

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS171, Human Rights and Justice, Section 3, Fall Semester, 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Louise Buckingham
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Office Hours:	Mondays 10:15 am – 11:15 am; Email –any time
Class Days/Time:	Online (weekly deadlines for students posted on Canvas)
Classroom:	Canvas
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area V

Course Description

Interdisciplinary exploration of human rights instruments, institutions, and notable human rights campaigns. The historical development of human rights and contemporary threats to the realization of fundamental dignity for humans and non-humans will also be explored.

Course Format

This course is online, with class participation taking place in the form of posting to online discussions on Canvas (and assignment descriptions posted to Canvas, and submitted there on due dates). 'Lectures' or guided readings will be posted each week, and students are expected to post discussion points at least once a week.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

GELO 1: Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, and/or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S. This learning objective will be assessed in discussion posts and the in-depth research assignment students submit as their final evaluation.

GELO 2: Identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how they have influenced American culture. This learning objective will be assessed by students demonstrating their familiarity with the backgrounds of key instruments in assignments such as quizzes (as well as discussion posts particularly those that task students with reflecting on set articles/reports/readings). It is also likely to be evident in the in-depth research assignment given that students are tasked with contextualizing human rights issues.

GELO 3: Explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external

pressures. This learning objective will be assessed in online discussion.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. CLO 1 - Read, write, and contribute to online discussion (via Canvas) at a skilled and capable level.
2. CLO 2 - Recognize and access human rights instruments defining “human rights” according to international law (such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) via online and library resources.
3. CLO 3 - Recognize and access the reports of central oversight agencies, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, that report on human rights abuses to the United Nations and global populace via online and library resources.
4. CLO 4 - Compare and contrast how “rights” and “dignity” have been defined for human and non-human animals by various cultures throughout the world.
5. CLO 5 - Apply a human rights discourse to analyze social problems, policies, and practices in the U.S.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

Armeline, W., D.S. Glasberg, and B. Purkayastha [Eds.] (2011) *Human rights in our own backyard: Injustice and resistance in The United States*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press.

This book is available at the King Library and electronically through the library’s website:

<http://catalog.sjlibrary.org/record=b4783900>. Please note that this text will be referred to in the section of this guide that deals with your weekly topics and reading schedule, as HRIOOBY, with the relevant chapter indicated. For instance: HRIOOBY, chapter 3.

Other readings will be required (and posted to Canvas) from time to time.

Students may wish to sign up for the Human Rights Watch Daily Brief to stay updated on current human rights and justice news and events:

<http://action.hrw.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1908&ea.campaign.id=40786>

Other useful resources (may assist with students’ research and preparation for assignments, as well as being of general relevance and interest)

- <http://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/index.html> - United Nations (UN) and Human Rights
- <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx> - UN Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do> - Amnesty International
- <http://www.hrw.org/en/publications> - Human Rights Watch
- <http://sf-hrc.org> - City and County of San Francisco Human Rights Commission

- www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt - State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, which cover most countries in the world (not the USA)
- www.huriresearch.org (for searching human rights documents)
- <http://academic3.american.edu/~mertus/hr%glossary.htm> - Glossary
- [Human Rights Review](#) and [Human Rights Quarterly](#)
Available electronically through the library's website.
- www.un.org/en/rights - The United Nations Human Rights Portal
- www.ohchr.org - The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- www1.umn.edu/humanrts - The University of Minnesota Human Rights Library – contains thousands of human rights documents

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu, (408) 808-2118, <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies> Students are strongly encouraged to contact their library liaison for individual help with their research.

Course Requirements and Assignments

In addition to the requirement that students actively participate in every online class, there are 4 major assignments in this course:

- Major research paper (40%, aligned with CLO 1, CLO 3; GELO 1, GELO 2, GELO 3)
- Online discussion in the form of 'reflection weeks and discussion post' (20% (4 x 5%), aligned with CLO 1, CLO 2, CLO 3; GELO 1, GELO 2)
- Midterm quiz (20%, aligned with CLO 2, CLO 5; GELO 2, GELO 3)
- Final evaluation (20%, aligned with CLO 1, CLO 5, CLO 6; GELO 1, GELO 2, GELO 3)

Details for each assignment will be posted on Canvas.

Grading Information

We will discuss grading in class prior to every assignment. Students are encouraged to ask questions to ensure they understand expectations. Rubrics will be provided on Canvas or in class for every assignment.

Determination of Grades

Grades will be used along with substantive feedback to indicate students' performance in a variety of tasks. Exams and final grades will be calculated as a percentage on a typical "100 point scale." Missing, late, or plagiarized work will be given a grade of zero. Contact the professor early if you are having difficulty completing assignments or need accommodations for disabilities or absences for religious holidays.

The final course grade will be calculated based on the following standard 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

Please note, a "C" or higher is required to receive credit for this course toward a Justice Studies or Forensic Science Major. 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.

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to participate in all online discussions, debates and activities in a respectful and mindful manner.

Specifically:

1. Students are expected to deposit/submit assignments and discussion posts to our online class on time, prepared to take part in their own and collective learning.
2. All online classroom participants are expected to foster an environment that encourages participation, and that is respectful to others and their opinions.
3. Students are expected to complete graded assignments by the time indicated in this syllabus. Late assignments will not be graded.
4. Students are responsible for making up material missed in their absence on their own.
5. The due dates listed in the course schedule, below (see in particular dates accompanied by the phrase 'reflection weeks and discussion post') should be regarded as immovable 'deadlines'. You must post your reflection by this date or risk no grade for that assignment component.

While an emergency personal or health related situation appropriately verified (for instance, a doctor's certificate in the case of illness), will be grounds for a student making up missed work or assignments without penalty, in no other circumstances will making up missed tasks be allowed. With regard to any unavoidable missed classes, it is incumbent upon students themselves to 'catch up' in terms of content and materials.

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/>

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.

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. If you are looking for academic advice or even tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU, check out the CASA Student Success Center. Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MQH) 533 - top floor of MacQuarrie Hall. Contact information: [408.924.2910](tel:408.924.2910). Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/>. The CASA Student Success Center also provides study space and laptops for checkout.

JS171 Human Rights and Justice, Fall Semester 2016 Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice (via Canvas or email).

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	08/24	Introductions and Expectations
2	08/29	Course outline, assignments and discussion post protocol
2	08/31	Human rights in the USA
3	09/05	LABOR DAY – CAMPUS CLOSED
3	09/07	Foundations and origins of international human rights
4	09/12	American exceptionalism and human rights
4	09/14	American exceptionalism
5	09/19	Human rights and democracy
5	09/21	Human rights and democracy
6	09/26	Reflection weeks and discussion post: human rights origins and exceptions
6	09/28	Reflection weeks and discussion post: human rights origins and exceptions
7	10/03	Reflection weeks and discussion post: human rights origins and exceptions
7	10/05	Reflection weeks and discussion post: human rights origins and exceptions
8	10/10	Universal Declaration of Human rights (UDHR)
8	10/12	UDHR
9	10/17	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
9	10/19	ICCPR

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
10	10/24	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
10	10/26	ICESCR
11	10/31	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
11	11/02	CEDAW
12	11/07	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination on the Basis of Race (ICERD)
12	11/09	ICERD & Midterm Quiz
13	11/14	Reflection weeks and discussion post: human rights instruments
13	11/16	Reflection weeks and discussion post: human rights instruments
14	11/21	Current human rights campaigns: Human Rights Watch
14	11/23	Current human rights campaign: California based (own choice)
15	11/28	Critiques: Security
15	11/30	Critiques: Cultural relativism
16	12/05	Reflection week and discussion post (to expand in paper, due below): Impact
Final Eval.	TBA	Expansion of final discussion post (about a current issue in the U.S. or elsewhere in the world, and your assessment of how effective are human rights discourse and practice).