

**077.376 L01– Criminology Field Experience – Full term 2003-2004 (6 cr. hrs.)**

Room 313 Tier Bldg.  
M/W 2:30 – 3:45

**Instructor:** Frank Cormier  
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**Office hours:** 1:00 to 2:30 M/W, or by appointment

Overall, this course is intended to provide students with an opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have acquired in this and previous criminology courses, and to gain experience in the conduct of research in a ‘real life’ setting. In addition to attending lectures and tutorials dealing with research methods and tools, students will be placed within a justice-related agency to complete a research project relevant to the agency’s mandate.

Research findings often must be filtered through a network of political interests, fiscal realities, and various organizational needs and priorities. Therefore, it is important for students to develop an understanding of the context in which criminological research is interpreted and applied. Through this course, students will gain an understanding of the policy implications that are attached to both criminological theory and to the results of criminal justice research. The field placement will also expose students to the ways in which criminal justice and related agencies define needs and priorities, design and implement strategies, and deliver programs and services. Students will be supported in their research through tutorials in the use of statistical and presentation software, including SPSS and Microsoft Power Point.

**Required Text:**

Bachman, Ronet, and R. Schutt (2003). The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) Sage Publications.

**Evaluation:**

Grades will be determined on the basis of 4 assignments, 3 computer exercises, and various aspects of the research projects. Each of these components is described in more detail below.

- **Assignments (20%)**  
Students will complete four written assignments with questions based on the material presented in the text and/or lectures. Each assignment is worth 5% of the final grade.
- **Computer exercises (15%)**  
Students will complete three assignments with exercises related to the use of SPSS statistical software. Each assignment is worth 5% of the final grade.
- **Literature review (15%)**  
The literature review is one of the essential steps in conducting a research project; it summarizes prior research in a given area, and provides a context and rationale for new

research. Through the literature review, students will demonstrate their familiarity with the existing knowledge and data that are relevant to their projects.

- **Research report (35%)**

The research report presents a detailed summary of the process and outcomes of the student's project. The report will contain an introductory/background section, a detailed description of the research methodology, presentation of findings, and a presentation of the conclusions and recommendations that are supported by the research findings. Students must submit a typed hard-copy version, as well as an electronic version on a diskette in either Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format.

- **Poster board presentation (5%)**

Poster boards are a means to present research findings in a graphical fashion, allowing viewers to quickly grasp the purpose, process, and findings of a research project. Students will prepare a poster board for presentation at a symposium for academics and criminal justice personnel.

- **Power Point presentation (5%)**

Power Point presentation software is commonly used to present the results of research to clients and other audiences. Students will prepare and deliver a presentation to the agency in which they conducted their research. Students must submit a hard-copy version, as well as an electronic version on a diskette.

- **Agency evaluation (5%)**

Each student's performance during their placement will be evaluated by relevant agency personnel.

***Note: Late assignments will not be accepted; failure to complete any portion of the required course work will result in a grade of zero for that portion.***

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A+	90 - 100%	C+	65 - 69%
A	80 - 89%	C	60 - 64%
B+	75 - 79%	D	50 - 59%
B	70 - 74%	F	0 - 49%

**Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend all classes. In the case of unavoidable absence, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor as soon as possible. In the case of a missed test, exam, or assignment due date, a medical certificate must be provided.

**Academic Integrity:**

Students are advised to acquaint themselves with the University of Manitoba policies on plagiarism and cheating found in the 2003-2004 Undergraduate Calendar.

**Voluntary Withdrawal:**

Students should be familiar with the rules and procedures for voluntary withdrawal. The final date for withdrawal without academic penalty is March 17, 2004.

## **Course Schedule**

This schedule (other than assignment due dates) is approximate and may be adjusted as the course progresses. SPSS tutorials, applications, and exercises will be integrated with the lecture material where appropriate. Note that while the majority of the assigned reading will be from the textbook, additional articles may be assigned from time to time.

### ***September***

Introduction to the course  
Introduction to social research  
Research ethics  
*Readings: Chapter 1*

### ***October***

The research process  
Literature reviews  
Concepts and measures  
*Readings: Chapter 2,3*

### ***November***

Sampling  
Research design  
*Readings: Chapters 4,5*

### ***January***

Survey research  
Qualitative methods  
Secondary Research  
*Readings: Chapter 7,8*

### ***February***

Evaluation  
Data analysis  
*Readings: Chapters 10,11*

### ***March***

Reporting results  
Preliminary presentations  
*Readings: Chapter 12*

### ***April***

No lectures – completion of research reports, finalization of presentations

April 13 – Research reports due

April 16 – Poster boards and Power Point presentations due