

**Race, Gender, Inequality and the Law ONLINE/Mediated
SJSU Studies (Advanced GE), Area S
Course Syllabus**

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(Note: email is the best way to reach me outside of class. For questions regarding JS 132, please use the email available through the course website.)

Course website: <http://sjsu.webct.com/public/js132f06al>

Department website: www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies

Mandatory orientation:

- Thurs., Aug. 24, 3:00-4:30 PM, IS 134 OR
- Tues., Aug. 29, 6:00-7:30 PM, MH 321

You only need to attend **one** orientation. Students who do not attend an orientation and do not contact the instructor by Aug. 29 will be dropped from the course to allow other students to add.

Lecture broadcasts: Tues & Thurs, 6:00-6:30 PM, Comcast Cable Channel 28 (San Jose, Campbell and Cupertino). Thursday broadcasts are a repeat of Tuesday. Lectures are available on web feed through the course website for students not living in the San Jose Comcast broadcast area.

Note: Successful completion of this course requires that you have consistent access to a reliable computer with reliable internet access (preferably high-speed). You do not necessarily need to have this access at home if you have consistent, reliable access at work (and your employer's permission to use work computers for non-work business, on your own time) or if you can easily get to King Library, or your local library with high-speed internet access. When assignments are due, extensions cannot be granted because you lost internet service, your computer got a virus, your brother took the laptop, etc. Students who lack reliable internet access should take the in-person version of JS 132. If you have difficulty logging in after August 24 or submitting an assignment, contact the eCampus help desk (see course login page). If you contact me that will just slow down the fixing of the problem, as I will refer you to them.

Prerequisites: Completion of core GE, satisfaction of Writing Skills Test, and upper division standing. For students who begin continuous enrollment at a CCC or a CSU in Fall 2005 or later, completion of, or concurrent enrollment in a 100W course is required.

JS 132 is an SJSU Studies (Advanced GE) course satisfying Area S. It is open to juniors and seniors from all majors (see prerequisites, below). SJSU requires that courses taken to satisfy Areas R, S, and V come from three different departments.

Course Add/Drop Statement: Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Some instructors will drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. However, instructors are not required to drop a student from their course. *It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped.* **You, the student,** are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, withdrawal, etc. found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct Because this is an online class, this policy will be applied as follows: students who do not attend one of the mandatory orientation sessions or otherwise contact the instructor by August 29, 2006 will be dropped to allow other students to enroll.

How to Contact Me: The most reliable way to reach me is by email. For course-related questions, use the email available through the course website. This enables both of us to obtain copies of our correspondence easily, in case we need to refer to it later in the semester; this correspondence won't get lost among the spam and other email in your or my main email address. If you have questions about law school, grad school, etc., I would prefer that you use my regular email (alucas@casa.sjsu.edu), but this is less crucial. On weekdays I generally answer emails within 24 hours of receipt, and always within 48 hours, if I know the answer to your question. (If I need to contact someone else for an answer, a response may take longer depending on how quick that person is to respond to me.) When using my regular email, put something in the subject line like "JS 132" or "SJSU student" so I don't accidentally delete it as spam.

You may also contact me by telephone, but note that I am not in my office every day, so I may be slower to answer voice mails than emails.

If/when you are on campus, I encourage you to see me during office hours as well.

Course Description: This course examines inequality in the United States, and explores the role of law in creating, maintaining, and eliminating inequality. We will analyze various forms of inequality, emphasizing discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, and class, and will also consider discrimination based on sexual orientation, religion, immigration status, and disability. We will discuss inequality in criminal justice, education, employment, economic opportunity, housing, the family, medical care, the media, interpersonal violence and harassment, friendship and social relations, and individual mental health/self-image.

Course Goals: Students will study the interrelationship of individuals, racial/ethnic groups, and cultural groups (e.g., based on gender, sexuality, religion, disability, etc.) to understand issues related to diversity, equality, and inequality in the United States, its social institutions, and its cultures.

Student Learning Objectives: Successful completion of this course will enable students to describe how social and cultural influences shape various aspects of individual and group identity (e.g., religious, gender, ethnic, sexual, class, disability, age) in a context of equality and/or inequality; describe social, political, economic, historical, legal and cultural factors which produce diversity, equality and inequality; describe attempts by subordinated groups to achieve greater equality and social justice; and recognize constructive interactions between people from different social groups in the United States.

Specifically, at the end of the course students should be able to

1. Define concepts of identity and theories of prejudice and discrimination from a multi-disciplinary and multicultural perspective.

2. Describe the legal history and current legal context of racial/ethnic, gender, and sexual orientation discrimination in the U.S.
3. Identify structural sources of inequality and equality in major social institutions, e.g., employment, the family, education, and criminal justice, and how these inequalities or equalities are reflected in the law.
4. Analyze case law and constitutional guidelines applicable to claims of discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation.
5. Analyze competing legal rights of men and women in family life, including marriage, reproduction, adoption, child custody, and divorce.
6. Analyze legal and social developments relating to sexual harassment, hate crimes, and affirmative action.
7. Identify social and political movements offering solutions to structured inequality based on race, ethnicity, gender, class, religion, age, sexuality, and disability.
8. Recognize their own and others' attitudes in regard to racism, sexism and other forms of prejudice.
9. Recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people of different social/cultural groups or identities in the United States.
10. Gain greater competence in research, writing and analytical skills.
11. Improve verbal skills and ability to communicate with people of different backgrounds and identities.

Required Texts:

1. Paula S. Rothenberg, *Race, Class, and Gender in the United States: An Integrated Study*, 6th edition (New York: Worth 2003) (abbreviated AR@ below).
2. J. Ralph Lindgren, Nadine Taub, Beth Anne Wolfson & Carla M. Palumbo, *The Law of Sex Discrimination*, 3d edition (Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2004) (abbreviated AL@ below).

Both books will be available at the SJSU Bookstore, Roberts Books, or online. Be sure to get the correct edition of each; earlier editions contain different readings.

Class Participation, Requirements, and Grading:

You are responsible for doing the assigned reading on time and being prepared to discuss it online and on time. Because this is an online class, it is essential that you keep up with the readings and assignments every week in order to pass. In lieu of exams, you will be completing several different kinds of writing assignments, one each week – short questions, short papers, quizzes, and the like. Everything is open-book and open-note, but you should not try to complete these unprepared because there will be time limits (e.g., the website will allow you an hour to complete a quiz). You are expected to complete these individually and to use your own words. Be sure you review the section below on cheating and plagiarism so that you do not accidentally violate the course standards.

Each week, there are a series of discussion questions related to that week's reading. You will be assigned to groups, and each group will discuss the question it is assigned, by the due date. When the discussion is finished, you will be required to respond to comments by two other students.

The **discussion board** will be a great resource for you in this class. Because we meet in person only once, we will be creating a virtual classroom through the discussion board, and I encourage all of you to use it above and beyond the required use. It is a place to post questions if you need clarification on anything, seek advice from your peers, share resources and explore ideas.

Deadlines and missed assignments: **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** The beauty of an online class is that you can fit the work in around your other classes, your job, etc., but you still have to *do* the work, every week, and meet the deadlines. Waiting until the day something is due and then discovering that you lost your internet connection or left your book at school is not a valid reason for an extension of a deadline, so whenever possible, allow a "cushion" before the deadline in case you need it. You must post to each week's discussion question by the weekly deadline. **YOU WILL NOT GET CREDIT FOR YOUR REQUIRED RESPONSES IF THEY ARE LATE!** You can post your own questions or discussion outside of the required discussion at any time.

Grading: Your grade will be based on required weekly discussions, 5 quizzes, 6 writing activities requiring a few sentences to a page, two "midterm" activities of 1-2 pages, a final assignment of 5 pages, and library research. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Weekly online discussion:</u> | 5 points/wk x 15 weeks = | 75 points |
| <u>Responses to other students:</u> | 4 pts/wk x 15 weeks = | 60 points |
| <u>Quizzes:</u> | 25 points each x 5 quizzes = | 125 points |
| <u>Weekly short writing activities:</u> | 25 points each x 6 = | 150 points |
| <u>"Midterm" writing assignments:</u> | 50 points each x 2 = | 100 points |
| <u>Library research:</u> | 45 points each x 2 = | 90 points |
| <u>Final activity:</u> | | <u>100 points</u> |
| | | 700 total points possible |

Your scores for each of these will be added together, and your total points at the end of the semester will determine your grade. Final grades will be curved (you are measured against the performance of the rest of the class). Specifically, the person with the most points (excluding extra credit, if any) will set the standard for the highest AA@ grade. From there, grades will be calculated as follows:

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Grades as % of highest total score: | 93-100% A | 83-86% B | 70-74% C | 0-54% F |
| | 90-92% A- | 80-82% B- | 65-69% C- | |
| | 87-89% B+ | 75-79% C+ | 55-64% D | |

Grades for each assignment, and your final course grade, will be available on the course website (no other JS 132 students will be able to see your grades). I will attempt to grade each quiz or assignment within one week of submission.

Writing requirement: Because this course satisfies one of your advanced general education requirements (SJSU Studies Area S), it requires a significant amount of writing. A total of 3500 words of writing (minimum) is required for credit in the class. You will more than exceed this minimum if you complete the required discussion and assignments every week. Note that one-word or incomplete discussion responses will not be adequate to get participation credit.

Other information:

Graduate students: Graduate students in the JS Master's degree program are required to complete a graduate level assignment, in addition to the required course activities, to get graduate credit for this course. Please contact me by email through the course website to discuss this requirement and how to satisfy it.

Students with disabilities: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please see me as soon as possible. University policy (Presidential Directive 97-03) requires that students with disabilities must register with SJSU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) to establish a record of their disability. The DRC will work with you to determine the disability, document it, and determine the services and accommodations necessary for your success. The DRC may also contact me to determine the types of consideration necessary. In most cases, students should register with the Center during the first three weeks of the semester. The DRC Web site: <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/>

Cheating and plagiarism (Academic integrity): Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests or quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will both *fail this course* and be reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for *disciplinary action* which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University. The policy on academic integrity can be found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

To better understand plagiarism and to aid you in making sure that you are not plagiarizing, please see me and/or visit: <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm>

If you are considering a career in the criminal justice field, be aware that *reports of cheating will go on your academic record and thus will be discovered by employers' background investigations of job candidates.*

I have zero tolerance for cheating and plagiarism. Although you will be doing some group work each week, your quizzes and writing activities are to be completed *individually*. Students turning in identical assignments will be assumed to have cheated. In addition, although every activity is open-book and open-note, be sure that everything you write is *in your own words*. If you want to include a *brief* quotation from the reading, be sure to use quotation marks and cite your source. Copying from the text, another student, a paper from a previous class, a website, and the like, are plagiarism. If you have any doubt whether something constitutes cheating or plagiarism, check with me. In the meantime, assume that it does and rewrite it.

Course structure, week by week

Week 1, Aug 25-Aug 31: Introduction to course and concepts relating to social inequality

MANDATORY ORIENTATION: Thurs., 8/24, 3:00-4:30 PM, IS 134 *or* Tues., 8/29, 6:00-7:30, MH 321

READ: R, Chs. 22, 106, 12, 14-16, 61, 62, 66, 67, 78

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 8/28, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week (**Note: *for this week only*, late discussion postings will be allowed**)

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 8/30, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 8/31, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 1

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 8/31, take quiz for week 1

Week 2, Sept 1-Sept 7: Concepts and definitions, conclusion

READ: R, Chs. 17-21, 107, 114

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 9/4, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week (**Note: 9/4 is Labor Day, a holiday. You may want to post your response early to enjoy a day off!**)

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 9/6, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 9/7, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 2

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 9/7, complete Activity 1 OR Activity 2 OR Activity 3

Week 3, Sept 8-Sept 14: Experiences and consequences of discrimination and inequality

READ: R, Chs. 24-26, 28, 31, 43, 44, 64, 81

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 9/11, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 9/13, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 9/14, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 3

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 9/14, take quiz for week 3

Week 4, Sept 15-Sept 21: Experiences and consequences, continued

READ: R, Chs. 27, 32, 33, 40-42, 60, 65, 75, 77, 109; review ch. 78

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 9/18, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 9/20, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 9/21, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 4

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 9/21, complete activity for week 4

Week 5, Sept 22-Sept 28: Experiences and consequences, conclusion

READ: R, Chs. 23, 74, 79, 80, 110, 113, 118; review chs. 16, 19, 75

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 9/25, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 9/27, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 9/28, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 5

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 9/28, take quiz for week 5

Week 6, Sept 29-Oct 5: The economic aspects of American inequality

READ: R, Chs. 38, 39, 46, 48-50, 52, 55-57, 112

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 10/2, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 10/4, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 10/5, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 6

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 10/5, complete writing exercise for week 6

Week 7, Oct 6-Oct 12: Economics of American inequality, conclusion

READ: R, Chs. 47, 51, 53, 54, 123, 124

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 10/9, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 10/11, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 10/12, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 7

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 10/12, complete writing exercise for week 7

Week 8, Oct 13-Oct 19: The social construction of inequality

READ: R, Chs. 1, 3-6, pp. 85-93 of ch. 8, Chs. 70, 71, 111

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 10/16, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 10/18, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 10/19, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 8

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 10/19, complete quiz for week 8

Week 9, Oct 20-Oct 26: The role of law in establishing racial inequality

READ: R, Chs. 83-86, 89-93, 96-98, 100-101

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 10/23, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 10/25, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 10/26, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 9

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 10/26, complete writing exercise for week 9

Week 10, Oct 27-Nov 2: Sex inequality and American legal history

READ: L, Blackstone on Coverture, pp. 2-4; The Cult of True Womanhood & Separate Spheres, pp. 6-10; Appendices A, B, D, pp. 427-431, 435-438; *Bradwell v. Illinois & Minor v. Happersett*, pp. 17-22; *Muller v. Oregon*, *Goesaert v. Cleary*, *Hoyt v. Florida*, *J.E.B. v. Alabama*, The Turn of the Tide, pp. 28-41

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 10/30, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 11/1, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 11/2, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 10

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 11/2, complete writing exercise for week 10

Week 11, Nov 3-Nov 9: Equal protection

READ: L, Introduction to Equal Protection, A New Beginning, *Reed v. Reed*, pp. 42-47; Setting the Standard, *Craig v. Boren*, *Orr v. Orr*, *Personnel Adm'r of Mass. v. Feeney*, Refining the Model, *Michael M.*, Perspectives on Women's Subordination, *Mississippi University for Women v. Hogan*, pp. 52-70

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 11/6, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 11/8, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 11/9, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 11

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 11/9, complete writing exercise for week 11

Week 12, Nov 10-Nov 16: Title VII

READ: L, Ch. 3, pp. 79-91, 98-111 (includes cases *Nichols*, *Brown & Root*, *Manhart*, *Hopkins*, *Lindahl*, *Griggs*, *Dothard*) (Skip *Texas Dept. v. Burdine*)

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 11/13, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 11/15, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 11/16, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 12

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 11/16, complete writing exercise for week 12

Week 13, Nov 17-Nov 22 (NOTE early due dates because of Thanksgiving): Title VII; Family law

READ: L, Ch. 3, pp. 111-129; Ch. 6, Pt. 1, pp. 237-247; (includes cases *Cheatwood, Diaz, Dothard, Johnson Controls, Healey, McGuire, Glover, Kline, Kirchberg*)

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 11/20, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week

RESPOND: By midnight on TUESDAY, 11/21, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on WEDNESDAY, 11/22, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 13

ACTIVITY: By midnight on WEDNESDAY, 11/22, complete quiz for week 13

Week 14, Nov 24-Nov 30: Family law

READ: L, Ch. 6, Pt II, pp. 260-278; Ch. 6, Pt. IV, pp. 286-301 (includes cases *Devine, Beck, Lehr, B.L.V.B., Marvin, Schuster, Alison D., Baker, Lawrence*)

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 11/27, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 11/29, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 11/30, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 14

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 11/30, post library research assigned for week 14

Week 15, Dec 1-Dec 7: Reproduction and the law

READ: L, Ch. 7, pp. 303-328, 334-350, 356-359 (includes cases *Griswold, Roe, Casey, Jhordan C., Davis, Baby M, In re A.C.*)

DISCUSS: By midnight on Monday, 12/4, post answer to question on discussion board for your group for this week

RESPOND: By midnight on Wednesday, 12/6, respond to discussion comments made by two other students in any group

REVIEW: By 6:30 PM on Thursday, 12/7, review discussion comments and view lecture broadcast/web feed for week 15

ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, 12/7, complete research activity assigned for week 15

“Dead day”: Dec 8

Finals period: Dec 9-Dec 14

FINAL ACTIVITY: By midnight on Thursday, Dec 14, complete the activity listed as “final activity.”