

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS121-01, Media and Justice, FALL 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Susie M. Rivera, J.D., M.S., CPCC
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Office Hours:	Thursdays 10:30am-12:30pm; Fridays online 3-4pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30-8:45 A.M.
Classroom:	MQH 520
Prerequisites:	Prerequisites: Upper division standing, JS 100W. Restricted to JS majors and minors or with departmental consent

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates. All course materials are posted in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format; you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the PDF documents.

E-mail Policy

Feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check often); however, please adhere to the e-mail guidelines below:

1. Please include in the “subject line” the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS121, Your Name, and subject). The instructor **will not** respond to “**no subject**” e-mails, or any e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.
2. Any e-mailed assignments must be sent in one of the following formats as a separate attachment: Microsoft Word (*.doc or *.docx), Microsoft Works (*.wps), or in rich text format (*.rtf). Please **do not** copy and paste any assignments into an e-mail, they will not be accepted. Always retain a copy of any e-mail with an assignment attached as proof of submission

Justice Studies Department 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.

Course Description

This course is an interdisciplinary and comparative media examination of justice concepts and controversies, including forms of violence, human rights, undocumented persons, the state's role in promoting criminalization and social inequality, and the need for social justice and media reform. Students will engage in critical analysis of all different types of media: movies, documentaries, TV, TV news, social media, newspapers, op-ed pieces and commercials. Prerequisites: Upper division standing, JS 100W. Restricted to JS majors and minors or with departmental consent

Note: Must achieve a grade of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

For core courses (JS 101, 102, 114, 151, and 189 or FS 169): Justice Studies majors have only two opportunities to pass this course with a C or better. Any student with a final grade that is C- or lower on the first attempt will be placed on administrative probation with a registration hold. Any repeating student with a final grade that is C- or lower will be disqualified from the Justice Studies degree program.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

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

1. SLO 1 To critically analyze how the media contributes to structural inequality by helping to create or maintain categories of social difference that impact people psychologically, physiologically, socially and culturally. This understanding will be accomplished with the reading materials assigned and with a review of the main points and key concepts through lectures and class discussions.
2. SLO 2 To demonstrate an understanding about race theories and media studies methodology in relation to justice issues. Race theories will be assigned at the beginning of the course and media studies is used as a methodology for the topics covered in this course.
3. SLO 3 To challenge students' assumptions on the nature of social inequality and stratification particularly in regard to media stereotypes and social phobias toward people who are marginalized and disenfranchised by society. This will be accomplished with critical class participation and in-class writing assignments.
4. SLO 4 To collaborate with other students through class discussion, fishbowls, peer conversations, small group and large group discussions. This will be accomplished through class participation exercises.
5. SLO 5 Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

Required Texts/Readings

Required Textbook

(Available at the Spartan Bookstore; ISBN: 978-1-61163-567-6)

Robinson, M.B. (2014). *Media Coverage of Crime and Criminal Justice*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Express

Required Textbook (Available on Amazon; ISBN: 978-1-61902-327-7)

Bloom, L. (2014). *Suspicion Nation*. Berkeley, CA: CounterPoint

Other Readings

Additional readings will be assigned throughout the semester and will be posted on canvas; emailed; in class or students will locate materials per instructor's instructions.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu, (408) 808-2118
<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

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](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Summary of Assignments

Assignment	Due Date	Percentage of Final Grade
Essay #1 Media and Justice	August 20th	2.5%
Writing Assignments	See schedule	15%
Book Review	11/24	5%
Film Response(s)	10/1; 10/27	10%
Discussion Boards	See schedule	15%
Final Paper (8-10 page)	Dec 1st	20%
Paper Presentation	See schedule	C/NC
In class group work/participation	Anytime	C/NC
Article Critique	TBD	C/NC
Pop quizzes	Anytime	10%
In-class Midterm	Oct 15th	10%
In-class Final Exam	Dec 15th	12.5%
		100%

Note: Failure to complete Credit/No Credit assignments will carry a point penalty at the end of the term (-5 pts per assignment).

Assignments/Exam

General formatting requirements for written assignments include a cover page, page numbering, 1" margins, double-spacing, and Times New Roman font. All assignments must be written in formal English, with college-level writing mechanics and APA-style formatting, inclusive of in-text citations and references. Each written assignment must be electronically submitted on canvas which is linked to www.turnitin.com. Written assignments will be turned in at the start of the class period if instructed. If assignments are submitted via e-mail as an attachment, it must be in one of the following formats: MS Works (*.wps), MS Word (*.doc or *.docx), or Rich Text Format (*.rtf). Copied and pasted assignments, into the body of an e-mail, will not be accepted.

Article Critiques

The process of writing an article critique is designed to improve and test your ability to critically analyze an empirical research study. Clearly, the better written an article is, the more likely it is to be accepted by the intended audience; however, research has varying degrees of quality. This assignment will enhance your

overall outlining skills. It will increase your ability to read professional writing, recognize valid research and understand the results, and it will aid you in identifying weaknesses in research and writing. Learning to recognize flaws in grammar and logic will improve your ability to recognize those flaws in your own writing. In addition, the assignment requires you to utilize your skills in using the Internet to locate a scholarly article.

Essay #1: This assignment is done on the first day of class to determine pulse of the class and to gauge goals that students have in regards to learning objectives based on media and justice.

Book Review:

Your Book Review will be from 5-7 pages in length. Write a description of the text's key points and provide an appraisal of the strengths and weaknesses of the work. Be thorough in your review and be sure to adhere to APA style format. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Final Paper:

Each student will write a research paper examining a specific topic area related to media and justice. Students will be allowed to choose from a predetermined list of acceptable general topics, and will then choose a more specific aspect upon which to focus. The purpose of this paper is not to specifically test knowledge, but to also force critical thinking about an aspect of the chosen topic. This paper should be no less than eight pages and no more than ten. No late papers will be accepted. A handout detailing the expectations, content, formatting, and submission requirements will be provided in a timely manner. Students will need to present papers in class along with visual aids. Oral presentations will be held on 11/24; 12/1;12/3; and 12/8

Paper Presentations

Students will be required give short presentations about their research to the class. The exercise is meant to serve as a learning experience.

In-class Midterm and Final Exam:

Students will be required to take an in-class essay midterm and final exam. The proper adherence to essay format, writing mechanics, grammar, and APA requirements will be essential. A written examination booklet will be needed for both exams.

Unannounced in-class quizzes (pop-quizzes)

There will be 5 unannounced quizzes that are based on any materials from lecture or readings. Each quiz will be given normally during the first 5 minutes of class, but can be anytime during class. Always bring paper to class for the quizzes; no make-up quizzes will be given. Students who show up late to class or leave early from class (i.e., after or before the quiz has been given) will not be permitted to take the quiz.

Writing Assignments

Students will be required to locate media topics utilizing all different types of media that are contributing to social inequalities/controversies/political propaganda and write a short response to the issues, not more than 2 pages. Some of these assignments will be compare/contrast, instructor will make announcement. Every week students will be expected to discuss the issues in class and have a thoughtful discussion about the impact on society.

Film Responses

These assignments will help you develop your critical thinking and writing skills. You must apply readings concepts and themes to a film(s) assigned in class. You will have a set time to write your arguments during class.

In Class group work/writing/participation

Full participation is required as well as thoughtful participation. There are no make up opportunities for class participation assignments. You must turn in CP with name and date or you will not receive credit for the assignment. These assignments will vary throughout the semester. Students will participate in various small group and individual writing assignments designed to develop skills related comprehension, the extrapolation of pertinent information, mechanics, outlining, and critical analysis. Please note, some in-class writing assignments will be worth points, while others will be credit/no credit.

Discussion Boards on Canvas

Students will be required to post original comments and/or replies to other students' comments in response to topics posted by the instructor. Chosen topics will vary throughout the term. A set time frame will be in place for posting of comments/replies, students will only be able to post during said time frames. Full credit (i.e., points) for each posted topic will require at least (3) substantive comments/replies. See course schedule for **Discussion Board** topic posting dates.

Grading Policy and Late Submissions

Written assignments will primarily be graded on content; however, poor writing mechanics and APA formatting will be result in a moderate point deduction. Assistance with APA can be found at:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

In order to demonstrate your comprehension of the course material, and knowledgeable application of theory, one must be able to write in a clear and effective manner. Always carefully proofread your assignments before submitting them. Late assignment submissions will not be accepted without a valid excuse which can be documented and substantiated in a timely manner.

Course Grade Determination

Percentage	Grade
98.0 to 100	A plus
93.0 to 97.99	A
90.0 to 92.99	A minus
88.0 to 89.99	B plus
83 to 87.99	B
80.0 to 82.99	B minus
78 to 79.99	C plus
73.0 to 77.99	C
70.0 to 72.99	C minus
68 to 69.99	D plus
63 to 67.99	D
00.0 to 62.99	F

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “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.”

Generally I do not offer Extra credit options, however, if an opportunity comes up as a good extra credit option (e.g. Ann Lucas Lecture Series), I will provide the instructions and opportunity to all students.

“This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.”

For upper division courses (R, S, V) include the following paragraph:

“Students are strongly encouraged to take courses to satisfy GE Areas R, S, and V from departments other than their major department. Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co--registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.” See [University Policy S14-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf>.

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

1. Students are expected to: attend all class meetings, arrive on time, stay for the duration of the class period, complete all readings and assignments in accordance with the dates on the course schedule. Frequently showing up late to class and/or leaving early is a disruption, and a violation of the student code of conduct.
2. Students are responsible for all missed notes, materials and announcements due to absence (i.e., do not e-mail the instructor asking about what you missed). You are encouraged to exchange contact information with someone in class just in case.
3. Students are responsible to bring all course materials relevant to the course.
4. Be prepared to participate in discussions and take careful notes. Note: participation does not include simply occupying a seat, nodding, shaking one’s head, or simply repeating what someone else has already contributed. Substantive contributions that foster an atmosphere of open discussion conducive to learning constitutes participation.
5. Students may not record lectures without permission from the instructor.
6. Students caught sleeping during class (which is a distraction for other students) will be woken up, and promptly asked to leave class.
7. There will be no emailing, web-browsing, text messaging or sending of pictures/vdeos on cell phones, netbooks, laptops or other electronic devices during class—please do this on your own time. Students caught doing so will be asked to leave class, and will not be allowed to have their respective electronic devices present during class for the remainder of the semester.
8. Cell phone calls must be taken outside of the classroom, and only under emergency or special circumstances.

9. As a matter of courtesy, please turn off or silence the sound on all electronic devices that may make noise during class.
10. Just use common sense, be courteous and ready to learn. 😊

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

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/. 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

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “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.”
 - Students must request permission by email and shall not record until permission is granted.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “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/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf 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 10th 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](#) 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. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to



scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th 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](#) 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/>.

JS121-01, Media and Justice, FALL 2015

The following course schedule is subject to change; advance notice of any changes will be provided via e-mail as early as possible.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/20	Topic(s): Introduction/Class Syllabus/Handouts/At least two contacts Assignment: Essay #1 in class Readings: Chapter 1
2	8/25 & 8/27	Topic(s): Race Theories, other relevant theories and media definitions Assignment: In class participation Readings: Chapter 2
3	9/1 & 9/3	Topic: Review of WA#1-In class Discussion Assignment: Writing Assignment #1 Due 9/1 (theories and media) Readings: Start Suspicion Nation reading part 1
4	9/8 & 9/10	Topic: Watching Film 102 minutes that changed America Assignment: Writing Assignment #2 Due 9/10 Readings: Watch film posted on canvas-American Soldier who is Muslim; SN-part 2
5	9/15 & 9/17	Topic: Islamaphobia Assignment: Discussion Board #1 Due 9/15 Readings: Chapter 3; SN part 4
6	9/22 & 9/24	Topic: Marginalized Groups and the media--DMC Assignment: Writing Assignment #3 Readings: SN part 5
7	9/29 & 10/1	Topic: Film Review Assignment: Film Response #1 on Central Park 5 (Due 10/1) Discussion Board #2 Due 9/29 Readings: Chapter 4 and SN part 6 NO CLASS this WEEK—I am away at a conference, assignments are DUE!
8	10/6 & 10/8	Topic: Review Film Responses and WA/DB assignments in class discussion Assignment: In class Group work and discussion Readings: Chapter 5 and SN part 7 Midterm next week 10/15
9	10/13 & 10/15	Topic: Continue and finish up lecture items Assignment: Discussion Board #3 Due 10/13 Readings: SN part 8 Midterm 10/15
10	10/20 & 10/22	Topic: Review of midterm and Discussion Assignment: Review and intro of next topic Readings: Chapter 6 and SN part 9

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	10/27 & 10/29	Topic: Film Response #2 Discussion Assignment: Film Response #2 Due 10/27 Readings: Chapter 7 and SN part 10
12	11/3 & 11/5	Topic: Possible Guest Speaker or film Assignment: Writing Assignment #4 Due 11/3; Discussion Board #4 Due 11/5 Readings: Chapter 8; SN part 11 and conclusion
13	11/10 & 11/12	Topic: Review of Book Review, other assignments and class discussion Assignment: Writing Assignment #5 Due 11/12
14	11/17 & 11/19	Topic: Open for media review and solutions/Discussion Assignment: Discussion Board #5 Due 11/19
15	11/24 & 11/26	Topic: Paper Presentations Book Review DUE 11/24 Final research paper DUE 12/1 Prepare for Paper Presentations No Class on 11/26; Happy Thanksgiving!
16	12/1 & 12/3	Topic: Final Paper Presentations and reminder of SOTES Assignment: FINAL PAPER DUE 12/1
17	12/8	Topic: Last DAY of Class! PAPER PRESENTATIONS
Final Exam	12/15	MQH520 7:15am-9:30am (S06-4 Requires this meeting)* The final exam calendar (including for online classes) can be located here: http://www.sjsu.edu/calendars/