



Course Code CRIM 503	Course Title Research Methods in Criminology	ECTS Credits 10
Department Social Sciences	Semester Fall	Prerequisites None
Type of Course Required	Field Psychology	Language of Instruction English/Greek
Level of Course 2 nd Cycle	Year of Study 1st	Lecturer(s) Dr Menelaos Apostolou
Mode of Delivery Face-to-Face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

This course is designed to introduce students to the research methods used in criminology and social sciences in general, with an overview on the “scientific method” of research. It will enhance students' understanding on how to do quality research . By definition it also assists students in developing skills in analyzing the research work of others – at least from a methods perspective. Furthermore, the students are taken through basic to more advanced principles of statistics which criminologists and social scientists use to analyze data giving emphasis to training in the usage of computerized statistical packages.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course students are expected to

1. Demonstrate an understanding of what research method types are available to undertake research
2. Identify what makes a research topic “important”

3. Demonstrate an understanding of what is the role of theory in research
3. Identify theory relevant to an important research question
4. Demonstrate an understanding of how to develop a testable research question from an important topic
5. Explain what makes research “valid” or “invalid”
6. Explain what are the various threats to research validity
7. Demonstrate an understanding of how can threats to validity can be controlled
8. Explain what assists in making research “reliable” or “unreliable”
9. Explain what is research design and why is it so important to research
10. Explain how to choose between alternative possible research designs
11. Evaluate a research project report from methods perspective
12. Develop statistical skills using SPSS.
13. Be able to test hypotheses using the appropriate statistical analyses
14. Be able to interpret the outcome of the statistical analyses.

Course Contents:

1. Curiosity, Creativity, and Commitment.
2. Ethics in Criminological Research
3. Research as a Process of Inquiry
4. The Starting Point: Asking Questions
5. Data and the Nature of Measurement.
6. Statistical Analysis of Data
7. Field Research: Naturalistic and Case-Study Research
8. Correlational and Differential Methods of Research
9. Hypothesis Testing, Validity, and Threats to Validity
10. Controls to Reduce Threats to Validity
11. Single-Variable, Independent-Groups Designs
12. Correlated-Groups and Single-Subject Designs
13. Factorial Designs

14. A Second Look at Field Research: Field Experiments, Program Evaluation, and Survey Research
15. Final Preparations before Data Collection
16. Research Methodology: An Evolving Discipline
17. Writing a Research Report
18. T-test, ANOVA, Correlation, Regression

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive Lectures, Lab Presentations, Lab Tutorials, Practical Exercises

Assessment Methods:

Practical Portfolio, Mid-Term Exam, Final Exam.

Final Examination (1)	50%
Mid-Term (1)	30%
Assignments/Homework	10%
Attendance	10%

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Field, A.	Discovering Statistics Using SPSS	SAGE	2009	978-1-84787-906-6
Creswell, J.W.	Research Design	SAGE	2009	978-1-4129-6557-6

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Ellis,L., Harley,R., Walsh,A.	Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology: An Interdisciplinary Approach	Rowman & Littlefield Publishers	2010	978-0742564411