

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 122, “Drugs and Society”, Section 01, Fall 2015**

**Course and Contact Information**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00-2:00
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Monday and Wednesday 10:30-11:45
<b>Classroom:</b>	MH 523

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. will be distributed to students via email. You are responsible for regularly checking the email account you have registered with MySJSU to learn of any updates.

**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**

From Catalog:

“Examines the physiological effects of psychoactive drugs; history of legal and illegal drug use; causes and rates of use and addiction; drugs in the media; drug-related crime and violence; criminalization, decriminalization, legalization, harm reduction; drug courts; drug treatment.”

This is not a course on pharmacology. Though we will discuss the physical properties and physiological/psychological “effects” of various substances throughout the course, this is not of central concern. As noted in the title, we will examine the historical and contemporary relationship between human societies and

mind/body altering substances (“drugs”). In modern societies, this relationship is largely shaped through the social construction of deviant and normal “drug use,” including the (il)legality and (il)legitimacy of particular substances and their use. We will *critically* investigate the national (U.S.) and global “War on Drugs,” its effects, and alternative approaches to defining and addressing social problems that arise from the use and/or trade of mind/body altering substances.

Students will be encouraged to grapple with questions such as:

What makes particular drugs (il)legal? Who decides?

Who are the consistent winners and losers in the “war on drugs”?

What interests and social forces drive policy concerning legal and illegal mind/body altering substances?

How could we describe our historical connection to various mind/body altering substances (for example: cannabis, the poppy plant, etc.)?

How do large corporations and private interests shape the relationship between “drugs and society”?

How has the criminalization of particular substances in the U.S. been inextricably linked to the construction of race and racism?

What are the connections between the global drug trade and the business of warfare?

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.*

### **Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):**

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

(SLO 1) Students should gain a theoretical understanding of the social construction of deviance, normalcy, and crime. They should be able to define and apply these concepts in the interpretation of current events and social phenomena.

(SLO 2) Students should gain a reasonable (empirical) understanding of the development of the US and global “war on drugs.” Specifically, students should be able to discuss and recognize the key “moral entrepreneurs,” private interests, and public stakeholders involved in the creation and perpetuation of the drug war.

(SLO 3) Students should be able to explain the historical and contemporary connections between the criminalization of illicit substances and the exploitive (by definition) systems of racism and capitalism.

(SLO 4) Students should be able to recognize and discuss various connections between the trade of illicit substances and the business of warfare.

(SLO 5) Students should be able to recognize and discuss the historical and contemporary power of pharmaceutical corporations in constructing the relationship between “drugs and society.”

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbook

Gray, Mike. (2000). *Drug Crazy: How We Got into This Mess and How We Can Get Out*. NY, NY: Routledge.

ISBN: 0415926475 [paperback]

Note: Free (legal) online copies are available. This will be discussed in class.

### Other Readings

All additional readings will be provided by the instructor.

### Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, [silke.higgins@sjsu.edu](mailto: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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

### Review/Discussion Questions

To facilitate class discussion on readings and other materials, you will be required to complete review/discussion questions and submit them via email to the instructor. We will discuss when and how to go about submitting your assignments more in class.

These assignments will be graded based on the depth and accuracy of student responses. They will count for **20%** of the final course grade.

SLOs 1-5 will be assessed through review/discussion question assignments.

### Exams

There will be two exams in this course (midterm and final). Both exams will be a mixture of multiple-choice, true false, and short answer questions covering all course materials. Both the mid-term and final exams will count for 40% of the final course grade (**exams = 80% of total grade**). There will be a review session and review guide for each exam, and we will be sure to discuss exams more throughout the semester at appropriate times. DRC students, and others with special needs should contact the instructor in the first two weeks of class to make any necessary arrangements for exams or note-takers.

SLO's 1-5 will be assessed at length through the midterm and final exams.

Please note: Mid-Term and Final Exams will not be rescheduled for anything short of an absolute emergency (documentation needed). An unannounced and/or unexcused absence (even if ill, one should email the instructor *before* exam time) will result in a zero on that particular exam.

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.”

## Grading Policy

Assignments, papers, and final grades will be calculated as a percentage on a typical “100 point scale”:

98-100%	A+
94-97	A
90-93	A-
88-89	B+
84-87	B
80-83	B-
78-79	C+
74-77	C
70-73	C-
68-69	D+
64-67	D
60-63	D-
<60	F

*Extra Credit* is available to any student who would like to improve their grade in the course. Extra credit will be accepted until the last week of regularly scheduled classes. In order to complete an extra credit assignment, students should first meet with the course instructor to “pitch” their idea for extra credit (research paper, film/book/article review, class presentation, etc.). Once approved, students are free to work on their assignments as instructed. Extra credit is awarded based on the depth of thought illustrated and amount of effort expended.

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

Our classroom is a democratic space where all ideas and perspectives are welcome and encouraged. This makes it a space of free inquiry (ask all questions) and open critique—while everyone has a freedom of expression, this freedom is met also by the freedom of others to critique (there are no divine truths). This course is “rated-R” in terms of language and subject matter. We will be fearless in our inquiry and analysis, while also being mindful of and compassionate toward those sharing our democratic space.

The following will serve as classroom expectations:

- 1) Foster an environment that encourages participation, rather than silencing other students (be respectful, considerate, etc.)
- 2) Complete readings and assignments by dates indicated on syllabus
- 3) Show up for and participate in class
- 4) Students are responsible for any and all notes and materials missed in their absence. You may want to make a friend or two in class.
- 5) Students are expected to make an honest effort to stay informed on current events so that our class discussions can relate to the world beyond SJSU. In the words of C.W. Mills, we will be helping each other to develop a “sociological imagination.”

- 6) Students are expected to contribute to and participate in class discussions and activities to the best of their abilities and comfort levels. For those students with special needs, several other avenues and measures of participation can be pursued to ensure an equitable environment. (For instance, alternative avenues can be used in lieu of verbal participation.)

## 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/](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.
- 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](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 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. (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 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>.

## Course Schedule: JS 122 / Drugs and Society, Fall 2015

The course schedule is subject to change with fair notice via email by instructor.

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/24	Course introduction
1	8/26	Drugs from a Sociological vs. Pharmacological perspective; <i>Read Goode chaps 1 and 2</i> [email chaps, review questions, and Becker readings]
2	8/31	The social construction of crime and deviance; <i>Read Becker</i>
2	9/2	The Moral Entrepreneur [email all Gray review questions]
3	9/7	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
3	9/9	Considering prohibition and the modern illicit drug market(s); <i>Read chaps 1-3 in Gray</i>
4	9/14	In-class film: Prohibition [email race and racism readings]
4	9/16	A theoretical primer on race and racism in the U.S. pt. I; <i>Read assigned excerpts</i>
5	9/21	Race and Racism pt. II
5	9/23	Power, Bureaucracy, and the State
6	9/28	Discussion of Gray text; <i>Read Gray chaps 4-7</i> [email link to <i>American Drug War</i> , Iran Contra guide]
6	9/30	Iran Contra 101; <i>Watch American Drug War (as an assignment)</i>
7	10/5	Discuss <i>American Drug War</i> [email Midterm Exam Review]
7	10/7	Midterm Exam Review
8	10/12	<b>Midterm Exam</b> [email Taibbi]
8	10/14	Looking at Matt Taibbi's <i>The Divide</i> , pt. II – Two legal systems
9	10/19	<i>The Divide</i> part II—The role of banks [email <i>Big Bucks Big Pharma</i> ]
9	10/21	TBA
10	10/26	Big Pharma: Discuss <i>Big Bucks Big Pharma</i>
10	10/28	What is a Narco state?
11	11/2	The modern North American drug trade
11	11/4	Mexico and the “missing 43”—Guest speaker; <i>Read excerpts and watch video documentary</i>
12	11/9	Afghanistan and the opium trade; <i>Read excerpts and watch video documentary</i>
12	11/11	Opium and the “War on Terror” continued
13	11/16	Policy solutions: Looking at the various commission reports; <i>Read International</i>

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
		<i>Commission Report (2011) intro and exec summary</i>
13	11/18	Policy solutions: Looking at international examples
14	11/23	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
14	11/25	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
15	11/30	Policy solutions: The contemporary cannabis legalization movement
15	12/2	Policy solutions: Prison, sentencing, forfeiture, policing reforms
16	12/7	Final Exam Review
Final Exam		<b>Final Exam</b> Tuesday December 15, 9:45-12:00 in regular classroom