

San José State University
Justice Studies
JS 159-4, Fall 2011

Instructor:	Mark E. Correia
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays: 9:00-11:00
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays: 1:30-4:15
Classroom:	MQH 526
Prerequisites:	100w and JS 105

Course Description

Almost everyone has an opinion concerning crime and the questions we seek to answer: what is the problem, what are the causes, what should be done to reduce or even eliminate crime? However, when concerning policy, these varying opinions make it difficult to build consensus about the steps that should be implemented. Much of the difficulty, which evolves from such conflict, reflects the varying values and beliefs each of us possess. As a result, the policy cycle is continuous and, hence, ever changing. This course is designed to familiarize the student with different ideologies and the various crime and social control programs designed under their influence.

Further, the class will explore the empirical results of many contemporary crime and social control proposals. In so doing, the class will seek to answer three questions: what determines the crime control policies we pursue, are they effective, and how persuasive are the arguments people make about what should be done about crime?

In the end, the student should develop a greater understanding of the larger social ramifications of criminal justice issues, as well as develop a more comprehensive and informed perspective.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

LO1: *Students will demonstrate their ability to complete a formal research paper that (a) synthesizes relevant scholarly sources; (b) reflects professional formatting and writing standards (APA format); (c) addresses relevant policy needs (such as necessary reforms) to solving tangible social problems; (d) somehow contributes to our collective understanding of concepts and approaches to "justice," however defined (social justice, criminal justice, community justice, and so forth).*

LO2: *Students will demonstrate their ability to present scholarly work to an audience of their peers.*

LO3: *Students should demonstrate a working understanding of "evidence-based" approaches to social problems and public policy. As a culminating skill set in our program, students should demonstrate their ability to apply social scientific (and otherwise rational) forms of reasoning, argumentation, research, and support in forming any particular worldview or position in the pursuit of "justice" and addressing social problems in our communities/societies.*

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Messner, S. and R. Rosenfeld (2006). *Crime and the American Dream*. Fourth Edition. Wadsworth. ISBN 9780534619589.

Pratt, T. (2008). *Addicted to Incarceration: Corrections Policy and the Politics of Misinformation in the United States*. Sage. ISBN 9780761928324

Reiman, J. and P. Leighton (2010). *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice*. Ninth Edition. Pearson Publishing. ISBN 9780205688425.

Walker, S. (2010). *Sense and Nonsense about Crime, Drugs, and Communities*. Seventh Edition. Wadsworth Publishing. 9780495809876.

Other Readings

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2009). 6th Edition. (Or any other manual on APA writing style). These are available in the reference section of the bookstore or can be found [online](#) .

Other equipment / material requirements

Students will be required to access Desire2Learn for this course. If you do not currently have a D2L account, please go to <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/students/> and follow the instructions to create an account.

Classroom Protocol

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.

Electronic Devices: Please turn off all cell phones 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. If I see you text messaging, I will ask you to leave the room. The use of computers in the classroom will not be allowed.

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 and be proud of your work that you complete for this seminar.

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.

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.

Assignments and Grading Policy

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 and should be completed prior to class on the specified date.

Participation: While attendance is not required (you cannot 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. *LO2 and LO3*

In Class Writing Assignments: Throughout the course, there will be numerous “free-writing” assignments assigned at the beginning of the class. The purpose of these assignments is to assess the student’s knowledge of a specific topic. Students will be required to discuss their writing with the class.

Policy Paper: You will be required to prepare a paper on criminal justice or a social 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. *LO1 and LO3*

Presentation: A formal presentation (10-12 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. *LO2 & LO3*

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. Course grades are based on the criteria listed below. Please note that a grade of “C” or higher must be earned to fulfill this course requirement.

Policy Paper	30%	Paper Presentation	10%
In Class Writing	10%	Participation	30%
MITs	20%		

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

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

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf). 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 website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development 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.

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!

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

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 DRC (Disability Resource Center) 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 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. 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 is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/](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 is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/).

Peer Mentor Center

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

Course Number / Title, Semester, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Any changes will be announced in class.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	9.6.2011	Required Readings: Walker: Preface and Chapt. 1; Readings on Public Policy (D2L).
2	9.13.2011	Required Readings: Walker: Chapt. 2; Messner & Rosenfeld, Chapt. 1.
3	9.20.2011	Required Readings: Walker: Chapt. 3 and 4; Messner & Rosenfeld, Chapt. 2.
4	9.27.2011	Required Readings: Walker: Chapt. 5 and 6; Messner & Rosenfeld, Chapt. 3; Reiman & Leighton: Chapt. 1.
5	10.4.2011	Required Readings: Walker: Chapt. 7 and 8; Pratt, Chapt. 1 and 2. <i>Paper Topic Due</i>
6	10.11.2011	Required Readings: Walker: Chapt. 9 and 10; Pratt, Chapt. 3 and 4; Reiman & Leighton: Chapt. 2.
7	10.18.2011	Required Readings: Walker: Chapt. 11 and 12; Pratt, Chapt. 5; Reiman & Leighton: Chapt. 3 and 4.
8	10.25.2011	Neighborhood Structure, Economy, and Crime Readings (D2L). <i>Determine Presentation Order</i>
9	11.1.2011	Required Readings: Walker: Chapt. 14.
10	11.8.2011	Pratt, Chapt. 6 and 7; Messner and Rosenfeld, Chapt. 4 and 5; Reiman & Leighton: Conclusion.
11	11.15.2011	Pulling it all together
12	11.22.2011	Class Presentations
13	11.29.2011	No Class
14	12.6.2011	Course Wrap-up
Final Exam	12.14.2011	Final Exam 12:15-14:30: Final Paper Due