Instructor: Lynn A. Addington, American University
Class Meeting Time: 12:30-2:30 p.m. (daily)
Class Location: G150 / Perry Building, 330 Packard Street

This four-week workshop seeks to provide participants with an introduction to Bureau of Justice Statistics data housed in the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. We will focus on those BJS datasets that describe the principal activities of the criminal justice system with an emphasis on data concerning measures of the victimization incident, the police response, and the execution of sentences. The goal at the end of the Workshop is to have participants ready to use these data appropriately to inform theoretical and methodological issues in their current and future work.

The seminar lectures will introduce participants to the datasets with particular attention to more complex issues such as sampling error, measurement error and file structure challenges as well as methods for addressing these issues. There will be several guest lecturers who are top scholars and researchers with extensive expertise working with these datasets. Assigned readings will complement the seminars and acquaint participants with the design and uses of the data, methodological issues relevant to the use of the data, and logistical problems that complicate the use of these data.

An integral part of the workshop is the participant’s individual project. Each participant has outlined a research project to be explored during these four weeks using one of the BJS datasets. This project is crucial to integrating lecture materials into a personally meaningful framework. The projects also will help provide the support of a research community among participants. Individual presentations on the project will be given at the beginning and end of the seminar. The initial presentations will focus on the theoretical and/or policy rationale for the project and plan for analysis. In the final days of the seminar, each participant will provide a summary of progress and findings which will take the form of an academic conference presentation.

Assigned readings will be available electronically via our course’s shared drive or freely available online. Participants should download and review the ICPSR Codebook relevant to the dataset(s) they are utilizing and, if applicable, review the NACJD Data Resource Guide concerning their dataset(s).

For an overview of BJS and its data collection efforts, the following resources are highly recommended:


**Workshop Schedule of Topics, Speakers & Readings**

**Week 1**

**June 18**

**Introductory Session**

Welcoming Remarks – Dr. James P. Lynch, Director – Bureau of Justice Statistics
Introduction to the Archive – Dr. Tim Bynum, NACJD
Introduction to Computing at ICPSR – Edward Czilli, ICPSR
Presentation of Preliminary Plans for Research Projects – Participants

**June 19**

BJS’s Recidivism Data Collection and Other Special Projects at BJS
Guest Speaker: Dr. Howard Snyder, Bureau of Justice Statistics

**June 20**

National Criminal Victimization Survey

**June 21**

Using NCVS Data Files

**June 22**

NCVS: Substantive Issues, Measurement Errors, Complex Sampling

**Week 2**

**June 25**

Current Issues and Uses of the NCVS
Guest Speaker: Dr. Janet L. Lauritsen, University of Missouri, St. Louis

**June 26**

Current Issues Concerning Crime Data and Law Enforcement
Guest Speaker: Dr. Richard B. Rosenfeld, University of Missouri, St. Louis

**June 27**

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program

**June 28**

National Incident-Based Reporting System
June 29  Current Issues in Studying Crime and Criminal Justice  
Guest Speaker:  Dr. Alfred Blumstein, Carnegie Mellon University

Week 3  
July 2  UCR – Supplementary Homicide Report  
Guest Speaker:  Dr. Colin Loftin, University at Albany (SUNY)

July 3  Law Enforcement Data and the Federal Justice Statistics Program  
Guest Speaker:  Dr. Mark Motivans, Bureau of Justice Statistics

July 4  Independence Day (no class)

July 5  BJS Prosecution and Adjudication Statistics  
Guest Speaker:  Dr. Thomas H. Cohen, Bureau of Justice Statistics

July 6  Prison Rape Elimination Act Data Collection  
Guest Speaker:  Dr. Allen J. Beck, Bureau of Justice Statistics

Week 4  
July 9  Correctional Statistics  
Guest Speaker:  Paige Harrison, Bureau of Justice Statistics

July 10  Presentation of Progress on Individual Projects

July 11  Presentation of Progress on Individual Projects

July 12  Presentation of Progress on Individual Projects

July 13  Wrap Up Session