SYLLABUS

CRJ 702-001 – Proseminar on Research Methods
Fall 2008 – Dr. Timothy C. Hart

CLASS
Tuesday 11:30am – 2:20pm

MEETINGS:
WRI 323 Building C

OFFICE
Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am – 10:00am

HOURS:
Wednesday 9:30am – 1:30pm or by appointment
CDC #826

TEXT:
(required)
Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology (7th Ed.)
Allyn and Bacon. Boston, CA

TEXT:
(recommended)
Pyrczak, Fred and Bruce, Randall (2005)
Pyrczak Publishing. Glendale, CA

COURSE:
Graduate-level introduction to the methods of criminological research; overviews philosophy of science, research ethics, research design issues (such as sampling and measurement), and methods of data collections, (including survey, ethnographic, experimental, and evaluation research).

GRADING:
There will be two Comprehensive Examinations in this course: (1) a diagnostic Pre-test to establish students’ baseline knowledge at the start of the course and (2) a final Post-test to establish the extent of knowledge gained by the end of the course. These examinations are identical, multiple-choice exams!

The Pre-test will be scored, but scores on the Pre-test will NOT be entered into the calculation of final course grades. However, students who perform especially poorly on this diagnostic may be encouraged to drop the course and audit an undergraduate course.

The Comprehensive Final Exam (Post-test) is worth 20% of the final course grade. However, students who score below a 70% on this Comprehensive Final Examination will receive a failing (F) grade in the class.

Another 20% of the final course grade comes from students’ presentations of assigned readings during the final weeks of classes.
The remaining 60% of the final course grade derives incrementally across eight (8) components of a Research Prospectus. Each of the eight components of this Research Prospectus is worth 7.5% of the final course grade and is distributed topically throughout the course. The eight components are: (1) topic identification, (2) outline, (3) introduction/statement of problem/derivation of hypotheses, (4) sampling, (5) conceptual definitions, (6) operational definitions, (7) reliability and validity of measures/scale construction, and (8) other design elements and analytic plan.

Both examinations, all eight components of the Research Prospectus, and final course grades will be graded according to the following scale:

- **A** = 90-100
- **B** = 80-89
- **C** = 70-79
- **F** = 0-69

**FORMAT:**
This course will offer both traditional lecture and students are expected to participate in class and to assist in the critical review of materials and information shared.

**NOTES:**
The instructor will also make use of materials and information outside of the textbook. Students will be held responsible for all assigned readings and class notes, handouts, video tapes, etc. Audio/visual recording of lectures is prohibited.

**TARDINESS:**
If you arrive and the class door is shut, please see me after class. Do not enter and disturb the class in progress.

**ECDs:**
Please turn off or “mute” all Electronic Communication Devices (ECDs) such as cell phones, pagers, etc. before coming to class. Audio recording of the course lectures is not permitted.

**MISCONDUCT:**
“Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.” (Student Conduct Code). An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism: “Using the words or ideas of another, from the internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources.” See the “Student Academic Misconduct Policy” (12/05, in the approval process).

**CHILDREN:**
Children are not permitted in the classroom. Although there is no policy prohibiting, bringing children to class, it falls within the Student Conduct Code, Sections III.K. and L. relating to “disrupting” the classroom and/or university operations. See http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/student.html.

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**DISABILITIES:** The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/.

**SYLLABUS** The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course syllabus at any time during the semester. If changes are made, information regarding the changes will be conveyed to students in class and will also be posted on WebCampus.

**EMAIL** By policy, faculty and staff are required to e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Therefore, all e-mail communication from the instructor for this course will be sent via Rebelmail.
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