

SOC 3760 A01 – Criminology Field Experience – Fall 2007 & Winter 2008 (6 credit hours)

Room 313 Tier Building
M/W 2:30 – 3:45

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Office hours: 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 criminal justice 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 projects through lectures, practical exercises, and tutorials in the use of statistical and/or presentation software.

Required Text:

Bachman, Ronet, and R. Schutt (2007). The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice. (3rd edition): Sage Publications.

Strongly Recommended:

Northey, M. et al (2005). Making Sense in the Social Sciences: A Student’s Guide to Research and Writing (2nd edition). Oxford University Press.

Optional:

No author. Basic Statistical Analysis: SPSS for Students (CD).

Evaluation:

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

- **Assignments and exercises (20%)**

Students will complete four written assignments/exercises over the course of the academic year. These are intended to reinforce the material discussed in the lectures, and to provide students with an opportunity to apply their statistical and presentation software skills. Each assignment is worth 5% of the final grade.

- **Literature review (20%)**
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% + 5%)**
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 methodology employed, presentation of findings, and a presentation of the conclusions and recommendations that are supported by the research findings. Students must submit a typed, unbound hard-copy version (35%), as well as an electronic version (e-mail/CD/diskette are all acceptable) in Microsoft Word format. Following grading, students must submit a revised version (5%) for binding and presentation to the agency supervisor.

- **Power Point presentation (10%)**
PowerPoint presentation software is commonly used to present the results of research to clients and other audiences. Students will prepare and deliver a presentation (at a time to be arranged by the student and their supervisor) to the agency in which they conducted their research. For grading purposes, students must submit a hard-copy version, as well as an electronic version.

- **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 project. Students will prepare a poster board for presentation at the year-end exposition for academics and criminal justice personnel.

- **Agency evaluation (5%)**
Each student's performance during the placement will be evaluated by relevant agency personnel.

Note: With the exception of the assignments/exercises, all of the required course work listed above must be completed in order to pass the course.

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. The instructor may initiate debarment procedures when unexcused absences exceed five scheduled classes. If you have a legitimate reason for leaving class early, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the class. In the case of a missed test, exam, or assignment due date, a medical certificate must be provided or a reduction of one letter grade per day will be applied. In any of the cases above, it is the student's

responsibility to *contact the instructor as soon as possible*. There will be no exceptions to the above policy.

Class Conduct:

Disruptions such as talking, late arrivals or early departures are especially distracting to the instructor and to other students. Please be considerate of the needs and rights of others. Active cell phones, pagers, PDAs, etc. are not welcome.

Academic Integrity:

Students are advised to acquaint themselves with the University of Manitoba policies on academic dishonesty, including personation at exams (section 4.2.8) and plagiarism and cheating (section 7.1) of the General Academic Regulations and Requirements in the 2007-2008 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 20, 2008.

Tentative Course Schedule

This schedule (other than deliverable dates) is approximate and may be adjusted as the course progresses. Assignments, computer 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
Project management
Social science and the research process
Associated chapters: Chapters 1,2

October

Review of criminological perspectives
Literature reviews and secondary research
Research ethics
Associated chapter: Chapter 10, Appendix 'A'

November

Concepts and measures
Research design
Sampling
Survey research
Associated chapters: Chapters 3,4,5,6,7

December

Literature review due **November 23rd**

January

Qualitative methods and interview research
Evaluation

Associated chapters: Chapters 8,11

February

Data analysis

Associated chapter: Chapter 9,12

March

Writing a research report

Preliminary presentations

Associated chapter: Chapter 13

April

No lectures – completion of research reports, finalization of presentations

Deliverables:

April 2 – Research reports due (will be returned to you with comments by April 14)

April 14 – Poster boards and PowerPoint presentations due

April 18 – Revised reports due (graded version must also be returned)

April 25 – Research exposition (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon)

Note: *Assignments and other deliverables must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on the due date. They must be submitted either directly to the instructor or date-stamped by the Sociology general office. Deliverables submitted by **any other** means will not be accepted.*