last week of class. Final exam will need to be saved as a word or excel document and uploaded into the "Assignment Dropbox." Final exam will be due by Saturday at midnight EST. Late responses will be penalized by a 10% decrease in the grade for each day the final is late.

- Weekly grades will be calculated on an ongoing basis and will be shared with students within one week following completion of that week's work. Feedback and suggestions for improvement will also be provided at that time.
- Letter grade will be determined by the following scale:

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70 -79
F = below 70

- All graded responsibilities will be posted in the week's lecture. Full descriptions and due dates will be provided.

Week Topic Responsibilities

Wk 1:Introduction: Library Module Reading, Discussion, & APA Format & Assignment

Wk 2:Descriptive Statistics Reading, Discussion, & Assignment

Wk 3:Inferential Statistics Reading, Discussion, & Assignment

Wk 4:Review Discussion

Wk 5:Mid-term Examination Exam

Wk 6:Hypothesis Testing Reading, Discussion, & Sampling & Assignment

Wk 7:Relationships Reading, Discussion, & Assignment

Wk 8:Research Design Reading, Discussion, & Assignment

Wk 9:Review Discussion

Wk 10:Final Examination Exam

Additional Recommended Reading:

Boon, H. N. (1994). Recommended outcome measures for program evaluation: APA's board of directors' summary results. *APPA Perspectives*, 18, 19-20.

Champion, D. (1981). *Basic Statistics for Social Research* (2nd ed.). New York: McMillan.

Gaade, W. J. & Hatt, P. (1952). *Methods in Social Research*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Kazdin, A. E. (1992). *Research Design in Clinical Psychology* (2nd ed.). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Vogt, W. P. (1993). *Dictionary of Statistics and Methodology: A Nontechnical Guide for the Social Sciences*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

For those seeking a more sophisticated understanding:

Esbensen, F. (1991). Ethical considerations in criminal justice research, *American Journal of Police*, 10, 87-104.

Glass, G. (1976). Primary, secondary & meta-Analysis, *Educational Researcher*, 5, 3-8.

Holmes, M. & Taggart, W. (1990). A comparative Analysis of Research Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice Journals, *Justice Quarterly*, 7, 421-437.

Stevens, S. (1951). *Handbook of Experimental Psychology*. John Wiley

Winer, B. J. (1962). *Statistical Principles in Experimental Design*. New York: McGraw-Hill.