

SS2709: METHODS OF CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Effective Term

Semester A 2022/23

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Methods of Criminological Research

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

2709

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to introduce students to the basic elements of research methods in social science and their application in criminology. It covers both qualitative and quantitative approaches. It will help students to form a solid foundation for the preparation of their final year project in criminology.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Demonstrate a thorough understanding of different research methods in social science and their applications in criminological research.	20	x	x	
2	Develop a knowledge base about larger theoretical issues behind research methods and the relative strengths and weaknesses of each method.	10	x	x	
3	Evaluate the research methods used in selected studies in criminology.	30	x	x	
4	Command the skills of data analysis and interpretation, both qualitatively and quantitatively, in criminological study.	40	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

TLAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	TLA1: Lectures and activities/spss tutorials	The lectures will be used to enable the students to understand different research methods and their relative strengths and weaknesses. There will be activities/spss tutorials for the students to learn the skills.	1, 2, 3, 4

2	TLA2: Assignments	Students are required to complete several assignments (qualitative and quantitative) that will strengthen their ability to conduct a rigorous final year project in Criminology.	2, 3, 4	
3	TLA3: quiz	At the end of the semester, a quiz will be conducted to assess students' understanding of different research methods, theoretical issues behind research methods and the relative strengths and weaknesses of each method, and their knowledge of proper data analysis and interpretation in qualitative and quantitative criminological research.	1, 2, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	AT1: Qualitative assignments	2, 3, 4	30	
2	AT2: SPSS assignments	3, 4	30	
3	AT3: Quiz	1, 2, 4	40	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Qualitative assignments

Criterion

Critically examine the justifications of existing qualitative methods

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

2. SPSS assignments

Criterion

Understand how to conduct data analyses and interpret the results

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

3. Quiz

Criterion

Understand different research methods, theoretical issues behind research methods, and the relative strengths and weaknesses of each method; and evaluate data analysis and interpretation in criminological research.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Introduction to criminological research

The quantitative/qualitative debate; Inductive and deductive reasoning; Philosophical and theoretical foundations of research methods; Triangulation; Codes of Ethics in Crime and Justice Research; How to conduct a systematic literature review; Referencing styles; The quantitative research report; The qualitative research report. Positivism. The radical approach. The realist approach.

Quantitative research and its applications in criminological study

An overview of quantitative research designs: experimental and quasi-experimental designs, survey research

Descriptive statistics and interpretation

Bivariate analysis and interpretation

Multivariate analysis and interpretation

Qualitative research and its applications in criminological study

Qualitative design issues, Case studies; Participant observation; Ethnographic field research; Documentary analysis;

Archival data analysis; In-depth interviewing and focus group interviewing; Reliability and validity in qualitative research;

Fieldwork politics

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Maxfield, M. G., and Babbie, E. 2014. Research methods for criminal justice and criminology (7th ed.). Belmont, CA.: Wadsworth Thomson Learning.
2	Hagan, F. E. 2013. Research methods in criminal justice and criminology (9th ed.). Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall.
3	Hammersley, M., and Atkinson, P. 2007. Ethnography: Principles in Practice (3rd ed.). London: Routledge.
4	Berg, B. L., and Lune, H. 2014. Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences. Harlow, Essex: Pearson.
5	Field, Andy P. 2018. Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics (5th edition). Los Angeles, California : SAGE Publications

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Creswell, J. W. 1997. Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Traditions. Thousand Oaks: SAGE
2	Dantzker M. L. (Ed.). 1999. Readings for research methods in criminology and criminal justice. Boston: Butterworth-Heinmann.
3	Fitzgerald, J. D., and Cox, S. M. 2002. Research methods and statistics in criminal justice. Belmont, CA.: Wadsworth.
4	Gadd, D., Karstedt, S., and Messner, S. F. 2011. The SAGE handbook of criminological research methods. London: Sage.
5	Hagan, F. E. 2005. Essentials of research methods in criminal justice and criminology. Boston, Mass.: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon.
6	Jupp, V. 1989. Methods of criminological research. London: Unwin Hyman.
7	Kraska, P. B., and Neuman, W. L. 2008. Criminal justice and criminology research methods. Boston: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.
8	Lee, E., Hartley, R., and Walsh, A. 2010. Research methods in criminal justice and criminology: An interdisciplinary approach. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield.
9	Noaks, L., and Wincup, E. 2004. Criminological research: Understanding qualitative methods. London: Sage.
10	Piltch, C., and Terry, K. J. 2011. A short guide to writing about criminal justice. Boston: Prentice Hall.

11	Pogrebin, M. R. (Ed.). 2003. <i>Qualitative approaches to criminal justice: Perspectives from the field</i> . Thousand Oaks, CA.: Sage.
12	Pope, C. E., Lovell, R., and Brandl, S. G. (Eds.). 2000. <i>Voices from the field: Readings in criminal justice research</i> . Belmont, CA.: Wadsworth.
13	Weiss, R. S. 1994. <i>Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies</i> . New York: Free Press.
14	Ryan, G. W., Rand, H., and Hernard, H. R. 2003. Techniques to Identify Themes, <i>Field Methods</i> 15(1):85-109.