

San José State University, Spring 2010
Department of Justice Studies
JS159 Senior Policy Seminar in Justice Studies

Instructor:	Danielle A Harris PhD
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Office Hours:	Tues 10am-12pm (MH527); Thurs 8:15-9:15pm (after JS203)
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-1:15pm
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall TBA

Course Description

The Justice Studies Department's Senior Seminar represents the culminating educational experience of the degree in Justice Studies at San Jose State University. The seminar's purpose is to create knowledge from research which can be applied to society through changes to policymaking. The seminar's chief objective is to reinforce the importance of any university's foundational purpose - that is, the student becomes an agent of change in contemporary society, crafting a strategy of action informed by thorough, scholarly research.

The primary purpose of the class is to identify, discuss and analyze selected problems in the criminal justice system period. **This semester, the class will focus on relevant Criminal Justice public policies in the US using sex offender public policy as a case study.** Although this topic will be used as an example, your policy papers may be about any relevant social or criminal justice policy you choose.

Course Prerequisites

Upper division standing is required. Students must have evidence that they have passed JS 105 and JS100W or its equivalent. Preference will be given to graduating seniors.

Required Reading

All readings are available in PDF on the JS faculty website

APA (2005 or later) *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. 5th edition or later.

Classroom Protocol

Instructor's Note on Communication

As you know, a university degree is a significant undertaking and requires a high level of commitment, time management, organization, and initiative. Thus, it is in your best interest to stay on top of the readings and keep in touch with the instructor. *The best way to keep in touch is in-person during office hours, or at another time by appointment.* If you cannot meet with me in person, I prefer that you email me. Emails will be responded to during business hours (Monday through Friday only). *Please include a phone number in all email communication.* Please note: all communication regarding assignment and exam grades must be conducted in person and *not* via email.

Classroom Etiquette

Tardiness will not be tolerated. I understand that many of you work, but I also understand that you have enrolled in school aware of the demands of that commitment. Please arrange with your employer/child care/other to arrive in time for class to begin promptly at 12:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, PDA's or any other electronic device. The use of anything that beeps or vibrates during class is disruptive and will not be tolerated. If you are caught using a telephone (even silently, e.g. texting), you will be asked to leave the classroom. *The use of computers during class will not be tolerated.*

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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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

In order to receive a grade for this course, **all** course requirements must be met and **every** assignment must be completed. Failure to complete any one of them may result in a failing grade for the course.

Deadlines are firm. Late papers will not be accepted (without extenuating personal circumstances due to own or family health; or other university recognized excuse). Plagiarism will not be tolerated on **any** piece of assessment, under any circumstances. Students found to be guilty of plagiarism will be referred to the University's Honor Council.

Participation and Preparatory Reading (10%): Critical reading, thinking, and writing involve a number of practical skills. These skills must be practiced to be developed and maintained. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss and critique the assigned readings. In order to participate, one must be in attendance. Attendance per se, however, is not considered to be participation, and cannot factor into one's grade.

Participation includes but is not limited to in-class comments indicating knowledge of the subject matter, asking probing questions, and involvement in class activities including impromptu debates and presentations of reading material. This means that assigned readings must be read and “digested” prior to each class meeting.

Article Critiques (40%): Students will be required to critique four existing studies as reported in various journal articles. This will allow the student to demonstrate their grasp of traditional and evaluative research conducted in justice related fields. The first two articles will be pre-selected by the instructor and the second two will be chosen by you. You are encouraged to find articles which are relevant to your paper topic. The critique will be written in “question and answer” format, according to a prescribed list of ten questions provided by the instructor.

Policy Paper (30%): Students are required to prepare a 6 page (double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 font) policy paper of an approved social or criminal justice related policy. Students may select any relevant US or international public policy that interests them. *The topic must not have been previously written about or researched by the student.* The goal of the paper is to review empirical research and to draw policy implications based upon them. The paper should adhere to strict APA style (including in-text citations and reference list, punctuation, grammar, writing style) and include five or more empirical sources (beyond those in the required reading for the class).

Presentation (20%): Students are required to give a formal class presentation of their policy paper. The presentation should take about 15-20 minutes. Students will also be required to provide a topic outline and reference page to the instructor. Presentations will be prepared using PowerPoint and must be emailed to the instructor 24 hours prior to the in-class presentation.

THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT IN THIS COURSE
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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. 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.

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.

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/>.

JS159 Spring 2010 Course Schedule

The Class Schedule below is tentative. The dynamics and abilities of the individual class often dictate the amount of time spent on classroom discussions and so on. This usually means that it is necessary to adjust some activities or materials as the semester progresses. This makes it particularly important to come to class on time (to receive those announcements) and to check in with the instructor after any absences.

Table 1 Course Schedule

W	Date	Topic	Due	Reading
1	01/26	Introductions and Syllabus		A. CJ through looking glass A. Study of public policy B. Ten deadly myths
	01/28	Brainstorm Topics		
2	02/02	What is public policy? Policy introduction	AC1	C. heroin problem D. public policy process
	02/04	The process of policy formation		
3	02/09	AC 1 discussion		E. pub policy & criminology F. policy relevance G. Putting justice back H. crime control J. to the vanquished
	02/11	CJS review, foundation of crime control in the US punishment philosophy, public policy and criminology		
4	02/16	crime myths, culture of fear, scaring the community	AC2	K. media moral panics L. social construction
	02/18	<i>Bowling for Columbine</i>		
5	02/23	Paper requirements and APA style review		APA manual M. abolishing prisons N. in support of prisons
	02/25	Prison Abolition Debate		
6	03/02	Effects of past policy on CJS, public, media, government.	AC3	O. crime in the news P. smack is back Q. missing children
	03/04	Knee-jerk reactions.		
7	03/09	Review of sex offender literature, rape myths,		R. sex offender dangerous S. sex crimes introduction T. myths and facts
	03/11	Child molestation; nature and extent		
8	03/16	Sex offender public policy in theory	AC4	U. Megan's law A/B V. residency restrictions A/B W. civil commitment A/B X. circles of support A/B Y. good lives A/B/C
	03/18	Sex offender policy in practice (memorial legislation)		
9	03/23	Policy analysis and program evaluation		Policy evaluation (TBA)
	03/25	Putting it all together, discussion of film		
10	03/30 04/01	SPRING BREAK		
11	04/06	NO CLASS: FURLOUGH		
	04/08	In class peer review of policy paper drafts	Draft	
12	04/13	Discussion of peer reviews and presentation 'how to'		
	04/15	Presentations (x3)		

13	04/20 04/22	Presentations (x3) Presentations (x3)	
14	04/27 04/29	Presentations (x3) Presentations (x3)	
15	05/04	Presentations (x3)	final paper due: May 4th in class
	05/06	NO CLASS: FURLOUGH	
16	05/11 05/13	Presentations (x3) Presentations (x3)	

Grading Scale:

97-100%	A+	77-79	C+
94-96	A	74-76	C
90-93	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
		0-59	F