

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 159, Section 03,**  
**Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems, Fall 2011**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Ericka Adams
<b>Office Location:</b>	MacQuarrie Hall 508
<b>Telephone:</b>	408-924-1009 ext. 4-2743*
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday and Thursday 10:30am to 12:00 noon
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tuesday and Thursday 3:00pm to 4:15pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	Industrial Studies 215
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	JS100W, JS105, Senior Standing

\* The best method to contact me is via email.

\*\* JS 159 should appear in the subject line of all email correspondence to me. I will not respond to emails without this subject.

### **Course Description**

Identification, discussion, and analysis of selected problems in justice studies. Substantive topics covered will likely include: the war on drugs, the war on crime, death penalty, mass-incarceration, surveillance, zero-tolerance policing, and racism/capitalism/patriarchy and criminal/social justice.

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

Though the central text in this course is a relatively standard review of scholarship in “criminal justice,” students will be required to conduct research outside of the central text to supplement and critique dominant scholarship and practice.

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

1. Critically examine and reflect upon contemporary criminal justice policies and practices, and the definition and struggle for social justice more broadly.
2. Draft policy recommendations for a group that has power to make decisions (e.g. a Cabinet, council, committee, or other body).

3. Conduct research outside of the central text to supplement and critique dominant scholarship and practice.

## **Required Texts/Readings**

### **Textbook**

Walker, S. (2010). *Sense and nonsense about crime, drugs, and communities: A policy guide* (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Research articles provided via Desire 2 Learn.

### **Library Liaison**

Nyle Monday, [Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu](mailto:Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu), (408) 808-2041.

### **Classroom Protocol**

Attendance: According to University policy F69-24 “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading”.

Etiquette: While in class please turn your cell phone off. Be respectful of your colleagues; side conversations are not permitted during class.

### **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, 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>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at [http://www.sjsu.edu/academic\\_programs/calendars/academic\\_calendar/](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/). The [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.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

## Assignments and Grading Policy

Grades in the Department of Justice Studies are computed on the following percentages:

98.0 – 100% = A+	78.0 – 79.9% = C+
93.0 – 97.9.9% = A	73.0 – 77.9% = C
90.0 – 92.9% = A-	70.0 – 72.9% = C-
88.0 – 89.9% = B+	68.0 – 69.9% = D+
83.0 – 87.9% = B	63.0 – 67.9% = D
80.0 – 82.9% = B-	00.0 – 62.9% = F

Your grade is composed of:

Article Critique	5 points
Two Chapter Presentations	20 points
Detailed Outline of Policy Paper	5 points
Policy Paper	30 points
Policy Paper Presentation	20 points
Weekly Write-ups	20 points

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Total	100 points
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**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 for the corresponding date.

**ARTICLE CRITIQUE:** Students will be required to complete a 2 – 3 page critique of an assigned article. Additional information will be provided in class.

**CHAPTER PRESENTATIONS:** From WEEK 2 through WEEK 9, each student will offer two in-class presentations based on the readings assigned for each class. Each presentation should last 10-15 minutes. Additional requirements will be provided in class. Each presentation will receive a grade ranging from 0 to 10 (20% of final grade). The detailed calendar of chapter presentations will be available during the first week of instruction. Please note: **make-up presentations will not be allowed**, except for documented serious reasons (e.g. certified medical conditions).

**WEEKLY WRITE-UPS:** Students are required to prepare weekly write-ups based on the assigned reading for each class. Additional information will be provided in class.

**DETAILED OUTLINE OF POLICY PAPER:** Students will be required to submit a detailed outline of their policy paper by the assigned date. Additional information will be provided in class.

**POLICY PAPER:** A research paper analyzing a justice-related topic is required for this course. Papers are required to be 12 – 15 pages in length, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, and should be completed in APA style. Students can choose their topic based on their own research interests, but the topic must be discussed with the instructor for approval before September 22, 2011. Please note: no paper will be accepted

without previous discussion and approval. In their paper, students should include the following:

- 1) Introduction to the issue of their choice, explaining its relevance
- 2) Review of the relevant literature on the issue (minimum of 15 scholarly articles)
- 3) Policy Implications/ Conclusion: A summary of findings, a critical analysis of current policies about the issue and elaboration of alternative policy proposals

Deviations from these requirements are not suggested and will result in a failing grade.

**PRESENTATION:** A formal presentation (20 – 25 minutes) of your policy paper will occur from WEEK 11 through WEEK 16. 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.

**All written assignments must be submitted by the due date in class and to turnitin.com.**

Class ID: **4179376**

Enrollment password: **seniors**

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN THIS CLASS.**

## **University Policies**

### **Academic integrity**

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires 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 your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 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 \(DRC\)](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) 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. 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 inspire them to become independent learners. The Center's tutors are trained and nationally certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). They provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring are available. Please visit [the LARC website](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/) for more information 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/>

## JS 159, Senior Seminar, Fall 2011, Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	08/25	Introductions, Syllabus, and Assignments
2	08/30 09/01	Article on D2L; <b>Article Critique Due</b> Chapter 1
3	09/06 09/08	Chapter 2 Chapter 3
4	09/13 09/15	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
5	09/20 09/22	Chapter 6 Chapter 7; <b>Policy Paper Outline Due</b>
6	09/27 09/29	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
7	10/04 10/06	<b>In class activity</b> Chapter 10
8	10/11 10/13	Chapter 11 Chapter 12
9	10/18 10/20	Chapter 13 Chapter 14
10	10/25 10/27	Individual Work on Policy Papers Individual Work on Policy Papers
11	11/01 11/03	Policy Paper Presentations Policy Paper Presentations
12	11/08 11/10	Policy Paper Presentations Policy Paper Presentations
13	11/15 11/17	Policy Paper Presentations Policy Paper Presentations
14	11/22 11/24	Policy Paper Presentations <b>Thanksgiving (No class)</b>
15	11/29 12/01	Policy Paper Presentations Policy Paper Presentations
16	12/06 12/08	Policy Paper Presentations Policy Paper Presentations; <b>Policy Paper Due</b>
Final Exam	TBA	

