This real-world research class introduces students to hands-on social and policy research in the service of a client. Students will engage in a variety of field research methods, both quantitative and qualitative, in order to gather data on sociological and policy-based questions related to crime, social capital, poverty, and crime prevention. Students will use the data they gather to practice their write-up and presentations skills culminating in a final research-based client presentation and report.

Learning Objectives:

1. To learn and practice field and other social and policy research methods
2. To further develop policy analysis, write-up, and presentation skills
3. To learn substantive policy areas (at the intersection of the crime and anti-poverty policy)
4. To learn to work together effectively with peers in small groups on a policy project
5. To help students contemplate their own future research endeavors (e.g., BA thesis)

Grading:

20% Attendance/involvement/peer assessment
15% Weeklies (weekly journal entries, second half, 5 @ 3% each)
  5% Qualitative research write-up
  15% Literature review policy memo
  15% Demographic, crime data, mapping memo
30% Final group memo (grade given to group)

Weeklies: Due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday of each week starting Week 6. Unless otherwise noted, Weeklies are updates on what you’ve done during the past week, whether it is research, fieldwork, data analysis, etc. It’s important to show, rather than simply write about, what you’ve done. Weeklies could be (or include) grant excerpts, fieldnotes, an interview guide or transcript, focus group questions or a transcript, etc. Weeklies that are unsatisfactory or turned in late will be graded down (from 3% to 2%) and Weeklies submitted later than Monday at Noon receive 1%.
COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

1/6 (M): Introduction (to a shitty Chicago winter)

1/8 (W): The South Side: The economic, social, and cultural context of our research
Read: Chalk: Wilson, *When Work Disappears*, Chapters 1 and 3

WEEK 2:

1/13 (M): Community perspectives on youth crime, social capital, and prevention
Read: Chalk: Ness, “Why Girls Fight”
Watch at home: “The Interrupters” (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/interrupters/#a)
Guests: community member panel on sociology of crime (can use computers to take notes)

1/15 (W): Reflections on crime panel/Discussion of fieldwork readings and assignment
Read: Chalk: Venkatesh, *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chp. 1 (an ethnographer goes into the field)
Read: Chalk: *Ethnography and the City* (“Introduction”)
Read: Chalk: Burnard, “Writing Qualitative Reports”

WEEK 3:

1/20 (M): MLK Jr. Day (no class)
Read: Chalk: “Due South: The University is Getting Reacquainted with Woodlawn”
Read: Chalk: Gopnick, “The Caging of America”

1/22 (W): Reflections on observational research/Discussion of literature review assignment
Read: Chalk: Literature review readings (two)
Read: Chalk: Popkin et al., “Public Housing Transformation and Crime” (policy writing model)
Due: qualitative research assignment
Possible guests: City of Chicago, Department of Family and Support Services

WEEK 4:

1/27 (M): Peer-editing workshop
Due: Literature review polished draft (800-1,000 words excluding bibli.; include word count)

1/29 (W): Introduce crime data and map assignment (BSLC 018 is reserved for our class if needed)
Due: Literature review final version (800-1,000 words excluding bibli.; include word count)

WEEK 5:

2/3 (M): Review, volunteer presentation of crime maps/Introduce data spreadsheet assignment
Due: Shared online crime map

2/5 (W): ArcMap lab session (entire class meets in BSLC 018 today)
Due: Shared demographic data spreadsheet
**WEEK 6:**

2/10 (M): Introduction to group projects for WPSA  
**Due:** Data memo final version (about 750 words excluding biblio.; include word count)  
**Guest:** Ryan Priester

2/12 (W): Advisor meetings and open group time (BSLC 018 is reserved for our class if needed)

2/21 (F): **Due:** Weekly #1 by 4:30 p.m.

**WEEK 7:**

2/17 (M): Advisor meetings and open group time

2/19 (W): Advisor meetings and open group time (BSLC 018 is reserved for our class if needed)

2/21 (F): **Due:** Weekly #2 by 4:30 p.m.

**WEEK 8:**

2/24 (M): Advisor meetings and open group time

2/26 (W): Advisor meetings and open group time (BSLC 018 is reserved for our class if needed)

2/28 (F): **Due:** Weekly #3 by 4:30 p.m.

**WEEK 9**

3/3 (M): WPSA brief group memo presentations rehearsals  
**Read:** Chalk: “Presentation Zen”

3/5 (W): WPSA brief group memo presentations  
**Guests:** Ryan Priester and member of WPSA staff  
**Optional:** Group memo draft (if your group would like feedback (by Friday)) by Midnight

3/7 (F): **Due:** Weekly #4 by 4:30 p.m.

**WEEK 10**

3/10 (M): Open group time for finalizing memo  
Office hours for Practicum students 8:00-11:00 a.m. and 3:00-4:20 p.m.  
**Due:** Final Group memo by Midnight (for WPSA, Chad/David, classmates)

3/12 (W): Class retrospective/Ideas for Next Term  
**Due:** Weekly #5 (reflections) by class time