

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 101: Critical Issues and Ideas in Justice Studies (Fall 2016)**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Sara M. Benson
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<b>Email:</b>	sara.benson@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday/Thursday 10:30 – 12:00
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	This is an online course requiring Canvas.

**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 Catalogue Description**

Interdisciplinary, historical and comparative examination of justice concepts and controversies, including the state's role in promoting justice and perpetuating injustice; legitimate versus illegitimate violence; human rights, stateless persons, and the international community; the relationship between social justice and criminal justice. Prerequisite: Upper Division Standing; JS 10, 12, 25 or FS 11; Co-requisite: JS 100w

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

**Course Description**

This course examines critical issues in justice studies by focusing on the legacy of punishment in California and on the political and economic forces at work in the building of mass incarceration. Taking an historical and economic approach to the study of justice and punishment, the course examines how and why California and other states took the “punitive turn,” and also analyzes the possibilities of rethinking structures of punishment.

**Course Format**

This course adopts an online delivery format. You will need a computer and a reliable internet connection, as well as access to Canvas at SJSU.

## Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

### Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO 1: Critically examine social justice issues and develop a broader understanding of social justice and the relationship between social justice and social policy (as measured by assignments one, two, and three).

CLO 2: Reflect upon the relationship between race, class, gender, nationality, and social justice (as measured by assignments two, three, and four).

CLO 3: Write reports, assignments, and papers with professional and academic aptitude demonstrating a familiarity of class materials (as measured by assignments one and four).

CLO 4: Read, write, and discuss course materials at skilled and capable levels (as measured by assignments one, two, three and four).

### Required Texts/Readings

#### Textbooks

Naomi Murakawa, *The First Civil Right*

Ruth Gilmore, *Golden Gulag*

Hadar Aviram, *Cheap on Crime*

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

### Course Requirements, Assignments, Grading Policy

Assignment One: Quizzes	25% of course grade
Assignment Two: Book Review 1	25% of course grade
Assignment Three: Book Review 2	25% of course grade
Assignment Four: Final Exam	25% of course grade

Assignment One: Quizzes (accomplishes CLOs 1, 3&4)

Each quiz will consist of ten multiple choice and/or short answer questions. Quizzes must be completed by 5 pm. See the schedule for due dates. No late quizzes will be accepted.

Assignments Two and Three: Book Review (accomplishes CLOs 1, 2 &4)

Students will write two 5-page book reviews on Ruth Gilmore's *Golden Gulag* and Hadar Aviram's *Cheap on Crime*. The review should spend several paragraphs outlining the major themes and arguments of the book; the second half of the essay should offer evaluative statements about the book. Students should read closely the guidelines posted on Canvas, including Wendy Belcher's "Writing the Academic Book Review." The reviews

should follow proper formatting and move back and forth between paraphrase and direct citation (quotes). No later papers will be accepted.

#### Assignment Four: Final Exam

(accomplishes CLOs 2, 3 &4)

The take-home final exam will consist of short essays, but will be cumulative and comprehensive. One question will focus on a comparative reading of the three major texts from the course, while the other questions will require a deep knowledge and cumulative engagement Naomi Murakawa's *The First Civil Right*. Each answer should be typed and three pages in length (for a total of six pages).

#### **Grading Information and Policies**

No late papers will be accepted.

No extra credit is available.

97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
63-69	D
60-62	D-
<60	F

#### **University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>. Please review the information about university policies on plagiarism, which may result in a failing grade. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development.

### **Justice Studies 101: Critical Issues and Ideas in Justice Studies**

*The schedule is subject to change with fair notice.*

<b>Week</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
1	Friday, August 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review SJSU Library Plagiarism Tutorial at <a href="http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=436654&amp;p=2976508">http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=436654&amp;p=2976508</a></li><li>Syllabus/Plagiarism Quiz (Quiz 1) due by 5 pm</li></ul>
2	Friday, September 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read Ruth Gilmore, <i>Golden Gulag</i> (Prologue and Introduction, pgs. 1-29)</li><li><b>Take Quiz 2 by 5 pm</b></li></ul>

<b>Week</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
3	Friday, September 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Ruth Gilmore, <i>Golden Gulag</i> (Chapters 2 and 3)</li> </ul>
4	Friday, September 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Ruth Gilmore, <i>Golden Gulag</i> (Chapters 4 and 5)</li> </ul>
5	Thursday, September 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Ruth Gilmore, <i>Golden Gulag</i> (Chapters 6 and Epilogue)</li> <li>• Read the Book Review Assignment Instructions on Canvas along with Wendy Belcher, “Writing the Academic Book Review” (on Canvas in “Files”)</li> <li>• <b>Take Quiz 3 by 5 pm</b></li> </ul>
6	Friday, September 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Book Review Assignment due by 5 pm via Canvas</b></li> </ul>
7	Friday, October 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Hadar Aviram, <i>Cheap on Crime</i> (Introduction and Chapter One)</li> <li>• <b>Take Quiz 4 by 5 pm</b></li> </ul>
8	Friday, October 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Hadar Aviram, <i>Cheap on Crime</i> (Chapters 2-4)</li> </ul>
9	Friday, October 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Hadar Aviram, <i>Cheap on Crime</i> (Chapters 5-6)</li> </ul>
10	Friday, October 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Hadar Aviram, <i>Cheap on Crime</i> (Chapters 7-8)</li> </ul>
11	Friday, November 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Book Review Assignment due by 5 pm via Canvas</b></li> </ul>
12	Friday, November 11	<i>No Assignment. Veteran’s Day.</i>
13	Friday, November 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Naomi Murakawa, <i>The First Civil Right</i></li> <li>• <b>Take Quiz 5 by 5 pm</b></li> </ul>
14	Friday, November 25	<i>No Assignment. Campus Holiday.</i>
15	Friday, December 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Naomi Murakawa, <i>The First Civil Right</i></li> </ul>
16	Friday, December 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Naomi Murakawa, <i>The First Civil Right</i></li> <li>• Review Final Exam Guidelines and Instructions via Canvas</li> </ul>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Friday, December 16</b>	<b>Final exam due via Canvas by 5 pm</b>

