

San José State University
College of Applied Sciences and Arts/Department of Justice Studies
JS-121, Media & Justice, Spring, 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Waseem Iqbal
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays (530PM-6PM; And by Appointment)
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays / 6PM – 845PM
Classroom:	DH 250
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Justice Studies Core/Local, Transnational, Historical

Course Format: In Person

Course Description

This course is an interdisciplinary and comparative media examination of justice concepts and controversies, including forms of violence, human rights, undocumented persons, the state's role in promoting criminalization and social inequality, and the need for social justice and media reform. Pre/co-requisites: Any 100W Note: Must achieve a grade of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

This course provides an in-depth exploration of crime and the criminal justice system as represented in the media. Television, film, newspaper, and electronic/internet media intersect with crime and the criminal justice system in a number of important ways. This course will examine how the media represents and filters criminal justice issues. Additionally, the media will be used as a mechanism to explore issues that are central to the study of crime.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

- 1. Understand how images of crime and justice vary across different forms of media.*
- 2. Understand the role of political ideology in criminology and criminal justice and recognize ideological viewpoints in the media.*
- 3. Critically interpret media and recognize the construction of crime and justice.*
- 4. Determine how media coverage varies across different types of crime (e.g. white collar crime vs. street crime; violent vs. property crime).*

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Media Coverage of Crime and Criminal Justice (Second Edition) ISBN 978-1-61163-567-6

This textbook has been reserved at the Spartan Bookstore.

All other readings will be distributed by the instructor via hardcopy or emailed PDF files.

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

Participation. *The class will meet weekly as a group throughout the semester. Students must be present and fully participate each time.*

Students will be evaluated on their understanding of terms and concepts presented in readings, class lectures and discussions. Grades will be based on the following:

- A. Exams:** *There will be an extensive mid-term "Workbook" (take-home) examination covering the reading material and lectures. There will also be an in-class final exam which will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, matching, short answer, fill-in-the blanks, and essay questions. Each exam will be worth 100 points (200 points total).*
- B. Written Assignments:** *There will be a total of two take-home short written assignments (25 pts each) that directly relate to the assigned reading material (to date). These assignments involve answering questions designed to help you think critically about the course materials. These assignments are meant to be exercises in academic writing, consequently, I ask you to follow APA guidelines (50 pts. total).*
- C. In-Class Group Presentation:** *Students will join an assigned group and pick a given topic related to the course. Student will be required to collectively research its history, evolution, and explain the topic in current context. On the last regular day of the course, each team will be required to make a group presentation. The goal of the presentation is to inform the audience, provide substantive policy recommendations for improvement in relation to the current situation, and offer workable concrete steps that a student can take to make a positive impact (100 pts.).*
- D. Participation:** *Students will come to class on time and actively participate in group discussions. Students will make meaningful contributions and not cause any disruptions (25 points).*

The following policies govern this syllabus:

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>.
- Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practicals. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Final Examination or Evaluation

There will be an in-class final exam which will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, matching, short answer, fill-in-the blanks, and essay questions. As indicated above, the final exam will be worth 100 points.

The final exam will be held on May 23, 2017, at 6PM.

Grading Information

Letter grades will be assigned per the breakdown outlined below. *A student can also request their current grade at any time during the semester.* Grades will be calculated from a weighted point system. There are no “curves” applied to grades in this course.

More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following two university policies:

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)
- [University Attendance and Participation policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)

Determination of Grades

- +/- grades will be used as indicated in the scale below.
- Extra credit options may be presented at the discretion of the instructor.
- Review the assignments section for a list of the percentage weight assigned to various class assignments.
- There will be a full grade penalty for late or missed work.

There are a combined total of 375 points available for the class. Grading categories are as follows:

Grade	Percentage (%)
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-88
B	87-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-78
C	77-73
C-	72-70
F	69 and below

Classroom Protocol

Respectful Speech and Actions. San Jose State University, by mission and practice, is committed to fair and respectful consideration of all members of our community, and the greater communities surrounding us. All members of the University must treat one another as they would wish to be treated themselves, with dignity and

concern. As an institution of higher education, SJSU has the obligation to combat racism, sexism, and other forms of bias and to provide an equal educational opportunity. Professional codes of ethics (e.g., from the APA for psychology students) and the Academic Code shall be the guiding principles in dealing with speech or actions that, when considered objectively, are abusive and insulting.

Justice Studies Reading and Writing Philosophy

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

Readings

Students are expected to complete readings before class session indicated on the course schedule. Students should come to class prepared to *discuss* the assigned readings and be ready to share their learning with the class. There will also be reading assigned in class.

Classroom Activities and Discussion:

This course requires a great deal of classroom discussion and classroom activity. This is primarily because much of the course material is often new and challenging for lower division, undergraduate students. These discussions and classroom activities are designed to help students successfully achieve all learning objectives, and to prepare students for graded assignments and exams.

Classroom Protocol

1. This course depends on participation and interaction. Students are expected to be on time to class out of respect for your colleagues and instructor.
2. All classroom participants are expected to foster an environment that encourages participation, rather than silencing others (be respectful to one another, do not insult or intimidate others, and so forth).
3. Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments by the dates indicated on the syllabus.
4. Students are responsible for any and all notes and materials missed in their absence.
5. Cell phone, PDA, and Laptop/Internet use will not be tolerated during class time unless they are part of class activities or necessary to field an emergency.

Academic Code of Conduct and Ethics.

The University is committed to principles of scholastic honesty. Its members are expected to abide by ethical standards both in their conduct and in their exercise of responsibility towards other members of the community. Each student's conduct is expected to be in accordance with the standards of the University. **The complete**

Academic Code, which covers acts of misconduct including assistance during examination, fabrication of data, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and assisting other students in acts of misconduct, among others, may be found in the SJSU Catalog. The University reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

JS-121/ Media & Justice, Spring 2017

Course Schedule

The below schedule is subject to change with fair notice given during class or via email.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/31/17	First Class; Introduction; Chapter 1
2	2/7/17	Chapters 1/2
3	2/14/17	Chapters 2/3
2	2/21/17	Chapters 3/4
3	2/28/17	Guest Speaker
3	3/7/17	Chapters 4/5
4	3/14/17	Chapters 5/6
4	3/21/17	Midterm Exam
5	3/28/17	Spring Break/No Class
5	4/4/17	Chapters 6/7
6	4/11/17	Chapters 7/8
6	4/18/17	Chapters 8
7	4/25/17	Critical Issues
7	5/2/17	Review
8	5/9/17	Group Presentation Day
8	5/16/17	Group Presentation Day
Final	5/23/17	Final Exam/6PM/DH250