

CJ G713 ADVANCED RESEARCH AND EVALUATION METHODS

College of Criminal Justice

Northeastern University

Spring, 2010

Professor Ni (Phil) He

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Office Hours: Thursday 2:30pm - 4:30pm; others by appointment

Classroom: CH 200 (Thursday, 5:45pm to 8:15pm)

Course Description:

This is an advanced seminar on research and evaluation methods. Four major themes will be included: (1) survey methods; (2) measurement; (3) experimental design; and (4) program evaluation. Class discussions will frequently touch upon issues involving ethical standards, politics, and a variety of new methods and ongoing debates in the field of criminal justice/criminology. In addition, I will highlight techniques that can be helpful for you in writing prospectus, manuscripts, and grants. Successful completion of this course fulfills one of the core course requirements for the Ph.D. program.

Goals:

This course will build upon your current knowledge from a typical graduate level methods survey course. Our collective goal is to strengthen your capacity to digest existing criminal justice research and to lay a solid foundation for a productive research career of your own. Thus, the reading materials selected for this course reflect heavily on the application of research methodology in the field of criminology and public policy where theories, research designs and empirical analyses are intertwined.

(Weekly learning objectives/discussion outline will be provided to you one week before each class)

Required Books:

Rossi, Peter H., Lipsey, Mark W. and Freeman, Howard E. (2003). *Evaluation: A Systematic Approach* (7th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Isaac, Stephen and Michael, William B. 1995. *Handbook in Research and Evaluation* (3rd ed.). San Diego, CA: EdITS.

DeVellis, Robert F. 1991. *Scale Development: Theory and Applications*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications (newer edition may be available).

Spector, Paul E. 1992. *Summated Rating Scale Construction: An Introduction*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

Recommended Books:

Dillman, Don A. 2007. *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Methods*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Kish, Leslie. 1995. Survey Sampling. John Wiley & Sons.

Course Requirements:

1. Grant proposal (40%): I would like you to develop a full-fledged, original grant proposal according to proper format of NIH or NSF. I would strongly encourage you to select a topic of interest that has the potential to be the subject of your dissertation. I will follow up with more detailed instructions at a later point.
2. Profile of one research theme (20%): Each one of you will pick a research theme included in this course and provide a comprehensive summary of the major techniques, issues and discussions concerning the subject. At the end of the semester, we will combine your individual profile into one big profile for this course. This collective undertaking should benefit everyone in the future (comps, dissertation and your professional career).
 - 1) Sampling
 - 2) Major crime data sources: promises and problems
 - 3) Survey design and delivery techniques
 - 4) Scale development
 - 5) Experimental design
 - 6) Quasi-experimental designs
 - 7) Program evaluation
 - 8) Research design and newer statistical methods
 - 9) Qualitative research methods
 - 10) Survey/Review of methodological approaches used in articles from selected recent issues of criminology/sociology/psychology/political science flagship journals.
More details will be discussed in class.

*Some overlaps among the listed themes are to be expected. I will work with you individually to narrow down your coverage.
3. Certificate of Completion for Human Participant Protections Training and Education (10 points): (<http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>)
4. Manuscript review (10%): Write a review of a manuscript that has been submitted to a major criminal justice/criminology journal (I will provide the manuscript and a guideline for writing the review).
5. Class participation (10%): Your active participation is the key to the success of this class.
6. Presentation of grant proposal (10%)

Tentative Class Schedule

1/14 Course Introduction

1/21 Survey Methods: Sampling

(Each student will choose a research theme this week and begin preparation for the profile)

Sudman, Seymour. 1976. *Applied Sampling*. Ch.2, pp. 25-47 (“Small-Scale Sampling with Limited Resources”). New York, NY: Academic Press.

Isaac, Stephen and Michael, William B. 1995. *Handbook in Research and Evaluation* (3rd ed.). pp. 197-201 (on sample size issues) & pp. 223-224 (on a variety of non-probability sampling techniques). San Diego, CA: EdITS.

Kish, Leslie. 1995. *Survey Sampling*. John Wiley & Sons.

Casady, Robert J. and Lepkowski, James M. 1999. Telephone Sampling. pp. 455-479, in Paul Levy and Stanley Lemeshow. *Sampling of Populations: Methods and Applications* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Levy, Paul and Lemeshow, Stanley. 1999. Strategies for Design-Based Analysis of Sample Survey Data. Pp. 481-495, *Sampling of Populations: Methods and Applications* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Eltinge, John and Sribney, William. Some Basic Concepts for Design-Based Analysis of Complex Survey Data. *STATA Technical Bulletin (STB)*, 31:208-213.

- Weekly Highlight:
Jacobs, Bruce A. 1996. Crack Dealers' Apprehension Avoidance Techniques: A Case of Restrictive Deterrence. *Justice Quarterly*, 13:359-381. (Snowball sampling)

1/28 Survey Methods: Consent Issues

(Download NIJ or NSF guideline for grant proposal; Human Participant Protections Training and Education)

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding/welcome.htm>

<http://www.nsf.gov/funding/preparing/>

<http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>

Oakes, J. Michael. 2002. "Risks and Wrongs in Social Science Research: An Evaluator's Guide to the IRB." *Evaluation Review*, 26:443-479.

Eaton, Danice K., Lowry, Richard, Brener Nancy D., Grunbaum, Jo Anne, and Kann, Laura. 2004. "Passive Versus Active Parental Permission in School-based Survey Research: Does the Type of Permission Affect Prevalence Estimates of Risk Behaviors?" *Evaluation Review*, 28:564-577.

Ji, Peter, Porkorny, and Jason, Leonard. 2004. "Factors Influencing Middle and High School's Active Parental Consent Return Rates." *Evaluation Review*, 28:578-591.

Unger, Jennifer, Gallaher, Peggy, Palmer, Paula, Baezconde-Garbanati, Lourdes, Trinidad, Dennis, Cen, Steven, and Johnson, C. Anderson. 2004. "No News is Bad News: Characteristics of Adolescents Who Provide Neither Parental Consent nor Refusal for Participation in School-based Survey Research." *Evaluation Review*, 28:52-63.

Isaac, Stephen and Michael, William B. 1995. *Handbook in Research and Evaluation* (3rd ed.). pp. 35-45 (Ch. 3-Planning Research Studies) & pp. 237-245 (Ch. 9-Criteria and Guidelines for

Planning, Preparing, Writing, and Evaluating the Research Proposal, Report, Thesis, or Article). San Diego, CA: EdITS.

- Weekly Highlight:
Esbensen, Finn-Aage, Miller, Michélie, Taylor, Terrence, He, Ni, and Freng, Adrienne. 1999. "Differential Attrition Rates and Active Parental Consent." *Evaluation Review*, 23:316-335.

2/4 Measurement: Major Crime Data Sources (UCR, NCVS, and Self-Report Studies) (*Tentative grant proposal topics due*)

Gove, Walter, M. Hughes, and Michael Geerken. 1985. Are Uniform Crime Reports a valid indicator of the index crime? An Affirmative Answer with Minor Qualifications. *Criminology*, 23:451-501.

Blumstein, A., Cohen, J., and Rosenfeld, R. 1991. Trend and Deviation in Crime Rates: A Comparison of UCR and NCS Data for Burglary and Robbery. *Criminology*, 29:237-263.

Thornberry, Terence P. and Krohn, Marvin D. 2000. The Self-Report Method for Measuring Delinquency and Crime. Pp. 33-83, in *Criminal Justice 2000*.

Biderman, Albert D. and J. P. Lynch. 1991. *Understanding Crime Incidence Statistics. Why the UCR Diverges From the NCS*. Ch. 1, pp. 1-24. New York, NY: Springer-Verlag.

- Weekly Highlight:
Maxfield, M.G. 1999. The National Incident-Based Reporting System: Research and Policy Applications. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 15: 119-149.

2/11 Measurement: Validity & Reliability

Theoretical Introduction:

Cronbach, Lee J., and Meehl, Paul E. 1955. Construct Validity in Psychological Tests. *Psychological Bulletin* 52:281-302.

Campbell, Donald T. and Fiske, Donald W. 1959. Convergent and Discriminant Validation by the Multimethod-multitrait Matrix. *Psychological Bulletin* 56: 81-105.

Practical Applications (student-led article discussions):

Bachman, Jerald G. and Patrick M. O'Malley. 1989. When Four Months Equal a Year: Inconsistencies in Student Reports of Drug Use. Pp. 173-185, in Eleanor Singer and Stanley Presser (eds.) *Survey Research Methods: A Reader*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.

Fisher, Dennis, Reynolds, Grace, Wood, Michele, and Johnson, Mark. 2004. "Reliability of Arrest and Incarceration Questions on the Risk Behavior Assessment." *Crime & Delinquency*, 50:24-31.

Miller, Peter V. and Robert M. Groves. 1989. Matching Survey Responses to Official Records: An Exploration of Validity in Victimization Reporting. Pp. 356-370, in Eleanor Singer and Stanley Presser (eds.) *Survey Research Methods: A Reader*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.

Bradburn, Norman M. 1983. Response Effects. Pp.289-328, in Peter H. Rossi, James D. Wright, and Andy B. Anderson, (eds.) *Handbook of Survey Research*, New York, NY: Academic Press.

Bradburn, NormanM., Seymour Sudman, Ed Blair, and Carol Stocking. 1989. Question Threat and Response Bias. Pp. 371-384, in Eleanor Singer and Stanley Presser (eds.) *Survey Research Methods: A Reader*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.

Schwarz, Norbert, Hans-J. Hippler, Brigitte Deutsch, and Fritz Strack. 1989. Response Scales: Effects of Category Range on Reported Behavior and Comparative Judgments. Pp. 165-172, in Eleanor Singer and Stanley Presser (eds.) *Survey Research Methods: A Reader*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.

- Weekly Highlight:
Esbensen, Finn-Aage, Winfree, L. Thomas, Jr., He, Ni and Taylor, Terrence. 2001. Youth Gang and Definitional Issues: When Is a Gang a Gang, and Why Does It Matter? *Crime & Delinquency*, 47:105-130.

2/18 Measurement: Scaling

(Tentative abstract and outline for grant proposal due)

DeVellis, Robert F. 1991. *Scale Development: Theory and Applications*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Spector, Paul E. 1992. *Summated Rating Scale Construction: An Introduction*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

2/25 ACJS meeting (San Diego, CA)

3/4 Spring Break

3/11 Experiments: Randomized and Non-randomized Experiments

(Manuscript will be provided to student for review this week)

Overview: Rationales and History

Farrington, David. 2003. "A Short History of Randomized Experiments in Criminology." *Evaluation Review*, 27:218-227.

Garner, Joel and Visher, Christy. 2003. "The Production of Criminological Experiments." *Evaluation Review*, 27:316-335.

Rossi, Peter H., Lipsey, Mark W. and Freeman, Howard E. (2003), *Evaluation: A Systematic Approach* (7th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

- Chapter 8, Assessing Program Impact: Randomized Field Experiments (pp. 233-264).
- Chapter 9, Assessing Program Impact: Alternative Designs (pp. 265-300).

Application: Examples and Lessons (student-led article discussions)

Petersilia, Joan. 1989. Implementing Randomized Experiments: Lessons from BJA's Intensive Supervision Project. *Evaluation Review*, 13:435-458.

Feder, Lynette, Jolin, Annette, and Feyerherm, William. 2000. "Lessons from Two Randomized Experiments in Criminal Justice Settings." *Crime & Delinquency*, 46:380-400.

Weisburd, David and Faye Taxman. 2000. Developing and Multicenter Randomized Trial in Criminology: The Case of HIDTA. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 16(3): 315-340.

Lum, Cynthia and Yang, Sue-Ming. 2005. Why Do Evaluation Researchers in Crime and Justice Choose Non-Experimental Methods? *Experimental Criminology* (forthcoming).

Heinsman, Donna and William Shadish. 1996. Assignment Methods in Experimentation: When Do Nonrandomized Experiments Approximate Answers from Randomized Experiments? *Psychological Methods* 1(2): 154-169.

Shadish, William and Ragsdale, Kevin. 1996. "Random Versus Nonrandom Assignment in Controlled Experiments: Do you get the Same Answer?" *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 64:1290-1305.

- Weekly Highlight:
Weisburd, David. 2000. Randomized Experiments in Criminal Justice Policy: Prospects and Problems. *Crime and Delinquency*, 46: 181-193.

3/18 Experiments: Treatment Effect, Statistical Power
(*Manuscript review due*)

Cohen, Jacob. 1992. Quantitative Methods in Psychology: A Power Primer. *Psychological Bulletin*, 112:155-159.

Rossi, Peter H., Lipsey, Mark W. and Freeman, Howard E. (2003), *Evaluation: A Systematic Approach* (7th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

- Chapter 10, Detecting, Interpreting, and Analyzing Program Effects (pp. 301-330).

Weisburd, David, Anthony Petrosino and Gail Mason. 1993. Design Sensitivity in Criminal Justice Experiments. In *Crime and Justice: A Review of Research*, 17: 337-379.

Weisburd, David, Lum, Cynthia, and Yang, Sue-Ming. 2003. When Can We Conclude That Treatments or Programs "Don't Work"? *The Annals*, AAPSS, 587. pp.31-48.

Gartin, Patrick. 1995. Dealing with Design Failures in Randomized Field Experiments: Analytic Issues Regarding the Evaluation of Treatment Effects. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 32:425-445.

Lipsey, Mark. 1998. Design Sensitivity: Statistical Power for Applied Experimental Research. In Bickman and Rog (Eds), *Handbook of Applied Social Research Methods*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

- Weekly Highlight:
Weisburd, David, Lum, Cynthia and Petrosino, Anthony. 2001. Does Research Design Affect Study Outcomes in Criminal Justice? *The Annals*, AAPSS, 578. pp. 50-70.

3/25 Debates and Controversies: A Sampler

First Session (4 articles):

Gottfredson, Michael and Travis Hirschi. 1986. "The True Value of Lambda Would Appear to Be Zero: An Essay on Career Criminals, Criminal Careers, Selective Incapacitation, Cohort Studies, and Related Topics." *Criminology*, 24:213-233.

Gottfredson, Michael and Travis Hirschi. 1987. The Methodological Adequacy of Longitudinal Research on Crime. *Criminology*, 25:581-614.

Blumstein, Alfred, Jacqueline Cohen, and David P. Farrington. 1988. Longitudinal and Criminal Career Research: Further Clarifications. *Criminology*, 26:57-74.

Blumstein, Alfred, Cohen, Jacqueline, and Farrington, David. 1988. "Criminal Career Research: Its Value for Criminology." *Criminology*, 26:1-35.

Second Session (3 articles + reviewer comments):

Muhlhausen, David B. 2003. GAO Critiques Research Touting COPS Program Effectiveness. The Heritage Foundation. <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Crime/wm313.cfm>.

Zhao, Jihong, Scheider, Matthew and Thurmand, Quint. 2002. "Funding Community Policing to Reduce Crime: Have COPS Grants Made a Difference?" *Criminology and Public Policy*, 2:7-32.
- Some exchanges with the reviewers will be included as well.

Moore, Mark. 2002. "The Limits of Social Science in Guiding Policy." *Criminology and Public Policy*, 2:33-42.

4/1 Program Evaluation: Introduction and Applications (Grant proposal draft due)

Rossi, Peter H., Lipsey, Mark W. and Freeman, Howard E. (2003), *Evaluation: A Systematic Approach* (7th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

- Chapter 1, An Overview of Program Evaluation (pp.1-30).
- Chapter 3, Identifying Issues and Formulating Questions (pp. 67-100).

Chen, Huey-Tsyh. 1990. Methods and Theory in Program Evaluation: A Question of Balance (Chapter 1, pp. 17-35). *Theory-Driven Evaluations*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

Poulin, Mary, Harris, Philip and Jones, Peter. 2000. The Significance of Definitions of Success in Program Evaluation. *Evaluation Review*, 24:516-536.

Esbensen, Finn-Aage, Osgood, W., Taylor, T. J., Peterson, D. and Freng, A. 2001. How Great is G.R.E.A.T? Results from a Longitudinal Quasi-Experimental Design. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 1:87-118.

Welsh, Wayne, Zajac, Gary. 2004. "A Census of Prison-Based Drug Treatment Programs: Implications for Programming, Policy, and Evaluation." *Crime & Delinquency*, 50:108-133.

Sherman, Lawrence W. 1997. Thinking About Crime Prevention. Chapter 2, pp.26-51, in Sherman, L., Gottfredson, D., MacKenie, D., Eck, J., Reuter, P., and Bushway, S., *Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising: A Report to the United States Congress*. (<http://www.ncjrs.org/works/wholedoc.htm>)

Sherman, Lawrence W. and Gottfredson, Denise. 1997. Appendix: Research Methods, pp. 455-469, in Sherman, L., Gottfredson, D., MacKenie, D., Eck, J., Reuter, P., and Bushway, S., *Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising: A Report to the United States Congress*. (<http://www.ncjrs.org/works/wholedoc.htm>)

U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO). 2003. *Justice Outcome Evaluation: Design and Implementation of Studies Require More NIJ Attention*. Washington, D.C.: GAO.

4/8 Program Evaluation: Ethics and Politics

Blomberg, Thomas G. and Waldo, Gordon. 2002. "Evaluation Research, Policy, and Politics." *Evaluation Review*, 26:340-351.

Welch, Michael, Wolff, Russell, and Bryan, Nicole. 1998. Decontextualizing the War on Drugs: A Content Analysis of NIJ Publications and Their Neglect of Race and Class. *Justice Quarterly*, 15:719-742.

Bozeman, Barry. 2004. "The Internet's Impact on Policy Evaluation: Information Compression and Credibility." *Evaluation Review*, 28:156-174.

Weisburd, David. 2003. Ethical Practice and Evaluation of Interventions in Crime and Justice: The Moral Imperative for Randomized Trials. *Crime & Delinquency*, 27:336-354.

Mark, Melvin M., Eyssell, Kristen M., and Campbell, Bernadette. 1999. "The Ethics of Data Collection and Analysis." Pp.47-56, in Jody Fitzpatrick and Michael Morris (eds.), *Current and Emerging Ethical Challenges in Evaluation*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass Publishers.

4/15 Grant Proposal Presentations

(Profile of research theme due)

4/22 Grant Proposal Presentations

(Grant proposal due)