

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



MASTER SYLLABUS

JUST 347 – RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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**SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
FALL 2020**

A. **TITLE:** Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 347

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** n/a

E. **GER CATEGORY:**

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course introduces students to the practices of consuming and producing research of publishable quality in the disciplines of criminal justice and criminology. Students explore the elements of the research process and the scientific method, paying special attention to ethical considerations in conducting research. Analyzing the processes and principles of the quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods approaches to research, students critically evaluate published literature in the field, analyze and interpret data and findings, and consider the usefulness of criminal justice/criminological research to the conceptual understanding of, and field-based practice within, the disciplines.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES:**

- a. 45 credit hours or permission of instructor;
- b. Pre-requisite(s): CI, LEL, HS, FC, CA, CYBR, EADM majors only.

I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

<u>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</u>	<u>PSLO</u>	<u>GER</u>	<u>ISLO</u>
a. Select an appropriate research design, among qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods approaches, to explore the answer to a criminal justice or criminological research question.	PLO 4 – Demonstrate fluency in locating, evaluating and using criminological research, evidence and data.		ISLO #3 – Foundational Skills [subsets: Information Management; and Quantitative Literacy and Reasoning]
b. Interpret the validity, reliability, impact, or usefulness of published criminal justice/criminological research data or conclusions.	PLO 5 – Recognize and interpret graphical and tabular data sets.		ISLO #3 – Foundational Skills [subsets: Information Management; and Quantitative Literacy and Reasoning]
c. Describe the ethical considerations for conducting research in criminal justice or criminology.	PLO 6 – Apply standards of ethical behavior in evidence-based practice in criminal justice contexts.		4. Social Responsibility [E]

KEY	<u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</u>
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	Foundational Skills <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** Yes _____ No X _____

K. **TEXTS:**

Fallon, M. (2016). *Writing up quantitative research in the social and behavioral sciences*. Rotterdam: SensePublishers. [library e-text]

Gadd, D., Messner, S. F., & Karstedt, S. (2011). *The SAGE handbook of criminological research methods*. London: SAGE Publications Ltd. [library e-text]

Saldaña, J. (2011). *Fundamentals of qualitative research*. New York: Oxford University Press. [library e-text]

Trochim, W.M.K. (2006). Research methods knowledge base. *Web Center for Social Research Methods*. Retrieved from <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/>.

Vito, G. F., Tewksbury, R. A., & Kunselman, J. C. (2014). *Introduction to criminal justice research methods : An applied approach*. (3rd). Springfield, Illinois: Charles C Thomas. [library e-text]

L. **REFERENCES:** n/a

M. **EQUIPMENT:** FLEX technology

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

O. **SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Assignments
- Essays
- Projects/reports

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

- I. Introduction to Research Methods
 - A. The Purpose of Criminal Justice/Criminological Research
 - B. Formulating Research Questions
- II. Elements of Research
 - A. Literature Review
 - B. Methodology
 - C. Findings
 - D. Discussion/Conclusions
- III. Ethical Considerations in Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice
 - A. Human Subjects Research
- IV. Research Designs and Approaches
 - A. Quantitative
 - B. Qualitative
 - C. Mixed-Methods
- V. Interpreting and Analyzing Data and Conclusions
 - A. Reliability and Validity
 - B. Generalizability/Usefulness
 - C. Impact