

San José State University
Justice Studies Department
“Critical Issues and Ideas in Justice”
JS-101 (section 01 #27848)
Spring 2017

Instructor:	Alessandro De Giorgi
Office Location:	MH 508A
Telephone:	(408) 924.2967
Email:	alessandro.degiorgi@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	MON: 2pm–3pm / 7pm–8pm (online) WED: 2pm–3pm / 7pm–8pm (online)
Class Days/Time:	MON/WED: 12pm – 1:15pm
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall 523

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Interdisciplinary, historical and comparative examination of justice concepts and controversies, including the state’s role in promoting justice and perpetuating injustice; legitimate versus illegitimate violence; human rights, stateless persons, and the international community; the relationship between social justice and criminal justice.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In the last three decades, largely as a consequence of the war on crime and the war on drugs, the American prison population has grown to unprecedented levels. However, this prison explosion has disproportionately affected poor and minority communities, leading to the mass-imprisonment of an entire generation of young African Americans and Latinos. In turn, this has increased social inequality along the lines of race, class and gender.

In this course we will examine these developments from two perspectives. First, throughout the semester students will familiarize with a range of sociological critiques of American penal politics. Second, participants will *analyze* and *discuss* an extended ethnographic study of urban marginality in the United States. This will give us the opportunity to analyze the relations between crime, punishment, and social injustice not only from a scholarly perspective, but also from the point of view of those “public enemies” (drug dealers, gang members, ghetto hustlers, street “thugs”) whose voices are usually silenced in public and academic discourses about crime and punishment.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES (SLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

SLO#1: Students will familiarize with a range of sociological critiques of US penal politics.

[RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: IN-CLASS TESTS 1-2]

SLO #2: Students will be able to analyze and discuss the socioeconomic dimensions of urban marginality in the United States.

[RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: ARTICLE CRITIQUES 1-2-3]

SLO#3: Students will develop a sociologically grounded understanding of cultural diversity within the American urban landscape.

[RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: REFLECTION PAPERS 1-2-3]

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1) JS-101 *Reader*. Available at Maple Press, 330 S 10th Street, San José.

2) De Giorgi, A. (ed.) 2015. *Beyond Mass Incarceration: Crisis and Critique in North American Penal Systems*. Special issue of “Social Justice: A Journal of Crime, Conflict & World Order”.

The issue can be purchased:

- Online at <http://www.socialjusticejournal.org/?product=vol-42-2-beyond-mass-incarceration>. Use coupon code “**justicestudies**” to receive a discount (\$12 instead of \$14.95). You may select the free shipping option and collect your copy in class.
- In class between the 1st and 3rd week of instruction at a discounted price of \$12. Please bring a check written to “Social Justice” (no cash or money orders accepted!).

3) P. Bourgois, *In Search of Respect. Selling Crack in El Barrio*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2002 (2nd edition). Available at Spartans Bookstore.

CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

Attendance: According to University policy F69-24 “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading”. Attendance is taken at each class meeting using sign-in sheets.

Etiquette: While in class please turn your cell phone off. If your laptop has wireless access you may use it to access information relevant to the discussion, but please do not read emails, newspapers or other non-class related material during class. Students are encouraged to speak up with questions and comments, and to respond to points raised by other students. However, the maintenance of an effective discussion space in class requires all of us to act with respect for everyone else in the room.

DROPPING AND ADDING

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Percent of total grade</i>
IN-CLASS TEST (1): Two short-answer questions	3/8/17 (in class)	20%
IN-CLASS TEST (2): Two short-answer questions	5/3/17 (in class)	20%
THREE 1-2 PAGES REFLECTION PAPERS	SEE SCHEDULE (at home)	30%
THREE 1-2 PAGES ARTICLE CRITIQUES	SEE SCHEDULE (at home)	30%

SPECIFICATIONS ON COURSEWORK

1) IN-CLASS TESTS 1-2 (20% + 20% of total grade)

These tests will be done in class, and will consist of short-answer questions covering the readings from the JS 101 *Reader* (i.e., not the book *In Search of Respect*). Each question will receive a grade ranging between 0 and 10 (for a maximum of 20 points for each quiz). You are kindly requested to come to class with your own blue book on the dates the tests are due (**3/8/17 – 5/4/17**). Please remember that *grammar*, *syntax*, and *structure* are relevant elements of your grade: always double-check your assignments before submitting them. Please note: during the tests *no notes, books, open laptops, or mobile phones* will be allowed.

2) REFLECTION PAPERS (10% + 10% + 10% of total grade)

Throughout the semester you are asked to write three 1-2 pages long (computer typed, double-spaced) reflection papers on the book by Philippe Bourgois, *In Search of Respect*. These papers are due on **3/13/17 – 4/10/17 – 5/15/17**. In each paper, you are asked to write a comment on the book, based on what you will have read at the time of each paper. In the commentary, you should feel free to express your point of view on the book as openly as possible. You are welcome to make reference to your own experience; however, your commentary should always be *about the book's content, meaning, message, etc.* (i.e., not simply about your own opinions, personal experiences, etc.). Please remember that *grammar*, *syntax*, and *structure* are relevant elements of your grade: always double-check your assignments before submitting them. Each reflection paper will receive a grade between 0 and 10.

3) ARTICLE CRITIQUES (10% + 10% + 10% of total grade)

Students are required to read the articles from the Special Issue of Social Justice assigned for each of the dates indicated above, and to submit a 1-2 pages long critique of each article on the due date (**2/22/17 – 3/1/17 – 5/10/17**). These assignments should be submitted in class. Each assignment will receive a grade ranging between 0 and 10 (up to 30 points in total).

GRADING SYSTEM

<i>Grading System</i>	<i>Grade</i>
98-100	A+
94-97	A
91-93	A-
88-90	B+
84-87	B
81-83	B-
78-80	C+
74-77	C
71-73	C-
68-70	D+
64-67	D
61-63	D-
<60	F

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf).

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

CAMPUS POLICY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

LEARNING ASSISTANCE RESOURCE CENTER

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. [The LARC website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/).

SJSU WRITING CENTER

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. [The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/).

PEER MENTOR CENTER

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. [Website of Peer Mentor Center is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/](http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/).

**JS-101 Critical Issues and Ideas in Justice
SPRING 2017**

MON-WED: 12pm–1:15pm
MH 523

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
1	M: 1/30/17 W: 2/1/17	SYLLABUS/ASSIGNMENTS/DEADLINES INTRODUCTION: THE US PUNITIVE TURN <u>Reading:</u> Wacquant, <i>The Great Penal Leap Backward</i> (JS-101 Reader)
2	M: 2/6/17 W: 2/8/17	MASS-INCARCERATION IN THE US <u>Reading:</u> Mauer, <i>The Incarceration Experiment</i> (JS-101 Reader) MASS-INCARCERATION IN THE US <u>Reading:</u> Western, <i>Mass Imprisonment</i> (JS-101 Reader)
3	M: 2/13/17 W: 2/15/17	RACE AND PUNISHMENT IN THE US <u>Reading:</u> Alexander, <i>The Lockdown</i> (JS-101 Reader) RACE AND PUNISHMENT IN THE US <u>Reading:</u> Mauer, <i>African Americans and the CJS</i> (JS-101 Reader)
4	M: 2/20/17 W: 2/22/17	THE ETHNOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE: AN INTRODUCTION <u>Reading:</u> Bourgois, <i>Introduction</i> MASS-INCARCERATION IN THE US <u>Reading:</u> De Giorgi, <i>Five Theses on Mass Incarceration</i> (Social Justice Issue) ARTICLE CRITIQUE DUE (10% OF TOTAL GRADE)
5	M: 2/27/17 W: 3/1/17	ETHNOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE Bourgois, <i>Violating Apartheid in the United States</i> MASS INCARCERATION IN THE US <u>Reading:</u> Gottschalk, <i>Razing the Carceral State</i> (Social Justice Issue) ARTICLE CRITIQUE DUE (10% OF TOTAL GRADE)
6	M: 3/6/17 W: 3/8/17	ETHNOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE <u>Reading:</u> Bourgois, <i>A Street History of El Barrio</i> IN-CLASS TEST 1 (20% OF TOTAL GRADE)
7	M: 3/13/17 W: 3/15/17	ETHNOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE <u>Reading:</u> Bourgois, <i>Crackhouse Management</i> REFLECTION PAPER DUE (10% OF TOTAL GRADE) THE AMERICAN WAR ON DRUGS <u>Reading:</u> Alexander, <i>The Rebirth of Caste</i> (JS-101 Reader)

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
8	M: 3/20/17	ETHNOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE <u>Reading:</u> Bourgois, <i>Goin' Legit: Disrespect and Resistance at Work</i>
	W: 3/22/17	PUNISHMENT AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY <u>Reading:</u> Mauer, <i>The War on Drugs</i> (JS-101 Reader)
9	M: 3/27/17	NO CLASS: SPRING RECESS
	W: 3/29/17	NO CLASS: SPRING RECESS
10	M: 4/3/17	PUNISHMENT AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY <u>Reading:</u> Western, <i>The Labor Market After Prison</i> (JS-101 Reader)
	W: 4/5/17	FROM THE WELFARE STATE TO THE PENAL STATE? <u>Reading:</u> Western, <i>Invisible Inequality</i> (JS-101 Reader)
11	M: 4/10/17	ETHNOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE Bourgois, <i>School Days: Learning to be a Better Criminal</i> REFLECTION PAPER DUE (10% OF TOTAL GRADE)
	W: 4/12/17	PUNISHMENT AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY <u>Reading:</u> Wacquant, <i>The Place of the Prison</i> (JS-101 Reader)
12	M: 4/17/17	ETHNOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE <u>Reading:</u> Bourgois, <i>Redrawing the Gender Line on the Streets</i>
	W: 4/19/17	FAMILIES AND MASS-INCARCERATION <u>Reading:</u> Braman, <i>Families and Incarceration</i> (JS-101 Reader)
13	M: 4/24/17	ETHNOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE <u>Reading:</u> Bourgois, <i>Families and Children in Pain</i>
	W: 4/26/17	FAMILIES AND MASS-INCARCERATION <u>Reading:</u> Comfort, <i>Papa's House</i> (JS-101 Reader)
14	M: 5/1/17	DOCUMENTARY: N. Cousino, <i>Concrete and Sunshine</i> (56 min.)
	W: 5/3/17	IN-CLASS TEST 2 (20% OF TOTAL GRADE)
15	M: 5/8/17	ETHNOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE <u>Reading:</u> Bourgois, <i>Vulnerable Fathers</i>
	W: 5/10/17	MASS INCARCERATION AND SOCIAL OPPRESSION <u>Reading:</u> De Lissovoy, <i>Injury and Accumulation</i> (Social Justice Issue) ARTICLE CRITIQUE DUE (10% OF TOTAL GRADE)
16	M: 5/15/17	ETHNOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE <u>Reading:</u> Bourgois, <i>Conclusion</i> REFLECTION PAPER DUE (10% OF TOTAL GRADE)