



EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 2010
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A: Division: **EDUCATION** Effective Date: **JANUARY 2010**

B: Department / **CRIMINOLOGY** Revision New Course
 Program Area: **FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

If Revision, Section(s) Revised: **F, M, N, O, P, R**

Date of Previous Revision: **APRIL 2004**

Date of Current Revision: **SEPTEMBER 2009**

C: CRIM 2254 D: RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINOLOGY E: 3

Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits						
F: Calendar Description: This is an introductory course in research methodology in Criminology and the Social Sciences. Topics addressed include: origin of research questions; qualitative and quantitative approaches; deductive and inductive approaches including theory, hypothesis testing and causality; sampling; and ethical issues in research. Using an inter-disciplinary approach, course materials will focus on research in criminology and criminal justice. Emphasis will be placed on data gathering techniques.								
G: Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings: Lecture and Seminar Number of Contact Hours: (per week /semester for each descriptor) Lecture: 2 hrs. per week / semester Seminar: 2 hrs. per week / semester Number of Weeks per Semester: 15	H: Course Prerequisites: CRIM 1150							
	I: Course Corequisites: NONE							
	J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite NONE							
	K: Maximum Class Size: 35							
L: PLEASE INDICATE: <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: top;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td> <td>Non-Credit</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td> <td>College Credit Non-Transfer</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 30px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">X</td> <td>College Credit Transfer:</td> </tr> </table> <p>SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (www.bctransferguide.ca)</p>				Non-Credit		College Credit Non-Transfer	X	College Credit Transfer:
	Non-Credit							
	College Credit Non-Transfer							
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M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will be able to:

1. Describe and explain the nature and purpose of the social scientific research enterprise.
2. Describe and explain the nature of research decisions facing social science researchers.
3. Describe the differences and similarities between quantitative and qualitative approaches as well as explain the general strengths and weaknesses of each.
4. Describe and explain contemporary ethical issues in conducting research on human subjects.
5. Describe and explain sampling.
6. Describe and explain the relevance of experimentation and quasi-experimentation.
7. Describe and explain the relationship between theory, variables, hypotheses and causality.
8. Describe and explain the strengths and weaknesses of such data gathering techniques as: questionnaire design and administration; case studies; interviewing; observation; unobtrusive and archival methods; and, Internet-based research techniques.
9. Describe and explain the relationships between reliability, validity and generalizability.
10. Describe and explain the purpose and function of descriptive and inferential statistics.

N: Course Content:

1. The social science research enterprise
2. Research decisions and how they are made
3. Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies
 - Inductive and deductive approaches
 - Theory, variables, hypotheses, causality
 - Operationalization
4. Ethical issues in research
5. Sampling
 - Purpose, function,
 - Probability & non-probability types
 - Reliability, validity and generalization issues
6. Experimentation and Quasi-Experimentation
7. Data Collection
 - Questionnaire design and administration
 - Interviewing techniques
 - Observation
 - Unobtrusive and archival research
 - Case Studies
 - Interactive and Internet Research techniques
8. Descriptive & Inferential Statistics
 - Function and purposes

<p>O: Methods of Instruction:</p> <p>The course will employ a range of instructional techniques: lecture, class discussion, audio-visual materials, guest lectures, field observation, and term projects.</p>										
<p>P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students:</p> <p>Texts will be updated periodically. A typical example is:</p> <p>Palys, T & Atchison, C. (2008) Research Decisions: Quantitative & Qualitative Perspectives, 4th ed., Nelson, Toronto.</p>										
<p>Q: Means of Assessment:</p> <p>Evaluation will be based on course objectives and carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. The instructor will provide a written course outline with specific evaluation criteria at the beginning of the semester. Evaluation will be based on some of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exams, quizzes 2. Research project/ term paper <p>An example of one possible evaluation scheme would be:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Midterm Exam 1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Midterm Exam 2</td> <td style="text-align: right;">35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Research Paper</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Quiz</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>10%</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">100%</td> </tr> </table>	Midterm Exam 1	35%	Midterm Exam 2	35%	Research Paper	20%	Final Quiz	<u>10%</u>		100%
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Research Paper	20%									
Final Quiz	<u>10%</u>									
	100%									
<p>R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR</p> <p>No.</p>										

Course Designer(s): Colin Campbell, Ph.D.

Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

Dean / Director: Kathy Denton, Ph.D.

Acting Registrar: Brenda Walton