

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 115-02, Critical Issues and Ideas in Justice, Spring 2011**

**Instructor:** Dr. Ericka Adams  
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**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30pm to 2:30pm  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00am to 10:00am  
**Class Days/Time:** Thursdays/ 3:00 to 5:45  
**Classroom:** SPX 068  
**Prerequisites:** Completion of, or co-requisite of 100W

\*\* JS 115 should appear in the subject line of all email correspondence to me. I will not respond to emails without this subject.

### **Course Description**

Interdisciplinary, historical and comparative examination of justice concepts and controversies, including the state's role in promoting justice and perpetuating injustice; legitimate versus illegitimate violence; human rights, stateless persons, and the international community; the relationship between social justice and criminal justice.

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

In the last three decades, largely as a consequence of the war on crime and the war on drugs, the American prison population has grown to unprecedented levels. However, this prison explosion has disproportionately affected poor and minority communities, leading to the mass-imprisonment of an entire generation of young African Americans and Latinos. In turn, this has increased social inequality along the lines of race, class and gender.

In this course students will develop:

1. An understanding of social justice.
2. A broad understanding of the relationship between race, class, gender, and social policy.
3. Skills to evaluate social policy through the social justice framework.

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbooks

JS 115-02 *Reader*, available at Maple Press, 481 E San Carlos Street, San Jose.

Anderson, E. (2000). *Code of the street: Decency, violence, and the moral life of the inner city*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Rathbone, C. (2006). *A world apart: Women, prison, and life behind bars*. New York: Random House.

### 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

The course requirements consist of two exams, two book reviews, one research paper, a final presentation and in-class participation throughout the semester.

My grading scale is:

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

Your grade is composed of:

2 Book Critiques	20 points
Two Exams	40 points
Research Paper	20 points
Final Presentation	10 points
Participation	10 points

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Total:	100 points
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**BOOK CRITIQUE:** Students will be required to complete two 2 – 3 page reviews of “Code of the street” and “A world apart”. Additional information will be provided in class.

**EXAMS:** There will be two exams in this course based on the readings and class lectures. Each exam will be worth 20 percent of your final grade. Material covered during class lectures from assigned readings and other sources will be incorporated into the exams.

**RESEARCH PAPER:** Students will be required to write a research paper on a form of social injustice in a country other than the U.S. Papers should be 8 to 10 pages in length and double-spaced. Additional information will be provided in class.

**FINAL PRESENTATION:** Each student will present the findings from their research paper via a PowerPoint presentation.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** For each class students will be required to bring a discussion question based on the assigned reading for the day. Students will be selected randomly to ask the class their discussion question. Students’ grade for class participation is based on, but is not limited to, the following: (1) bringing a discussion question based on the readings to each class, (2) responding to your peer’s questions/comments/arguments and (3) participating in in-class activities. I reserve the right to conduct pop quizzes if students are not prepared with discussion questions. Grades from pop quizzes will be included into students’ participation grade.

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

## 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](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 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 115-02 / Critical Issues and Ideas in Justice,  
Spring 2011, Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
1	01/27	Introductions, Syllabus, and Assignments
2	02/03	<u>Reading:</u> Farmer, <i>Pestilence and restraint: Guantanamo, AIDS, and the logic of quarantine.</i>
3	02/10	<u>Reading:</u> Platt, <i>The iron fist and the velvet glove: An analysis of the U.S. police.</i> (Pages 40 – 69 of reader)
4	02/17	<u>Reading:</u> Anderson, Chapters 1 and 2 <b>Book Critique Due</b>
5	02/24	<u>Reading:</u> Davis, <i>Race, racism, and the myth of the Black rapist</i> <u>Reading:</u> Russell-Brown, “ <i>Petit apartheid</i> ” in <i>the justice system</i> Library Session (Tentative)
6	03/03	<u>Reading:</u> McIntosh, <i>White privilege: Unpacking the invisible knapsack.</i> <u>Reading:</u> Reiman, <i>...And the poor get prison.</i>
7	03/10	<u>Reading:</u> Bernstein, <i>Liberalism and social movement success: The case of United States sodomy statutes.</i> <u>Reading:</u> <i>Desire, demand, and the commerce of sex.</i>
8	03/17	<u>Reading:</u> Jarrett and Jefferson, “ <i>A good mother got to fight for her kids</i> ”: <i>Maternal management strategies in a high-risk, African-American neighborhood.</i> <u>Reading:</u> <i>Neither clear nor present: The social construction of safety and danger.</i> <b>Exam 1</b>
9	03/24	<u>Reading:</u> Gaarder et al., <i>Criers, liars, and manipulators: Probation officers' views of girls.</i> <b>Research Paper Due</b>
10	03/31	<b>Spring Break—No Class</b>
11	04/07	<u>Reading:</u> Dohrn, <i>Look out kid/its something you did: Zero tolerance for children.</i> <u>Reading:</u> Fine and Smith, <i>Zero tolerance: Reflections on a failed policy that won't die.</i>
12	04/14	<u>Reading:</u> Rathbone, <i>A world apart: Women, prison, and life behind bars.</i> <b>Book critique due</b>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	04/21	<u>Reading:</u> Rumbaut, <i>Immigration and incarceration: Patterns and predictors of imprisonment among first- and second-generation young adults.</i>
14	04/28	<u>Reading:</u> Altheide, <i>Consuming Terrorism</i> <u>Reading:</u> Vigdor et al. <i>Does gentrification harm the poor?</i>
15	05/05	<b>Exam 2</b>
16	05/12	<b>Final Presentations</b>
Final Exam	TBA	<b>Final Presentations</b>