

**San José State University**  
**College of Applied Sciences & Arts**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 102, Police & Society, Section 2, Fall 2009**

<b>Instructor:</b>	J. Erin Nelson-Serrano
<b>Office Location:</b>	McQuarrie Hall 528
<b>Telephone:</b>	(408) 924-2949
<b>Email:</b>	serrnels@comcast.net
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Thursdays, 1400-1500
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Thursdays, 1500-1615
<b>Classroom:</b>	MH 520
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Upper division standing

### **Course Description**

This course provides an overview of the evolution of policing in America, from its foundations in a democratic society to its current challenges within a more global society. Over the semester, we will examine policing strategies and the economic, political and ethical constraints and influences that shape modern policing organizations. This course is designed for Justice Studies majors and minors but may also be appropriate for non-majors interested in law, justice, human service, socio-legal studies, and American legal and political institutions.

### **Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives**

Students will :

- gain an understanding of the historical development of policing in America.
- develop insight into traditional and contemporary policing strategies, officer recruitment and training processes, and organizational pitfalls
- be able to describe the application of evidence-based practices in policing

## Required Text

### Textbook

Roberg, R, K. Novak, G. Cordner (2009). *Police and Society* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury Publishing.

ISBN 978-0-19-537035-5

This textbook is available for purchase at Spartan Bookstore, Roberts Bookstore and online.

## Other equipment / material requirements

Students will need weekly access to a computer in order to participate in weekly online discussions and take weekly quizzes. The online portion of the course is available via Blackboard at <http://sjsu6.blackboard.com>. Login instructions are available at the link above. Students may contact the University Help Desk for technical support issues, including: password reset, browser problems, and issues encountered in Blackboard CE8 courses at (408) 924-2377 or by submitting a help ticket using the [University Help Desk online form](#).

## Classroom Protocol

This class will be comprised of lecture, guest presentations, live discussion, and online learning components. Students will be encouraged to ask questions and share their personal opinions and experiences; however, all students will be expected to show respect for one another at all times. Students are expected to maintain an environment that is conducive to learning, including arriving on time, keeping electronic devices off during class, and avoiding disruptive behavior. Texting, IM'ing or being on Facebook or other social networking sites during class is not an example of participation *or* respect. All electronic communications will be appropriate and respectful. Inappropriate communication or classroom conduct will warrant a meeting with the instructor for redress.

I am available to discuss your learning, grades, or academic and professional interests. If my office hours are not convenient for you, we can schedule an alternate time to meet. I am also available by email. Because I am on campus only one day per week, I will not be immediately able to respond to messages left on my office phone.

## Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, academic renewal, etc. Refer to the current semester's [catalog policies](#) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html> for any add/drop deadlines, policies, and procedures section and specific registration information. [Late drop policy](#) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

## Assignments and Grading Policy

*Weekly Online Discussion Groups:* During the first week of class, students will be randomly assigned to online discussion groups via Blackboard. Each student is expected to post a minimum of two discussion responses per week. These two responses per week are worth a total of 5 points (70 points for the semester; 30% of grade). Discussion questions will be specific, and discussion responses will be reviewed by the instructor.

*Weekly Online Quizzes:* There will be weekly quizzes throughout the course based upon the reading. All quizzes will be offered online via Blackboard. Quizzes are worth 5 points each toward the final grade (70 points for the semester; 30% of grade). These quizzes will be a combination of true/false and multiple choice questions, and students are encouraged to refer to their texts during the quizzes.

*Class Participation:* All students are expected to come to class prepared and willing to engage in active discussion about the subject matter. You will be awarded extra credit points for your active and insightful participation.

*In-class Midterms:* There will be two in-class midterm quizzes given during the semester. In-class midterm quizzes will be on material covered in class, including class discussion, guest speakers, and documentaries viewed in class. Each in-class midterm is worth 15 points each (30 points for the semester; 13% of grade).

*Observation and Written Assignment:* This activity is designed to help students apply course material to a practical experience. Students will perform a police ride-along with the agency of their choosing, and they will be required to write about their observations as related to various topics covered in lecture and class readings. This assignment will be worth 30 points (13% of grade).

*Extra Credit:* Special projects or assignments may be offered for extra credit throughout the semester. This will be offered at the discretion of the instructor and should not be used as a way to compensate for unexcused missed quizzes or lapses in weekly discussion group participation.

*Grades:* Course grades are based on the criteria listed below.

Online Discussion Group Participation	70 points
Weekly Online Quizzes	70 points
In-class Midterm Quizzes	30 points
Observation/Paper	<u>30 points</u>
	200 points total

Final grades will be assigned according to the following scales:

A+ = 95%+, A = 90-94%, A- = 85-89%, B+ = 80-84%, B = 75-79%, B- = 70-74%,  
C+ = 65-69%, C = 60-64%, C- = 55-59%, D+ = 50-54%, D = 45-49%, D- = 40-44%,  
F ≤ 39%.

## **University Policies**

### **Academic integrity**

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html) is available at [http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial\\_affairs/faculty\\_and\\_staff/academic\\_integrity/index.html](http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html). 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 [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) 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 [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> 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 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Union. 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/) is located at <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](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

## Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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. The [Peer Mentor Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/>

## JS102 / Police & Society, Fall 2009 Tuesday/Thursday 1500-1615

**\*\*Class meets on campus Thursdays only.**

*The schedule is subject to change with fair notice by the instructor in class and via Blackboard messaging.*

**Table 1 Police & Society**

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1 T	Aug 25	Course introduction and syllabus overview. Instruction on accessing online portion of course.
TH	Aug 27	Further review of online access and course requirements. Assigned reading: Roberg, Novak & Cordner (2009), Chapter 1
2 TH	Sep 3	<b>Policing in a Democracy</b> Assigned reading: Roberg, et al., Chapter 2 (Chapter 1 quiz due prior to class.)
3 TH	Sep 10	<b>Policing in a Democracy</b> Assigned reading: Roberg, et al., Chapter 3 (Chapter 2 quiz due prior to class.)
4 TH	Sep 17	<b>Policing in a Democracy</b> Assigned reading: Roberg, et al., Chapter 4 (Chapter 3 quiz due prior to class.)
5	Sep 24	<b>Police Administration and Organization</b> Assigned reading: Roberg, et al., Chapter 5

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
TH		(Chapter 4 quiz due prior to class.)
6 TH	Oct 1	<b>Police Administration and Organization</b> <b>Date/Agency of Observation Assignment Due to Instructor</b> Assigned reading: Roberg, et al., Chapter 6 (Chapter 5 quiz due prior to class.)
7 TH	Oct 8	<b>Personnel and Operations</b> Assigned reading: Roberg, et al., Chapter 7 (Chapter 6 quiz due prior to class.)
8 TH	Oct 15	<b>Personnel and Operations</b> <b>In-class Midterm</b> Assigned reading: Roberg, et al., Chapter 8 (Chapter 7 quiz due prior to class.)
9 TH	Oct 22	<b>Police Behavior and Misconduct</b> <b>Documentary on LAPD</b> Assigned reading: Roberg, et al., Chapter 9 (Chapter 8 quiz due prior to class.)
10 TH	Oct 29	<b>Police, Force and Coercion</b> Assigned reading: Roberg, et al., Chapter 10 (Chapter 9 quiz due prior to class.)
11 TH	Nov 5	<b>Ethics and Accountability</b> <b>Observation Assignment Due to Instructor</b> Assigned reading: Roberg, et al., Chapter 11 (Chapter 10 quiz due prior to class.)
12 TH	Nov 12	<b>Legal Constraints and Liability</b> Assigned reading: Roberg, et al., Chapter 12 (Chapter 11 quiz due prior to class.)
13 TH	Nov 19	<b>Cultural Diversity in Policing</b> Assigned reading: Roberg, et al., Chapter 13 (Chapter 12 quiz due prior to class.)
14 TH	Nov 26	<b>No Class Meeting</b> <b>Police, Stress and Officer Safety</b> Assigned reading: Roberg, et al., Chapter 15 (Chapter 13 quiz due midnight on November 25.)
15 TH	Dec 3	<b>Terrorism, Contemporary and Emerging Issues in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing</b> <b>Documentary on NYPD</b> (Chapter 15 quiz due prior to class.)
16 T	Dec 8	This is the final day of instruction. Class will meet this <b>Tuesday</b> at 1500 to take the second midterm exam (this is the final exam).