

UNIVERSITY OF DELTA AGBOR
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Sociology and Criminology
(Criminology and Security Studies)

By

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

CSS 303: Research Methods in Criminal Justice

General concepts concerning scientific methods; Formulation of social issues in research questions; proposal, strategies of descriptive research and historical research; Tools of research, various types, methods and their advantages and disadvantages; data collection methods, measurements, data presentation, analyses, mechanics and research writing style/ report.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successfully completion of this course, students should be able to:

- i. Have an understanding of what research is as it relates to criminal Justice System.
- ii. Explain the basic concepts concerning scientific methods as it relates to criminal Justice.
- iii. Discuss the types of research and steps involved.
- iv. Understand the types of research/research designs and Sampling Methods.

- v. Construct questionnaire, Code responses and describe the data.
- vi. Use the data collection instrument to measure the work as well as Scaling and improving the quality of research data.
- vii. Apply statistical instrument to test hypotheses; and
- viii. Finally, write the research and report properly and with appropriate referencing Styles:

CSS 303: COURSE STRUCTURE

1. **Conceptual foundation of research:** definition of research, general concepts concerning scientific methods such as facts, concepts, constructs, variables, constants and theory; characteristics/goal of research, approaches to knowledge/methods of acquiring knowledge, problem, research problem and sources of research problem, statement of the problem, research questions and hypotheses; research proposal and the research process.
2. **Types of research/research designs and Sampling Methods:** historical, survey, observation, ex-post facto, case studies, criminal life stories, ecological, aggregate data research, Longitudinal Research, characteristics of a good design, etc; Sampling and sampling design: concept of population or universe, sample size and rationale for drawing sample from population, what is a sampling frame, methods of selecting samples: (a) probability sampling methods (b) non-probability sampling methods.
3. **Questionnaire construction, Coding and Description of Data:** Close-ended/structure questionnaire, Questionnaires and research questions/hypotheses, steps in questionnaire construction, contents of questions, selecting the wordings of the questions, structuring responses, types of response structures, sequencing of questions; data preparation, editing and coding, manual and computer coding, manual tabulation and SPSS. Description of data: frequency distribution - group and ungroup data, charts and graphs – bar charts, pie charts, pictogram, histogram, etc.
4. **Measurement, Scaling and improving the quality of research data:** Definition of measurement, what is measured, measurement scales, nominal scale, ordinal scale, interval scale, ratio scale. Definition of scales, when to use scales, rating scale, Thurstone scale, Guttman scale, Likert scale. Validity, validity in research instrument, content validity, criterion-related validity, construct validity, validity of findings; Test of reliability, reliability of research instrument, methods of estimating reliability, test-retest reliability, split-half reliability, Cronbach's alpha test.

5. **Application of statistical analysis and hypothesis testing.** Measure of central tendency: Mean, mode and median of ungrouped and grouped data. Measure of relationship and variability: Pearson's correlation, Spearman rank correlation, chi-square, ANOVA, regression analysis, ranges, variance, standard deviation.
Using mean and standard deviation to answer research questions, using table of percentage, using ANOVA table, testing of hypothesis, decision rule, method of p-value, discussion of findings.

6. **Research writing styles/report and Referencing Styles:** Characteristics of a good writing style, quotations, citations, numbering in writing, reference and bibliography, the differences between reference and bibliography. The American Psychological Association (APA) style, Kate Turabian (Chicago) style, APA 7 Style, referencing for texts and other books, referencing for periodicals, referencing for newspapers and magazine, referencing for articles and chapters in edited books, electronic materials, journals, unpublished Bachelor's project/Masters' thesis, encyclopedia, unpublished papers presented in seminars/conferences/speeches, government books and manuals.

Revision Class.

References/Further reading

- Russell, K.S & Ronet, D.B. (2019). The practice of research in criminology and Criminal Justice.
- Tartaro, C. (2021). Research for Criminal Justice and Criminology.
- Ali, H.O. (2014). Educational Research Method, Kogi State: First Published.
- Asika. (1999). Research Methodology in the behavioural sciences, Lagos: Longman Nigeria, Plc.
- Ugwuegbu, D.C.E.; & Onwumere, S.O. (1987). Social Research and Information Gathering, Lagos: Federal Ministry of Information, Research and Planning Division.
- Derek, J. (2023). Research Construct 101. Construct, Validity and Reliability. Retrieved from <https://gradcoach.com>