

JS 159: Senior Seminar

Course Syllabus
T, TH: 12:00-1:15

Professor: Mark E. Correia, Ph.D.
Office: MacQuarrie Hall 513
Hours: T,TH: 9:00-10:00; 3:00-4:00
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Course Description

The primary purpose of this course is to identify, analyze and discuss selected problems in the criminal justice system.

This course will provide the student with an opportunity to critically analyze contemporary problems and policies regarding the criminal justice system. This will be achieved through in-class discussion of the assigned readings, as well as the preparation of and presentation of a paper on criminal justice policy.

Required Materials

Walker, S. (2001). *Sense and Nonsense About Crime and Drugs*, 5th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Students will be required to access WebCT for this course. If you do not currently have a WebCT account, please go to <http://sjsu.webct.com/webct/public/home.pl> and follow the instructions to create an account. The WebCT login for this course is <http://sjsu.webct.com/public/js159f05mc>.

Suggested Materials

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (1994). 4th Edition. (Or any other manual on APA writing style). These are available in the reference section of the bookstore or can be found online at www.apastyle.org.

Course Requirements

Lectures: Since this is a capstone course, lectures will be interactive; that is, students will be required to participate throughout the course. The lectures will be based on the material listed by the corresponding date.

Participation: While attendance is not required (you can't participate if you are not here), it is assumed that you are prepared and willing to answer course-related questions when called upon and, when appropriate, to take part in class discussions. You will be required to discuss and critique the assigned readings and to prepare a *Most Important Topics (MIT)* list of 3 topics per chapter.

Obviously, in order to participate, you must be in attendance, however, merely attending does not constitute participation and is not factored into your grade. Actual discussion showing your knowledge of the subject matter and/or asking probing, intelligent questions is considered participation (note: this means that you should have read the material prior to each class meeting).

The participation requirement requires that you read each chapter and identify three *MITs* that can be discussed in class—these are topics that you believe to be particularly insightful and important. For each *MIT*, you will need to both describe your topic and explain why you have chosen this topic. In terms of description, you will need a minimum of one paragraph that utilizes key words and phrases that help to identify the topic. As for explanation, you will need to defend why you have chosen the topic. The purpose of the *MITs* is to assist you in participating in class discussion. I will randomly collect the *MITs* in class—hence, if you are not in class, you cannot turn them in. Your *MITs* for each chapter will be on separate pages and points will be based on the number of insightful comments for each topic.

Policy Paper: You will be required to prepare a paper on criminal justice policy (which must be approved by the professor). This paper will review the empirical literature on the topic, and will formulate new or improved policies based on the empirical evidence. The goal of the paper is to establish relationships between and among important variables and to policy implications based on these relationships. This paper must be an original paper written specifically for this course. The paper should not exceed 15 pages, must be double-spaced and should be completed in APA style, 12-point Times New Roman Font. Deviations from these requirements are not suggested and will result in a failing grade.

Presentation: A formal presentation (15-20 minutes) of your policy paper will occur on the dates outlined in the syllabus. The purpose of the presentation is to describe the research reviewed with respect to methodology, findings, limitations and policy implications. Your presentation may include the use of note cards, charts and graphs. It is strongly suggested that you do not read your presentation to the class, this will result in a failing grade. You are required to distribute a brief outline (1-2 pages) and a reference page to the class prior to the presentation. You should be prepared to answer questions regarding your paper after the presentation.

Email: I will accept assignments via email according to the following protocol. **Deviations from this protocol will not be accepted and your email will be bounced back to you:**

1. **Subject Line:** This line will contain the student's name, course and the assignment number. For example, Mark Correia, JS 159, Policy Paper.
2. **Format:** All papers sent electronically must be saved in .doc or .rtf. I will not accept papers saved in .wps, .wpd or pasted into an email.
3. **Email Address:** markcorreia@casa.sjsu.edu.

4. *Confirmation:* I will send out a confirmation receipt for those emails with assignments that I have received within 24hrs. If you do not receive a confirmation, your assignment was not received.
5. *Responsibility:* It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the assignment is properly attached to the email. If the assignment is not attached and received by the due date, the assignment will be considered late.

Grades: Course grades are based on the criteria listed below. Please note that a grade of C- must be earned to fulfill this course requirement.

Policy Paper	40%
Paper Presentation	10%
Participation	30%
MITs	20%

Note to Students: I have listed my email address and office hours for your convenience. At all times, I will be available via email. If you cannot make my office hours, nor have access to email, please set up an appointment. While I may be in my office at other times, I may not be available to meet.

Course Outline

Week #1

Aug. 25: Course introduction and syllabus overview

Developing a Clearer Understanding of Crime

Week #2

Aug. 29: Thinking About Crime
Required Reading: Walker, Preface and Chapter 1

Sept. 1: Still Thinking About Crime
Required Reading: Walker, Preface and Chapter 1

Week #3

Sept. 6: Models of Criminal Justice and The Going Rate of Crime
Required Reading: Walker, Chapters 2 and 3

Sept. 8: The Going Rate of Crime and the Career Criminal
Required Reading: Walker, Chapters 3 and 4

Week #4

Sept. 13: Paper Topic Descriptions
Be prepared to discuss your topic in class

Sept. 15: Paper Topic Descriptions
Be prepared to discuss your topic in class

The Conservative Attack

Week #5

Sept. 20: Increased Law Enforcement
Required Reading: Walker, Chapter 5

Sept. 22: Increasing the Costs and Decreasing the Benefits
Required Reading: Walker, Chapter 6

Week #6

Sept. 27: Increasing the Use of Incarceration
Required Reading: Walker, Chapter 7

Sept. 29: Decreasing Individual Rights
Required Reading: Walker, Chapter 8

The Middle Ground

Week #7

Oct. 4: Focus on the Victim
Required Reading: Walker, Chapter 9

Oct. 6: Controlling Gun Crime
Required Reading: Walker, Chapter 10

Determine Seminar Paper Presentation Order

Week #8

Oct. 11: Individual Topic Meetings (optional)

Working Title and References Due (via email)

Oct. 13: No Class

Reform: The Liberal Prescription

Week #9

Oct. 18: Fixing the Underlying Problems

Required Reading: Walker, Chapters 11

Oct. 20: Building Justice

Required Reading: Walker, Chapters 12

Week #10

Oct. 25: Drugs, Crime and Criminal Justice

Required Reading: Walker, Chapter 13

Oct. 27: Crime and the Community

Required Reading: Walker, Chapter 14

Discussion on Presentations

Week #11

Nov. 1: Seminar Paper Presentations

Nov. 3: Seminar Paper Presentations

Week #12

Nov. 8: Seminar Paper Presentations

Nov. 10: Seminar Paper Presentations

Week #13

Nov. 15: Library Day

Nov. 17: Library Day

Week #14

Nov. 22: **Thanksgiving Break**
Nov. 24: **Thanksgiving Break**

Week #15

Nov. 29: Seminar Paper Presentations
Dec. 1: Seminar Paper Presentations

Week #16

Dec. 6: Seminar Paper Presentations
Dec. 8: Seminar Paper Presentations

Seminar Papers Due

Week #17

Dec. 16: **Scheduled Final Exam 9:45-12:00**

Syllabus Addendum

Grading: In order to receive a grade for this course, all the course requirements must be completed. Failure to complete them will result in a failing grade for the course.

Academic Dishonesty: The “I got caught cheating” policy for this class is swift, severe, and certain: that is, if you cheat, chances are very good that you will be caught, then publicly shamed, and punished with a failing grade for the course. In addition, plagiarism is absolutely unacceptable. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please contact the professor—while many students are ignorant of this offense, ignorance is not an excuse. I have several speeding tickets that prove this point!

Academic Integrity: “Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs.” The policy on academic integrity can be found at http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

ADA: “If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need 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 register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.”

Grades: Paper and course grades may be disputed at the instructor’s convenience (or during office hours). It is important to note, however, that upon review, the instructor reserves the right to increase as well as decrease the grade in question. Late papers will not be accepted nor any extra credit provided.

Electronic Devices: Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, PDA’s or any other electronic device that “makes noise”. While I commend those of you who have mastered text messaging, the use of these devices during class is disruptive and will not be tolerated.

Classroom Etiquette: Class motto: “Treat others as you think they would like to be treated”. Yes, this is a spin on the ever popular, but not so empathetic phrase. This is a time to open your minds to new ideas, to explore new concepts, so please take advantage of this opportunity. Further, please be respectful of others and show them common courtesy. I firmly believe that the learning process is enriched by discussion, but damaged by arguments. Respect and professionalism are the guiding principles of this class.

Written Work: I understand that many of our students have very busy life’s, filled with work and family obligations. I understand that “school work” is difficult to fit in to an already full schedule. With this said, I do expect quality work from everyone. Write every paper as though it is your best paper ever and be proud of your paper and work that you complete for this seminar.

As a side note: I am well aware of the websites that offer papers to students and have software that allows me to compare papers I receive to the thousands of databases of papers that exist. Trust me, it is not worth your effort, chances are, I will find out.

+/- Grading: This course will be using the +/- system on final grades based on the following percentages:

95-100:	A
90-94:	A-
87-89:	B+
84-86:	B
80-83:	B-
77-79:	C+
74-76:	C
70-73:	C-
67-69:	D+
64-66:	D
60-63:	D-
0-60:	F