

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**Fall 2016**

**JS 179: “Human Rights Practicum and Seminar,” Section 01**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	William Armaline, Ph.D.
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 p.m.
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30-5:45 a.m.
<b>Classroom:</b>	CCB 101

**Course Format**

**Service Learning (SL) Course**

Students will complete a CSU-SJSU Learning Plan and Participation Guide for this course. In addition, students will only work with organizations that are approved SJSU partners or have otherwise been heavily vetted by the instructor and Human Rights Working Group.

**Course Description**

From Catalog: “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.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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:

- (CLO1) Collect and apply direct observational field notes as qualitative data to an analysis of contemporary human rights advocacy/reporting/organizing.
- (CLO2) Work with other students (team) and an organizational supervisor to complete and assess a tangible Community Engagement project of mutual design.
- (CLO3) Review, apply and critique the most recent scholarly literature in the field of Human Rights.
- (CLO4) Exhibit familiarity with local and national Human Rights organizations, advocacy networks, and policy campaigns.

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbook

Kaufman, Cynthia. (2016). *Ideas for Action: Relevant Theory for Radical Change* [2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.]. Oakland, CA: PM Press. ISBN: 978-1-62963-147-9

### Other Readings

All additional readings and materials will be distributed by the instructor as emailed PDF files.

### Library Liaison

For help with library resources and library research (including the use of databases and online research materials—such as journal search engines), students are strongly encouraged to contact the Justice Studies Library Liaison: Silke Higgins, [silke.higgins@sjsu.edu](mailto:silke.higgins@sjsu.edu), (408)808-2118.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

### Reading Reflection Papers (CLO3, CLO4) 40%:

#### Description and Purpose:

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 (CLO1, CLO2) 60%:

#### 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.

### **Mid Term and Final Exams**

There will be no midterm or final exam in this course. Students are expected to focus their energies on completing a successful, impactful HRAP and HRAP presentation.

### **Grading Information**

All grades are up to the subjective judgment of the instructor. Grades will be calculated from a weighted point system. There are no “curves” applied to grades in this course.

Important Note: Students in Justice Studies must achieve a “C” or better in this course to fulfill Justice Studies Major Requirements.

Students may complete as much **extra credit** as they like in this course. In addition to attending select events (will be announced by the instructor), students interested in completing extra credit assignments should see the instructor to “pitch” their ideas and completion date.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage of Final Grade</u>
Reflection Papers	40%
HRAP Presentation	60%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Grading Scale**

Exams and final grades will be calculated as a percentage on a typical “10 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

### **Classroom Protocol**

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**

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/>"

## JS 179: “Human Rights Seminar and Practicum” Fall 2016 Course Schedule

*This schedule is subject to change with fair notice from the instructor via email.*

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1		
1	8/24	Introduction to course and explanation of syllabus. <i>Distribute all student paperwork for completion by 9/12.</i>
2	8/29	Project Pitch day
2	8/31	Project Pitches continued; Select projects/groups; Discuss how to write response papers (in detail)
3	9/5	NO CLASS—LABOR DAY
3	9/7	Exploring the role of social scientific theory in applied work; <i>Read Kaufman Intro and Chap 1</i>
4	9/12	Exploring the role of theory continued; Explore Learning Module I (for non HR Minors)
4	9/14	HRAP Fieldwork
5	9/19	Critical Theory and issues of Political Economy Pt. I; <i>Read Kaufman Chap 2</i>
5	9/21	HRAP Fieldwork
6	9/26	Critical Theory and issues of Political Economy Pt. II; <i>Read Kaufman Chap 3</i>
6	9/28	HRAP Fieldwork
7	10/3	Critical Theory and issues of Political Economy Pt. III; <i>Read Kaufman Chap 4</i>
7	10/5	HRAP Fieldwork
8	10/10	Contemporary Systemic Racism and Anti-Racism; <i>Read Kaufman Chap 5, Read M4BL Policy Platform</i>
8	10/12	HRAP Fieldwork
9	10/17	Feminist Theory and Confronting Patriarchy; <i>Read Kaufman Chap 6</i>
9	10/19	HRAP Fieldwork
10	10/24	Economic Human Rights and the Human Rights Lecture Event; Materials TBA
10	10/26	HRAP Fieldwork
11	10/31	Confronting Climate Change and Environmental Destruction; <i>Read Kaufman Chap 7</i>
11	11/2	HRAP Fieldwork
12	11/7	Defining and Addressing the State; <i>Read Kaufman Chap 8</i>
12	11/9	HRAP Fieldwork

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
13	11/14	On Media and Democracy; <i>Read Kaufman Chapter 9</i>
13	11/16	HRAP Fieldwork
14	11/21	NO CLASS—LIBRARY DAY for HR report back assignments
14	11/23	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)
15	11/28	Organizing and Mobilization; <i>Read Kaufman Chap 10</i>
15	11/30	HRAP Fieldwork
16	12/5, 12/7, 12/12	12/5: HRAP Presentations (author visit?) 12/07: HRAP Presentations 12/12: TBA
Final Exam	Fri. 12/16	Final wrap up meeting (in lieu of exam) Fri. 12/16 from 2:45-5:00 in CCB 101.