

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 189-04 Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems, Fall 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dina M. Kameda, M.S., M.A.
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Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM, Thursdays 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM, or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall 323
Prerequisites:	Senior standing in final semester; Justice Studies or Forensic Science major; JS 100W and JS 114 with a "C or better"; Department Consent Note: A grade of "C" or better is required for Justice Studies majors.

Course Format

The mode of instruction for this course is in person with online supplements. Reliable access to a computer and the internet will be required. All written assignments will be submitted via Canvas, and must be in Microsoft Word (*.doc or *.docx). If you do not currently own Microsoft Word, the software (both PC and Mac) is available for free to students: <http://its.sjsu.edu/services/software/microsoft-students/index.html>

Canvas Course Page and E-mail

Copies of course materials will be posted on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking your e-mail and Canvas regarding announcements, reminders, and any additional course materials. The majority of course materials will be posted in Adobe PDF format; if you choose to download them, you will need Adobe Reader to view the documents. There is no cost to download Adobe Reader (<http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>). Some course materials may need to be accessed via the internet (i.e., web sites).

E-mail Policy

Feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check several times per day); however, please adhere to the e-mail guidelines below:

1. Please include in the “subject line” the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS189, Your Name, subject). The instructor **will not** respond to “**no subject**” e-mails, or any e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.

2. E-mailed inquiries should be relatively short in nature. Students should make an appointment to meet with me to discuss more extensive inquiries. Students will be referred to the course syllabus with respect to questions that are addressed by simply reading the syllabus.

Course Description

Identification, discussion and analysis of selected problems in justice studies. A major term paper on a selected topic is required.

Prerequisite: Senior standing in final semester; Justice Studies or Forensic Science major; JS 100W and JS 114 with a "C or better"; Department Consent

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

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to [CLO1-5]:

CLO1 Demonstrate their ability to complete a formal research paper that (a) synthesizes relevant scholarly sources; (b) reflects professional formatting and writing standards (APA format); (c) addresses relevant policy needs (such as necessary reforms) to solving tangible social problems; (d) somehow contributes to our collective understanding of concepts and approaches to "justice," however defined (social justice, criminal justice, community justice, and so forth).

CLO2 Demonstrate their ability to present scholarly work to an audience of their peers.

CLO3 Demonstrate a working understanding of "evidence-based" approaches to social problems and public policy. As a culminating skill set in our program, students should demonstrate their ability to apply social scientific (and otherwise rational) forms of reasoning, argumentation, research, and support in forming any particular worldview or position in the pursuit of "justice" and addressing social problems in our communities/societies.

CLO4 Demonstrate their ability to undertake a critical analysis of a contemporary problems relevant to justice studies.

CLO5 Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level that appropriately reflects the cumulating experience of their justice studies major.

Required Texts/Readings

Required Readings

Walker, S. (2015). *Sense and nonsense about crime, drugs, and communities* (8th Ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Library Liaison

Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu

(408) 808-2118

<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Course Requirements and Assignments

Out-of-Class Written Assignments

General formatting requirements for written assignments include a cover page, page numbering, 1" margins, strict double-spacing, and Times New Roman 12pt. font. All assignments must be written in formal English, with college-level writing mechanics, and APA-style formatting, inclusive of in-text citations and references. Out-of-class written assignments must be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Current Event Presentations and Discussions (Participation)

Specific dates will be set aside for students to offer brief presentations and discussions about current events relevant to our justice system. Students will be required to submit a 1-page write up. [CLO4-5]

Reading Presentation and Discussion Lead

Each student will be responsible for offering one in-class presentation of a response to a short answer essay question for a specific textbook chapter. If necessary, some students will present on instructor chosen journal articles in lieu of a textbook chapter; this will be dependent on the number of students enrolled in the course. Should this become necessary, all students will be responsible for reading additional journal articles which will be made available by the instructor via e-mail in PDF format. [CLO 2-5]

A schedule of presentations, along with questions, will be provided no later than **9/2/16**; presentations will tentatively begin on **9/14/16**. The presentation of a response will be roughly 10 minutes in length, with an additional 25-30 minutes for questions and discussion.

1. Students should begin with a reading of the relevant essay question, before providing their response.
2. Each essay response should incorporate substantive examples from the associated reading and/or outside research.

Following each presentation, students should be prepared to pose questions to the class to facilitate class discussion. While the instructor will moderate discourse, students are largely responsible for engaging in inquiry and discussion.

Reading Presentation and Discussion Grading

Each presentation/discussion will receive a “grade” ranging from 0 – 20 points based on the fulfillment of requirements. Weekly presentations will account for 15% of the final course grade. Please note that make-up presentations will not be allowed, except under extreme circumstances which can be substantiated (documentation will be required).

Policy Paper

Each student will write a 16 to 18 page policy paper (not including the cover page or references) analyzing a justice-related topic is required for this course. Students can choose their topic based on their own research interests, but the topic must be discussed with the instructor during Topic Meetings (see course schedule), and approved no later than **10/5/16**. No paper will be accepted without previous discussion and approval. Approval of a topic will be dependent on thorough preparation for your Topic Meeting (see details regarding Topic Meetings to follow). The purpose of the paper is not just to specifically test knowledge, but to also force critical thinking about an aspect of a chosen topic.

Students are prohibited from writing on a topic that has been used for previous course, or currently being used for another course. Any attempt to violate this requirement will result in an automatic “F” for the paper, which ultimately will result in failing the course. Such an attempt would constitute a violation of the Academic Integrity policy.

This paper will consist of a review of scholarly literature on an approved topic. Students will be required to not only analyze and critique existing policies, but propose new or amended policies. The research reviewed must come from high quality justice-related journals, which establish and examine relationships between and among variables, concepts, theories, and policies. Based on the evidence reviewed, policy implications will be drawn.

A handout detailing the expectations, content, formatting, and submission requirements will be provided in a timely manner. [CLO 1, 3-5]

Topic Meetings

Individual Topic Meetings will take place over the course of one and a half weeks this semester (see course schedule). The schedule for Topic Meetings will be provided no later than **9/7/16**. Topic meetings will last roughly 25 minutes. Students only need to come on their scheduled Topic Meeting date. [CLO 1, 3-5]

Preparation for Topic Meetings

The following three criteria are required for the Topic Meetings:

1. A specific topic/delimited title (i.e., have a specific focus in mind)
2. A properly formatted (APA style) annotated bibliography for your required sources (hard copy). A type-written outline for your paper (hard copy) which demonstrates the utility of your chosen journal articles, a clear conception of what policy/policies you intend to examine, and an APA-style reference list. You will be submitting this outline/reference list to the instructor at the time of your Topic Meeting.
3. A type-written outline for your paper (hard copy) which demonstrates the utility of your chosen journal articles, and a clear conception of what policy/policies you intend to examine. You will be submitting this outline to the instructor at the time of your Topic Meeting.

Paper Presentation

Students will be required give a 20 minute formal presentation of their policy papers. The schedule will be provided no later than **10/5/16**. Before each presentation, presenters will distribute a 1-2 page outline of their presentation to students in the class and the instructor. [CLO 2]

The presentation must include the following:

1. **Introduction:** Description of the specific topic, importance of the topic, and thesis
2. **Literature Review:** Relatively concise coverage of your literature review
3. **Policy Critique and Implications:** A critique of current policies, based upon the literature, in terms of the implications of their effectiveness/ineffectiveness, and suggestions about alternative policies. This critique should pull upon findings in the literature to support the presenter's point of view.

Paper Presentation Grading

The presentation will be graded based on the level of competency and flow, knowledge of the subject, and conclusions. It is highly recommended that students practice their presentations several times (preferably in front of someone who will provide constructive feedback). The presentations will be held to strict time limits. Failure to complete a presentation within the allotted time frame (i.e., 20 minutes), or too brief of a presentation, will result in a loss of points.

Final Exam

Students will be required to complete an in-class essay final exam covering assigned course readings and class discussions; paper will be provided. [CLO 1-5]

Grading Policy

Assignment/Exam	Exam/Due Date	Weight
Current Events/Participation	See schedule	10%
Reading Presentations/Discussion	See schedule	15%
Topic Meeting	See schedule	15%
Policy Paper	November 7 th	25%
Paper Presentation	See schedule	15%
Final Exam	December 16 th	20%
		100%

Grading Policy and Late Submissions

Written assignments will primarily be graded on content; however, poor writing mechanics and APA formatting will result in a moderate point deduction. Assistance with APA can be found at:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

In order to demonstrate comprehension of the course material, one must be able to write in a clear and effective manner. Always carefully proofread your assignments before submitting them. Late submissions will not be accepted unless a valid, documented, and verifiable reason is provided.

A grade of “C” (i.e., at least 73%) is required to pass this course.

Department of Justice Studies Course Grade Determination

Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade
98.0 to 100	A plus	80.0 to 82.99	B minus	63 to 67.99	D
93.0 to 97.99	A	78 to 79.99	C plus	00.0 to 62.99	F
90.0 to 92.99	A minus	73.0 to 77.99	C		
88.0 to 89.99	B plus	70 .0 to 72.99	C minus		
83 to 87.99	B	68.00 to 69.99	D plus		

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.

Classroom Protocol

1. Students are expected to: attend all class meetings, arrive on time, stay for the duration of the class period, complete all readings and assignments in accordance with the dates on the course schedule.
2. Students are responsible for all missed notes, materials and announcements due to absence. You are encouraged to exchange contact information with someone in class just in case.

3. As neither a laptop nor tablet is required for the course, use of them is strictly limited to note taking or accommodation purposes. Students caught using such items for other non-class purposes may be prohibited from bringing them back to class, and will likely be dismissed from class for the day. At the instructor's discretion, students may be dismissed from class for cell phone use of any kind during class time, unless expressly permitted by the instructor.

University Policies

University Policies: Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP's Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

JS189-04 / Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems, Fall 2016 Course Schedule

The following course schedule is subject to change; advance notice of any changes will be provided via an announcement on Canvas as early as possible.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
1	Wednesday 8/24	Agenda/Topics: Course introduction/review of syllabus; discussion about expectations; Policy Paper; Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct policies Reading for today: Syllabus; Academic Integrity and Student Conduct policies
2	Monday 8/29	Agenda/Topics: Introduction to Policy; discuss Reading Presentation and Discussion assignment
	Wednesday 8/31	Agenda/Topics: Policy Paper expectations; review of requirements for Topic Meetings
3	Monday 9/5	Labor Day - No Class
	Wednesday 9/7	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 1 discussion Reading for today: Ch. 1
4	Monday 9/12	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 2 discussion Reading for today: Ch. 2
	Wednesday 9/14	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 3 Presentation and Discussion Reading for today: Ch. 3
5	Monday 9/19	Agenda/Topics: Current Events Discussion Assignment: Preparation for Topic Meetings – delimited topic/title, paper outline, and annotated bibliography
	Wednesday 9/21	Agenda/Topics: In-class Policy Paper Discussion/Check-in
6	Monday 9/26	Agenda/Topics: Topic Meetings (in MH 508)
	Wednesday 9/28	Agenda/Topics: Topic Meetings (in MH 508)
7	Monday 10/3	Agenda/Topics: Topic Meetings (in MH 508)

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
7	Wednesday 10/5	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 4 Presentation and Discussion Reading for today: Ch. 4
8	Monday 10/10	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 5 Presentation and Discussion Reading for today: Ch. 5
	Wednesday 10/12	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 6 Presentation and Discussion Reading for today: Ch. 6
9	Monday 10/17	Agenda/Topics: Current Events Discussion
	Wednesday 10/19	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 7 Presentation and Discussion Reading for today: Ch. 7
10	Monday 10/24	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 8 Presentation and Discussion Reading for today: Ch. 8
	Wednesday 10/26	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 9 Presentation and Discussion Reading for today: Ch. 9
11	Monday 10/31	Agenda/Topics: Current Events Discussion
	Wednesday 11/2	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 10 Presentation and Discussion Reading for today: Ch. 10
12	Monday 11/7	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 11 Presentation and Discussion Reading for today: Ch. 11 Due today: Policy Paper (Upload to Canvas by 11:59 PM) - No hard copy
	Wednesday 11/9	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 12 Presentation and Discussion Reading for today: Ch. 12
13	Monday 11/14	Agenda/Topics: Current Events Discussion
	Wednesday 11/16	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 13 Presentation and Discussion Reading for today: Ch. 13
14	Monday 11/21	Paper Presentation Work Day
	Wednesday 11/23	Non-instructional Day - No Class

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
15	Monday 11/28	Agenda/Topics: Policy Paper Presentations
15	Wednesday 11/30	Agenda/Topics: Policy Paper Presentations
16	Monday 12/5	Agenda/Topics: Policy Paper Presentations
	Wednesday 12/7	Agenda/Topics: Policy Paper Presentations
17	Monday 12/12	Agenda/Topics: Policy Paper Presentations
Final Exam: Paper will be provided Friday, December 16th 2:45 PM - 5:00 PM (Note different time!)		