

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 159, Section 05,
Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems, 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: MW 3:00 – 4:15
Classroom: MacQuarrie Hall 235
Prerequisites: JS100W, JS105, Senior Standing

** 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.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Students will have the opportunity to critically examine, reflect upon, and conduct scholarship on contemporary criminal justice policies and practices, and the definition and struggle for social justice more broadly. Though the central text in this course is a relatively standard review of scholarship in “criminal justice,” students will be encouraged and required to conduct research outside of the central text to supplement and critique dominant scholarship and practice. Substantive topics covered will likely include: the war on drugs, the war on crime, death penalty, torture, mass-incarceration, surveillance, zero-tolerance policing, racism/capitalism/patriarchy and criminal/social justice, and so forth.

Throughout the course, students will be expected to:

- 1) Conduct readings as assigned
- 2) Give and/or participate in weekly in-class presentations
- 3) Prepare a final research paper to be presented in class and submitted on the final day of instruction.

Required Texts/Readings

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

The instructor will provide all additional readings as PDF files via on Desire 2 Learn.

Library Liaison

Nyle Monday, 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/. 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 a policy paper, 2 chapter presentations, a policy paper presentation, and in-class participation throughout the semester.

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.

CHAPTER PRESENTATIONS: From WEEK 2 through WEEK 9, each student will offer two in-class presentations about 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).

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 (during office hours) for approval before March 02, 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 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

Policy papers must be submitted in class and to turnitin.com by the assigned date.

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 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.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Class participation includes but is not limited to the following: (1) orally presenting comments about assigned readings, (2) responding to your peer’s comments/arguments/positions, and (3) participating in in-class activities.

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:

Policy Paper	45 points
2 Chapter Presentations	25 points
Paper Presentation	20 points
Participation	10 points

Total: 100 points

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.

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 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd 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 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. The [Peer Mentor Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/>

JS 159, Senior Seminar, Spring 2011, Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	01/26	Introductions, Syllabus, and Assignments
2	01/31 02/02	<u>Reading:</u> Chapter 1 <u>Reading:</u> Chapter 2
3	02/07 02/09	<u>Reading:</u> Chapter 3 <u>Reading:</u> Chapter 4
4	02/14 02/16	<u>Reading:</u> Chapter 5 <u>Reading:</u> Chapter 6
5	02/21 02/23	<u>Reading:</u> Chapter 7 <u>Reading:</u> Chapter 8
6	02/28 03/02	<u>Reading:</u> Chapter 9 Policy Paper Approved Topics and Thesis Statement Due (Thesis statement to be presented in class)
7	03/07 03/09	<u>Reading:</u> Chapter 10 <u>Reading:</u> Chapter 11
8	03/14 03/16	<u>Reading:</u> Chapter 12 <u>Reading:</u> Chapter 13
9	03/21 03/23	<u>Reading:</u> Chapter 14
10	03/28 03/30	Spring Break—No Class
11	04/04 04/06	Policy Paper Presentations Policy Paper Presentations
12	04/11 04/13	Policy Paper Presentations Policy Paper Presentations
13	04/18 04/20	Policy Paper Presentations Policy Paper Presentations
14	04/25 04/27	Policy Paper Presentations Policy Paper Presentations
15	05/02 05/04	Policy Paper Presentations Policy Paper Presentations
16	05/09 05/11	Policy Paper Presentations Policy Paper Presentations
17	05/16	Policy Paper Presentations Policy Paper Due

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Final Exam	TBA	Policy Paper Presentations