

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 185, Special Topics – The Death Penalty, Section 01, Fall 2014**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dan Dexheimer
<b>Office Location:</b>	MQH 521
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:daniel.dexheimer@sjsu.edu">daniel.dexheimer@sjsu.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	MW 10:30 – 1:00, OBA
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	W 4:30-7:15
<b>Classroom:</b>	Central Classroom Building 101
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Upper division standing
<b>JS Competency Area:</b>	Critical Inquires (C)

**Course CANVAS page**

Course materials such as the syllabus, lecture slides, assignment guidelines, quizzes, grades, and important announcements can be found on the course [CANVAS](#) page. You are responsible for any information posted on [CANVAS](#). It is recommended that you log in once a day and check for any announcements.

**Course Description**

In depth and critical analysis of capital punishment. Historical development of the punishment as well as prior and current methods utilized. Theoretical, legal and social influences on the death penalty. Review of the literature on the effectiveness and/or failures of capital punishment from several perspectives and directions.

**Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbook**

Acker, J. R., Bohm, R. M. & Lanier, C. S. (Eds.). (2014). *America's Experiment with Capital Punishment: Reflections on the Past, Present, and Future of the Ultimate Penal Sanction* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Carolina Academic Press. ISBN 978-1-61163-385-6

Available at the bookstore

**Other Readings**

Additional readings may be assigned based on the progression of the course.

**Library Liaison**

Justice Studies Subject Specialist: Silke Higgins [Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu](mailto:Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu) (408) 808-2118.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

*Quizzes* – There will be weekly quizzes on CANVAS. These each consist of approximately 5 multiple-choice style questions drawn from the material of that week. Taken together, these account for **15%** of your final grade. To succeed you will need to stay current with your reading and regularly attend class. Quizzes will become available around noon on Thursday following class and be open until midnight on Friday, and are timed at about 5 minutes. Make-Up quizzes will only be given for valid, documented medical emergencies or approved school-related activities. I must be notified before the time of the quiz of your absence and documentation must be provided before a make-up will be scheduled.

*Tests* – There will be 2 tests covering material from lecture, readings, and assignments. Each test will include several essay questions drawn from that unit and will not be cumulative. These will be held on **Wed 10/15** and **Wed 12/17**. Each test is worth **25%** of your final grade. All cell phones will be collected before the test is distributed and returned when you are completed. I will provide paper. Make-Up tests will only be given for valid, documented medical emergencies or approved school-related activities. I must be notified before the time of the test of your absence and documentation must be provided before a make-up will be scheduled.

*Research Paper* – You will write a ‘research’ paper on a facet of the death penalty. This will be between five and ten double-spaced pages, utilizing at least 3 academic sources. It will be due in class on **Wed 12/10**. The paper is worth **20%** of your final grade. You will also be required to submit the file to a dropbox on the Canvas page. There will be a 4% deduction for each day the paper is late. Additional information on the assignment is available on Canvas.

*Participation* – This course will largely be conducted in a seminar fashion. Your regular attendance and active participation in class discussions, as well completion of possible in class exercises or homework assignments, will contribute **15%** of your final grade.

## Grading Policy

Final grades will be determined by your percentage score as follows:

A+: 97% - 100%	A : 93% - 96.9%	A- : 90% - 92.9%
B+: 87% - 89.9%	B : 83% - 86.9%	B- : 80% - 82.9%
C+: 77% - 79.9%	C : 73% - 76.9%	C- : 70% - 72.9%
D+: 67% - 69.9%	D : 63% - 66.9%	D- : 60% - 62.9%
F : ≤ 59.9%		

Extra credit, if offered, is offered to everyone. There will be no individual extra credit.

Any curving of grades is done at the end of the semester based on the overall class average.

A grade of "C" or better is required for Justice Studies majors.

## **Department of Justice Studies Reading and Writing Philosophy**

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

### **Classroom Protocol**

Please make all efforts to arrive on time, ensure your cell phone is silenced, and do not pack up early. If you do arrive late, please enter quietly. Your attendance and active participation in discussions is critical to the success of the course and your success as a student. Be respectful of others opinions during these discussions. You are responsible for obtaining the notes for any class you miss.

### **Email Policies**

I encourage you to email me with any questions, but there are a couple rules to follow. Email me directly, not through Canvas. Your subject line must contain the course number and a brief description of what your email pertains to (e.g. JS185 – Paper Topic). Be sure to include your name.

### **Class Policy**

As a student, you are expected to have the syllabus and are responsible for the information within the syllabus, as well as information from class and the Canvas page. Moreover, when you have a question about the information that is readily accessible from these sources, I expect that you will take a moment to find the answer for yourself. If you ask questions about information that it is your responsibility to know or at least know where to find (e.g. ‘What are your office hours?’ or ‘What chapters are on Test 2?’), points will be deducted from your grade. Please do not interpret this to mean I am unwilling to help you. If you have questions about information or concepts or want to discuss aspects of the course, I encourage you to email or talk to me. But factual information that is readily available is your responsibility.

### **University Policies**

#### **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 year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). 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/>.

#### **Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material**

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material. Course

material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

### **Academic integrity**

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> 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.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

### **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](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/> to establish a record of their disability.

### **Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays**

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

### **Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab 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 DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

### **SJSU Peer Connections**

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

### **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

### **SJSU Counseling Services**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

### **CASA Student Success Center**

The Student Success Center in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) provides advising for undergraduate students majoring or wanting to major in programs offered in CASA Departments and Schools.

All CASA students and students who would like to be in CASA are invited to stop by the Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. Looking for academic advice or maybe just some tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU? Check out the CASA Student Success Center! It's also a great place to study, and you can check out laptops.

Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MH) 533 - top floor of MacQuarrie Hall. Contact information: [408.924.2910](tel:408.924.2910).  
Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/>.

# JS185 – Special Topics – The Death Penalty, Fall 2014

## Course Schedule

*Please note, our schedule each week will be dependent on current events, the availability of guest speakers, and the nature of our discussions. Therefore, specific readings for each week will be announced the week before.*

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	W 8/27	Introduction – America’s Experiment with Capital Punishment; Ch. 1 – Capital Punishment Law and Practices: History, Trends and Developments; Ch. 2 – American Death Penalty Opinion: Past, Present and Future
2	W 9/3	
3	W 9/10	
4	W 9/17	
5	W 9/24	Guest Speaker – Ellen Kreitzberg, Director of the Death Penalty College
6	W 10/1	Guest Speaker – Linda Starr, Legal Director of the Northern California Innocence Project
7	W 10/8	
8	W 10/15	<b>Midterm</b>
9	W 10/22	
10	W 10/29	Guest Speaker – David Crawford, Program Coordinator of California Crime Victims for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
11	W 11/5	
12	W 11/12	Guest Speaker – Lt. Sam Robinson, Public Information Officer at San Quentin State Prison
13	W 11/19	
14	W 11/26	<b>No Class - Thanksgiving</b>
15	W 12/3	
16	W 12/10	<b>Paper Due</b>
Final	W 12/17	<b>Final</b> Central Classroom Building 101, 2:45-5:00

**\*All information is subject to change based on the progression of the course & Instructor’s discretion.\***