

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS156, Gangs, Criminal Syndicates and Justice, Spring 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Greg Woods, J.D.
Office Location:	MacQuarrie Hall 439
Telephone:	(408) 924-2940
Email:	greg.woods@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, Wednesdays, 12:00 - 2:00 PM, and by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays/Thursdays 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall 520

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

Gangs, Criminal Syndicates and Justice provides a socio/historical examination of the emergence, evolution, persistence, activities and social structure of gangs and mobs, the effects of social factors, e.g., politics, law, technology and the economy, and consequences for communities and social institutions. Pre/corequisites: Any 100W. Note: Must achieve a grade of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

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

- CLO 1: Identify the development and current situation of gangs in American society.
- CLO 2: Identify and write about the theoretical and socioeconomic explanations of gangs, gang membership, and gang activity.

CLO 3: Identify and write about policies addressing gang prevention and treatment.

Required Texts

Curry, David G., et al. (2014). *Confronting Gangs: Crime and Community* (3rd edition). Oxford University Press ISBN 978-0-19-989191-7

*Sanders, Bill (2016). *Gangs: An Introduction* (1st edition). Oxford University Press ISBN 978-0-19-994859-8

Students may purchase texts in the bookstore and online. *Available after February 22, 2016.

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>.

Weekly Assignments

Students will be assigned weekly reading and writing assignments in class and as reflected below. Weekly Assignments are due during **Thursday** class sessions, or as instructed, and will consist of a one-to-two paged double spaced typed analysis in 12-point font. (CLO 1, 2 & 3)

Projects

Midterm and Final Projects will require students to conduct independent research to craft thesis papers specific to the theoretical and socioeconomic explanations of gang development, membership, activities, and policies calculated to address gang prevention and treatment in the United States, to be assigned and explained extensively in class and will be due during the last class session prior to Spring Recess and last scheduled class session of the semester as reflected below. Reliable sources for all assertions should be cited in the American Psychological Association (APA) format. (CLO 1, 2 & 3)

Final Examination

Students will complete a cumulative final examination using key terms and concepts from readings and class discussion consisting of short and essay based questions. (CLO 1, 2 & 3)

Participation

Students will be assigned to work in groups and are expected to be prepared to participate in an informed, professional and respectful manner. (CLO 1)

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

Final grades will be evaluated as follows:

Weekly Assignments	20%
Midterm Project	20%
Final Project	25%
Final Examination	25%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 and below.

Extra credit will not be awarded, late assignments will not be accepted, and no assignment may be submitted via email.

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

Attendance/Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are encouraged. Students who are routinely inattentive, or who choose not to contribute to in-class discussion and activities, will be noted and may result with up to 10% (one letter grade) deducted from the final grade.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted and no assignment may be submitted via email.

Cell Phones/Texting

All cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away during class sessions. Routine phone calls, texting or other online activity during class is discouraged, will be noted and may result with up to 10% (one letter grade) deducted from the final grade.

University Policies

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/>.

Never present another's argument as your own. Reliable sources for all assertions should be cited in the American Psychological Association (APA) format. Detection of plagiarism will result with NO CREDIT earned for the assignment.

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>.

JS156 / Gangs, Criminal Syndicates and Justice, Spring 2016

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	January 28	Introductions/Course overview; Syllabus, Class, Project, Assignment & Exam formats; Respect, Representation, Revenge & Reputation; Belonging, Power & Profit; Identifying, Understanding and Explaining the Allure of Gang Culture & Participation in Organized Criminal Behavior; In-class exercise.
2	February 2 & 4	Gangs Defined: Safety in Numbers; 18 United States Code §521 & California Penal Code §186.22; Putting in Work: Ongoing Criminal Behavior; Comparing Gang and Non-Gang Youth; Race, Ethnicity & Socioeconomic Status; Read Chapter 1: What Is A Gang? And Why Does It Matter? (Confronting Gangs); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #1: A) What is a gang? B) What are some characteristics of a typical gang member? C) What are some examples of gang crime?
3	February 9 & 11	Assign Midterm Project (DUE NO LATER THAN 3/24); California Department of Justice Organized Crime in California Annual Report to the Legislature; Federal Bureau of Investigation National Gang Intelligence Center & National Gang Threat Assessment Reports; Criminal Propensity & Strain Theories; Read Chapters 2 & 3: Explaining Gangs and Gang Membership & How Are Gangs Structured? (Confronting Gangs); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #2: A) Why do some places have gang problems while other places do not? B) What are some organizational features of gangs?
4	February 16 & 18	OG's & Jumped In: Joining the Gang; Trans-Generational Impact; Narcotics, Theft, Intimidation, Guns & Serious Violence; Group Process factors; The Cycle of Gang Violence; Read Chapters 4 & 5: Gang Membership in the Life Course & The Link Between Gangs and Crime (Confronting Gangs); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #3: A) Why do people join gangs? B) How long do adolescents typically remain in gangs? C) What types of crimes do gang members typically commit?
5	February 23 & 25	Liberated, Exploited or Marginalized: Scope & Involvement within Hyper-Masculine Criminal Subcultures; Immigration & Gang Affiliations; Read Chapters 6 & 7: Does Gang Membership Differ for Females? & Gang Members and Gang Crime Around the World (Confronting Gangs); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #4: A) What are some pathways to female gang membership? B) What differences and similarities exist between foreign and domestic gangs?

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	March 1 & 3	Flash Mobs: The Impact of Social Media; Family, Community & School Factors; Delinquency & Validation; Ceasefire & Intervention Approaches; Read Chapters 8 & 9: Gangs and Social Institutions: Causes and Consequences & Juvenile and Criminal Justice Systems (Confronting Gangs); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #5: A) What is the relationship between truancy and gang involvement? B) How might gang membership impact gainful employment? C) Does gang membership replace conventional employment?
7	March 8 & 10	Differential Opportunity Theory; Interrelated Dynamics & Protective Factors; Read Chapters 1 & 2: Early Research and Perspectives & Definitions, Daily Life, Dynamics, and Risk Factors (Gangs: An Introduction); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #6: A) What is the typical structure of a gang? B) What dynamics exist within the gang subculture?
8	March 15 & 17	Sexual Victimization, Identity, Femininity, Sexuality and Respect; Pregnancy and Motherhood; Prosocial Functions and Post-Gang Lives; Read Chapters 3 & 4: Race, Migration, and Immigration & Females and Stereotypes (Gangs: An Introduction); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #7: A) What differences and similarities exist between female and male gang members? B) How might pregnancy and motherhood of gang members impact the gang, mother and child?
9	March 22 & 24	Revisiting the Allure of Gang Culture & Emerging Policy implications; In-class exercise; Midterm Projects Due (3/24).
10	March 28 - April 1	SPRING RECESS. NO CLASSES IN SESSION!
11	April 5 & 7	Assign Final Project (DUE NO LATER THAN 5/12); Addiction, Substance Abuse & Profit Motivations; Witness Intimidation; Read Chapters 5 & 6: Drug Use and Sales & Violence and Victimization (Gangs: An Introduction); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #8: A) What relationships exist between gangs and drugs? B) Why is witness intimidation among those crimes often associated with gang activity?
12	April 12 & 14	Symbology of Tagging; Gang Signs & Interpreting Graffiti; Cultural Criminology; Homology, Diffusion, and Criminalization; Multiple Marginalization; Read Chapters 7 & 8: Style and Media & Theories on Gangs and Gang Behaviors (Gangs: An Introduction); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #9: A) What relationships exist between gangs and social media? B) How does the labeling theory explain gang activity?

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	April 19 & 21	The Relationship, Differences and Similarities between Prison & Street Gangs; Correctional Responses to Prison Gangs; Reentry & Recidivism; Blood In, Blood Out: Deciding to Leave the Life; Read Chapters 9 & 10: Prison Gangs & Desistance and Leaving the Gang (Gangs: An Introduction); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #10: A) How does prison radicalization impact gang culture? B) What relationships exist between street and prison gangs? C) How might gang membership impact an offender while serving a prison sentence?
14	April 26 & 28	Incarceration as Health Risk; Toward a Public Health Agenda for Gang Youth; Territoriality, Porous Borders & Modern Investigations; Read Chapters 11 & 12: Public Health Aspects & Gangs outside of the United States (Gangs: An Introduction); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #11: A) How might gang activity impact public health? B) What relationships exist between gang membership and homelessness?
15	May 3 & 5	Civil Injunctions, Gang Enhancements & Predicate Offenses of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (i.e. RICO Act, 1970); Diversion Programs; Read Chapter 10: Responding to Gangs: Comprehensive Programs and a Look to the Future (Confronting Gangs) & Chapter 13: Suppression, Intervention, and Prevention (Gangs: An Introduction); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #12: A) Are civil injunctions an effective way to combat gang violence? B) How might Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) combat the proliferation of gangs?
16	May 10 & 12	To Stop the Violence: Community Organization & Mobilization; Review for Final Examination; In-class exercise; Final Thoughts; Final Projects Due (5/12).
Final Exam	Friday, May 20	MacQuarrie Hall 520 2:45 PM - 5:00 PM