

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 180 (179), “Human Rights Practicum and Seminar—Independent Study”,
Section 01, Fall 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. William Armaline
Office Location:	MH 513
Telephone:	(408) 924-2935
Email:	William.armaline@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00-2:00
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday 12:00-1:15
Classroom:	TBA

Prerequisite Requirements:

JS 25; Completion of the Z requirement (100W from any department)

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

“Complete field experience in human rights advocacy/reporting/organizing while surveying recent human rights scholarship in seminar format.”

This Service Learning Course is essentially composed of two parts. Students in this course will conduct 24+ hours of Community Engagement (CE) working with a human rights or human rights related organization in the San Francisco Bay Area. This will provide qualitative methodological training valuable to those seeking to enter the field of human rights research, advocacy, or reporting; and an opportunity for students to explore careers relating to human rights. Second, the course will consist of a graduate-style scholarly seminar where students will reflect on and share their field experiences with others, and critically engage relevant, recent scholarship in the field of human rights.

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):

The goals of this course are to (1) give students an opportunity to explore applied careers in human rights advocacy, law, research, reporting, and/or organizing; (2) provide valuable training in ethnographic and qualitative research methods; (3) expose students to cutting edge scholarship and advocacy in the field of human rights; (4) prepare students for graduate level coursework, where students reflect on their experiences in relation to course readings and recent, relevant research.

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

- (SLO1) Collect and apply direct observational field notes as qualitative data to an analysis of contemporary human rights advocacy/reporting/organizing.
- (SLO2) Work with other students (team) and an organizational supervisor to complete and assess a tangible Community Engagement project of mutual design.
- (SLO3) Review, apply and critique the most recent scholarly literature in the field of Human Rights from journals such as *Human Rights Quarterly*, *Societies Without Borders*, and the *Journal of Human Rights*.
- (SLO4) Exhibit familiarity with local and national Human Rights organizations, advocacy networks, and policy campaigns.

Required Texts/Readings

All readings will be provided by the instructor via email.

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

Reading Reflection Papers (SLO3, SLO4) 40%:

Description and Purpose:

The course reader is essentially a collection of some of the most provocative and locally relevant scholarship in the multidisciplinary field of human rights in the past five years. Each week, students should complete a 2-page reflection paper (typed, 12-point font, normal margins, double spaced, citations in APA format—though no outside research, title page, or running headers necessary) based on the assigned readings for that week. Each reflection paper should consist of three parts: 1) Summary, 2) Critique, 3) Discussion questions. We will use these papers to generate discussion *as peers* in class. Further, this format mimics the basic design of graduate courses in the social sciences, and will help develop students' ability to digest and employ challenging material.

Grading:

These assignments will be graded on a 10-point scale, based on a standard rubric by the instructor (will be distributed in class). Reflection papers will be worth **40%** of the final course grade.

Human Rights Action Project Sociological Analysis Presentations (SLO1, SLO2) 40%:

Description and Purpose:

These presentations are designed to summarize and reflect upon your HRAP and share this information/experience with other students in the course. In a multimedia presentation of your/your team's design, critically describe and assess the organization's history, mission, programs, funding, staffing, operations, and outcomes/community impact as they have to do with defining and/or realizing human rights practice in the U.S. Your presentations should be approximately 30 minutes in length, with 10 minutes allotted for class discussion facilitated by those presenting.

We will discuss these presentations further in class, where students will also receive a sample grading rubric.

Grading:

Presentations will be graded on a 30-point scale, based on a standard rubric by the instructor (will be distributed in class). Sociological Analysis presentations will be worth **60%** of the final course grade.

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. This course depends on participation and interaction. Students are expected to be on time to class out of respect for your colleagues and instructor.
2. All classroom participants are expected to foster an environment that encourages participation, rather than silencing others (be respectful to one another, do not insult or intimidate others, and so forth).
3. Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments by the dates indicated on the syllabus.
4. Students are responsible for any and all notes and materials missed in their absence.
5. Cell phone, PDA, and Laptop/Internet use will not be tolerated during class time unless they are part of class activities or necessary to field an emergency.

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-dbggen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbggen/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.
- 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](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 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Course Schedule: JS 180 (179) / Human Rights Practicum and Seminar, 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	8/25	Introduction to course and explanation of syllabus, collect student interests to assign appropriate readings. <i>Distribute all student paperwork for completion by 9/15.</i>
1	8/27	Exploring potential projects; Exploring student interests (readings)
2	9/1	Ethnographic methods and HR advocacy, reporting, and research pt. I
2	9/3	Pt. II
3	9/8	Scholarship Seminar (instructor led); <i>Read Article 1</i>
3	9/10	HRAP fieldwork
4	9/15	Scholarship Seminar
4	9/17	HRAP fieldwork
5	9/22	Scholarship Seminar
5	9/24	HRAP fieldwork
6	9/29	Fieldwork Check-in
6	10/1	HRAP fieldwork
7	10/6	Scholarship Seminar
7	10/8	HRAP fieldwork
8	10/13	Scholarship Seminar
8	10/15	HRAP fieldwork
9	10/20	Scholarship Seminar
9	10/22	HRAP fieldwork
10	10/27	Scholarship Seminar
10	10/29	HRAP fieldwork
11	11/3	Fieldwork Check-in
11	11/5	HRAP fieldwork
12	11/10	HRAP fieldwork
12	11/12	HRAP fieldwork
13	11/17	HRAP fieldwork
13	11/19	HRAP fieldwork

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	11/24	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
14	11/26	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
15	12/1	TBA
15	12/3	Presentations
16	12/8	Presentations
Final Exam		Final Exam Friday December 11, 9:45-12:00 in regular classroom