

**San José State University**  
**Department Of Justice Studies**  
**JS189 Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems, Section 01, Summer 2017**

**Course and Contact Information**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wednesdays 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
<b>Classroom:</b>	MacQuarrie Hall 523
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Senior standing in final semester; Justice Studies or Forensic Science major; JS 100W and JS 114 with a C or better; Department consent

**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).

**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 (CLO)

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

1. 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).
2. Demonstrate their ability to present scholarly work to an audience of their peers.
3. 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.
4. Demonstrate their ability to undertake a critical analysis of a contemporary problems relevant to justice studies.
5. 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

### Textbook

Mallicoat, S. L. (2016). *Crime and criminal justice: Concepts and controversies*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, Inc.

ISBN: 978-1483318738

Available at the Spartan Bookstore, and online.

### Library Liaison

[Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu](mailto: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 Submissions (Participation)

Students will be required to submit current event summaries relevant to our justice system, focused on a policy issue, and provide insight regarding the policy issue. Students will submit a 1-page write-up per assignment.

[CLO4-5]

## Discussion Lead (Participation)

Each student will be responsible for leading several discussions based on current controversies tied to textbook chapters. The discussions will entail a response to the appropriate current controversy prompt, and the provision of discussion questions to further discourse. [CLO 2-5]

A schedule of discussions will be provided.

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

Following each response, 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.

## 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 communicated with the instructor via the submission of Paper Preparation Assignment (PPA) materials (see course schedule). No paper will be accepted without previous communication and approval. Approval of a topic will be dependent on thorough preparation of your PPA materials (see details regarding Paper Preparation 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]

## Paper Preparation Assignment Materials

The following criteria are required materials for the PPA. You will be submitting all the materials as single document on Canvas (see course schedule for date).

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.
3. A type-written outline for your paper which demonstrates the utility of your chosen journal articles, and a clear conception of what policy/policies you intend to examine.

## Policy Paper Presentation

Students will be required give a 20 minute formal presentation of their policy papers. Power Points must be uploaded to Canvas by July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students will not be permitted to make changes to their Power Point Presentation after July 3<sup>rd</sup>. [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.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### Final Examination or Evaluation

Policy paper presentations will serve as the culminating experience for this course. Students will be required to exhibit the following through their presentations: critical analysis of policy; thought provoking discourse on a substantive topic by engaging fellow students; and professional presentation of material.

### Grading Information

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.

### 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		

Assignment/Exam	Exam/Due Date	Weight
Current Events (Participation)	See schedule	15%
Discussion Lead (Participation)	See schedule	20%
Paper Preparation Assignment Materials	June 17 <sup>th</sup>	15%
Policy Paper	July 5 <sup>th</sup>	30%
Paper Presentation	July 5 <sup>th</sup>	20%

### Discussion Lead Grading

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

## **Paper Presentation Grading**

The presentation will be graded based on the level of competency and flow, knowledge of the subject, audience engagement, 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.

## **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 in-class participation, 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**

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.

# JS189-01 / Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems, SU2017 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.

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	06/05/17	Course introduction and overview Assignments and expectations Paper topic discussion Policy discussion
1	06/07/17	Detailed discussion of assignments Continued paper topic discussion
2	06/12/17	Ch. 1 Crime and Criminal Justice (DL #1) Ch. 2 Concepts of Law and Justice (DL #1)
2	06/14/17	Ch. 3 Defining and Measuring Crime (DL #2) Ch. 4 Explanations of Criminal Behavior (DL #2) <b>Current Event #1 Due: Upload to Canvas</b> <b>Paper Preparation Assignment Materials Due 06/17/17 by 11:59 PM: Upload to Canvas</b>
3	06/19/17	Ch. 5 Victims and Criminal Justice System (DL #3) Ch. 6 Criminal Justice Policy (DL #3)
3	06/21/17	Ch. 7 Policing Organizations and Practices (DL #4) Ch. 8 Issues in Policing (DL #4) <b>Current Event #2 Due: Upload to Canvas</b>
4	06/26/17	Ch. 9 Courts and Crime (DL #5) Ch. 10 Punishment and Sentencing (DL #5)
4	06/28/17	Ch. 11 Prisons and Jails (DL #6) Ch. 12 Community Corrections (DL #6) <b>Current Event #3 Due: Upload to Canvas</b>
5	07/03/17	Ch. 13 Juvenile Justice Ch. 14 Emerging Issues for the 21st Century
5	07/05/17	Policy paper presentations: MH 523 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM <b>Policy Paper Due by 11:59 PM: Upload to Canvas</b>