

**Fall 2009 JS 159 Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems Tues/Thurs: 1:30-2:45
MacQuarrie Hall 526**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 to 12:00 in MH 510; Thursdays 3:00-5:00 in BT 453; Fridays 12:15 to 1:15 in MH 510

Catalog Course Description: The Justice Studies Senior Capstone Seminar focuses the identification, discussion, and analysis of selected contemporary issues in the justice system. A major term paper on a selected topic is required.

NOTE: THIS SYLLABUS WILL NEED TO BE REVISED IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THIS SEMESTER'S STATE-REQUIRED FURLOUGH DATES – THESE DATES HAVE NOT BEEN PROVIDED TO YOUR PROFESSOR AS OF THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER. AFTER THAT POINT, THERE MAY VERY POSSIBLY ALSO BE SOME SLIGHT ADJUSTMENTS IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THE SCHEDULING OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Course Prerequisites: Senior standing, JS 105 and JS 100W. A minimum grade of C- in this course is required for graduation. In order to ensure that this course can serve its function as a capstone senior research seminar, the JS Department requires that the enrollment cap be enforced.

Other: The regulations in the current SJSU Catalog will be followed in regard to Add/Drop policies, Incomplete grades, and all questions of plagiarism and other issues of academic conduct. Emergency evacuation routes and procedures are posted adjacent to the classroom.

Course Add/Drop Policy

For information regarding adding and dropping a course, please refer to the Schedule of Instructions, Policies, and Procedures:

<http://info.sjsu.edu/cgi-bin/socfiles?command=ftok&arg=soc-spring-narrative>

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.***

Academic Integrity Statement

In accordance with University policy this course strives to uphold academic honesty. "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 members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs." A student may be reprimanded, receive a failing grade on their evaluation instrument (exam, paper, etc.), have their grade lowered, or receive an "F" in the course, and referred to administrative sanctions if they are suspected of plagiarism or cheating. The policy on academic integrity can be found at: <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>

Departmental Policy on Plagiarism

All students **are required to read** the following academic integrity policies. You must also go to <<http://130.65.109.143/plagiarism/index.htm>> for the academic policy and the plagiarism tutorial (<<http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org>> and read each document in its entirety. Your instructor may require you to document that you have read these policies by either electronic record or by handing in a signed, dated printout, of the policies and tutorials.

Any cheating or plagiarism will be treated as a very serious offense. Documentation of any case of violation of these policies will result in academic sanctions and will be placed in the student's record. The documentation of any violations will be kept on record with the Office of Judicial affairs, and may result in administrative disciplinary action. Furthermore, these violations may be discovered in any background checks for employment and may restrict violators from applying for jobs in the future.

Departmental Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act:

"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 your professor as soon as possible, during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires students with disabilities requesting accommodations to register with the Disability Resource Center in order to establish a record of their disability."

Required Textbook: Samuel Walker, *Sense and Nonsense about Crime and Drugs: A Policy Guide*, 6th edition (2006) is available at the campus bookstore. Other readings will be handed out in class or made available on E-reserve.

Course Requirements:

1. Class participation: Students must attend class and come prepared to discuss and critique the assigned readings. Students must bring to class a minimum of two to three questions for discussion regarding the readings typed on a sheet of paper that will be submitted to the professor at the beginning of the class (students should bring another copy of their questions for their own reference during the discussion). Add stuff here about markers of participation/attendance & carrot-sticks
2. A formal class presentation of research & policy analysis on an approved topic in justice

studies. The presenter must distribute an outline of the presentation and a list of scholarly sources at the beginning of the presentation.

3. A research/policy paper of a minimum of 3000 words (not counting the bibliography, appendices, or any footnotes or endnotes) to be submitted no later than the final exam date of this class.

Writing Center: Clark Hall Ste.126 Mon. – Thurs. 9:30-5:30. **USE IT EARLY AND OFTEN!**

Student Evaluation:

Class participation:	30%
Discussion questions:	10%
Class presentation with documents (abstract, outline, references):	30%
Final policy paper:	30%

Participation: The guiding conception behind this course is that it serves as a senior capstone seminar for Justice Studies majors. This is designed as a *seminar* where students are offered the opportunity (in fact, they are *required*) to discuss their own understandings and educated opinions of justice policy with their peers in an interactive classroom context that is guided and moderated, but not controlled, by the professor. The assigned readings are not to be taken as authoritative gospel, but rather as points of departure for critical discussion. A wide range of viewpoints will be welcomed. Vigorous discussion will be strongly encouraged (within the limits of civility). The goal is for the students to exercise what they have learned at SJSU as emerging scholars in this field and to extend themselves as independent thinkers in conversation with their peers. At the end of the semester, the professor will review each student's file of discussion questions as the first step in assigning a grade for participation (discussion questions may not be submitted late).

Class Presentation: During the latter weeks of the term, each student will be required to make a formal presentation of approximately 15-20 minutes in length. This will be a preliminary presentation of the material that the student will ultimately develop into the required course research paper (see below). Each student will meet with the instructor during the middle weeks of the term to submit an abstract that poses a research question and to develop a rough outline and discuss directions for further reading on the chosen topic. The presentation is to be directed to an audience of similarly trained peers, much like a presentation in a professional setting (formal professional suits, ties, etc., are not required, but a professional-scholarly demeanor, clear organization, and coherent style ARE required). Each student must begin the presentation by handing out to the rest of the class an outline of the presentation, with a title, an order of topics, and a preliminary list of sources. The presentation should NOT simply be read, but should be presented in an expository fashion, working from three by five note cards or a detailed outline, with plenty of eye contact with the audience. At the end of the presentation, the presenter should accept questions from the audience and should take note of the questions, so that the final draft of

the course paper can address the issues raised in the questions posed by the audience (some presenters may prefer to tape record the question and answer period). If a student commits to a presentation date and then does not show up that day, their presentation will be deferred to the end of the term (which poses the very real problem that they might miss being able to present at all – an outcome that would have serious consequences for their course grade).

Course Paper: The paper is required to be at least 3,000 words in length. A typical page of double-spaced 12-point type has approximately 250 words – but sometimes fewer, so a typical paper will be between 12 and 18 pages in length, not including the title page, the notes, references, or bibliography. The paper is required to be based upon a minimum of 5 scholarly references (books and/or journal articles). Good places to look are PsycInfo, Sociological Abstracts, Criminal Justice Abstracts, and the Lexis-Nexis full-text legal research database accessible through the SJSU library portal.

The paper MUST employ the American Psychological Association citation style and format. The APA guidelines can be found at

<http://www.wooster.edu/psychology/apa-crib.html> .

Spelling, punctuation, and general logical clarity of expression will be taken into account in evaluating the paper. It is strongly recommended that each student have a peer read the paper at least once for clarity, spelling, and correct form. Given the nature of this senior seminar, the closest attention must be given to the originality of the work and any hint of plagiarism must be guarded against.

The paper must be structured as follows:

- I. Introduction: This section will include a brief introduction to the topic and a framing of the research question; it may include a history of the topic, a description of its current relevance, conceptual or definitional debates, and policy importance. Tell your readers what your topic is and why anybody should care about it.
- II. Review of Literature: This section describes the state of research on the topic. It focuses on summarizing and evaluating the major sources that the paper will rely upon for its analysis of the topic. This section should consider empirical and theoretical significance of the scholarly sources. Students should draw upon their training in JS 105 as they describe and assess the strengths and weaknesses of each study they cite in their papers.
- III. Conclusions and Policy Implications: Overall conclusions from the literature, suggestions for policy, socio-political relevance and importance.

In order to earn credit, the term paper MUST be submitted BOTH electronically AND as a hard copy on paper.

Course Schedule:

Week I: Introductions; class prerequisites; plagiarism questions; policy paper preview; discussion of research resources; collection of students' names and email addresses.

Week II: Read and discuss Walker, preface and chapter 1 and Chapter 2.

Week III: Read and discuss Chapter 3; read and discuss Chapter 4.

Week IV: Read and discuss Chapter 5; read and discuss Chapter 6.

Week V: Read & discuss Chapter 7; read & discuss Chapter 8; each student should be prepared to offer a brief description of her paper topic in class.

Week VI: Read & discuss Chapter 9; read & discuss Chapters 10; begin individual meetings with professor on paper topics, references, and structure.

Week VII: Read & discuss Chapter 11 and 12; individual meetings with professor, continued.

Week VIII: Read & discuss Chapter 13; individual meetings with instructor, continued. Read & discuss Chapter 14; individual meetings with instructor,

Week IX: Individual meetings with professor; in-class scheduling the order of presentations for coming weeks.

Week X: Presentations.

Week XI: Presentations.

Week XII: Presentations.

Week XIII: Presentations.

Thanksgiving break – most likely no class on Tuesday, definitely no class on Thursday.

Week XIV: Presentations

Week XV: Presentations.

Week XVI: Presentations if necessary, also last-minute paper consultations.

Final papers are due on the final exam date assigned by the University, Tuesday Dec. 15, no later than 2:30.