

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS128-01, Punishment, Culture and Society, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Greg Woods, J.D.
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Office Hours:	Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:00 - 10:00 AM, 12:00 - 1:00 PM, and by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	Mondays/Wednesdays 1:30 PM - 2:45 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

Critical analysis of the cultural, political and economic dimensions of penal politics in contemporary American society, with particular reference to the relationships between criminal justice and social justice. Emphasis on issues of racial, economic, and gender inequality. Pre/Co-requisite: Any 100w; Note: A grade of “C” or better is required for Justice Studies majors. 3 Units.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

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

- CLO 1: Competently define and describe the multiple facets of current penal policies and critically reflect on the complex relationship between criminal justice and social justice. Students will also be able to undertake a theoretically grounded analysis of contemporary U.S. penal politics, with particular reference to the impact of mass-incarceration on existing structures of racial, economic, and gender inequality in American society.

- CLO 2: Engage in a critique of existing policies and reflect on possible alternative approaches to crime and drugs, as they emerge both from critical scholarship and social justice activism. Students will also be able to write an original paper documenting a scholarly appreciation of the cultural, political, and economic dimensions of penalty in contemporary U.S. society.
- CLO 3: Engage in reflection and argumentation about the socioeconomic and political implications of penal policies, particularly from the point of view of racial, economic, and gender equality, human rights, and social justice.
- CLO 4: Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

Required Texts

Lyons, Lewis (2003). *The History of Punishment* (1st edition). The Lyons Press, ISBN 9781592280285

Alexander, Michelle (2010, 2012). *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (Revised edition). The New Press ISBN 9781595586438

Students may purchase texts in the bookstore and online.

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>.

Assignments

Students will be assigned reading and writing assignments in class and as reflected below. Assignments are due during **Wednesday** class sessions as reflected below, or as instructed, and will consist of a two-to-three paged double spaced typed analysis in 12-point font. (CLO 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Group Project

Students will be assigned to work in groups and are expected to participate in a professional and respectful manner. Each group will be tasked with a project, to be assigned and explained extensively in class, to develop and present in class during the semester as reflected below. Each group is required to participate during in-class exercises and make one presentation to the class once per semester. (CLO 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Final Paper

Final Papers will require students to conduct independent research to craft a thesis paper, to be assigned and explained extensively in class and will be due during the 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 & 4)

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 & 4)

Participation

Students are expected to be punctual and prepared to participate during in-class activities in an informed, professional and respectful manner. Participation credit will be rewarded in response to student preparedness and politeness in class. (CLO 1 & 4)

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:

Assignments	20%
Group Project	20%
Final Paper	25%
Final Examination	25%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 and below.

Please Note: 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/Social Media

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>.

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.

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Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	August 22	Introductions/Course overview; Syllabus, Class, Assignment, Group Project & Final Examination formats; Punishment is the infliction of an unpleasant or negative experience on an offender in response to an offense; Early correctional thought and practice; Read Introduction: Law & Justice, The History of Punishment (pgs 7-9) & Read Introduction: The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness (pgs 1-19); In-class exercise/Discussion.
2	August 27 & 29	The Social Contract To Provide Safety & Security; Preventing & Responding to Physical and Financial Injury; Legislative Solutions to Society's Problems; The Purposes of Punishment: Deterrence, Incapacitation, Rehabilitation, Retribution, and Restitution; Purpose and Functions of Prison; Read Chapter One: Early History, The History of Punishment (pgs 11-27); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Assignment #1; In-class exercise/Discussion.
3	September 5 No Class Monday, September 3, Labor Day!	Assign Final Paper (DUE NO LATER THAN 12/10); Return and Review Assignment #1; Capital and Corporal Punishment; History and evolution of correctional approaches in the United States; Methods of confinement, offender punishment and secure housing units; Read Chapter Two: From Moses To Mohammed, The History of Punishment (pgs 29-51); In-class exercise/Discussion.
4	September 10 & 12	Assign Group Project (DUE NO LATER THAN 12/5); Rise of Incarceration; Structure and purpose of corrections in the United States: The Federal Bureau of Prisons and The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Public policy and the law of corrections; Read Chapter Three: Democracy & Law: The European Legacy, The History of Punishment (pgs 53-69); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Assignment #2; In-class exercise/Discussion.
5	September 17 & 19	Return and Review Assignment #2; Hunger Strikes from Attica to Pelican Bay: A Brief History of Prison Rebellions; Incarceration of women; Inmate Code; The Super-Max, Jails & short-term incarceration; The correctional client; Read Chapter Four: India and China, The History of Punishment (pgs 71-83); In-class exercise/Discussion.
6	September 24 & 26	Evidence & Criminal Trials; Proportionality & the U.S. Constitution revisited; <i>Brown v. Plata, 563 U. S. 493 (2011);</i> The Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: " <i>Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.</i> " Read Chapter Five: Corporal Punishment, The History of Punishment (pgs 85-101); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Assignment #3; In-class exercise/Discussion.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
7	October 1 & 3	Return and Review Assignment #3; The prison experience; Demographics, Race, Age & Poverty; Mental Illness; Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794); Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832); Read Chapter Six: Throwing Away The Key: Imprisonment, The History of Punishment (pgs 103-125); & Read Chapter 1: The Rebirth of Caste, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness (pgs 20-58); In-class exercise/Discussion.
8	October 8 & 10	Public and Private Prisons; Educational and Vocational Programs; Institutional management and correctional programs; Read Chapter Seven: Torture, The History of Punishment (pgs 127-153); & Read Chapter 2: The Lockdown, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness (pgs 59-96); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Assignment #4; In-class exercise/Discussion.
9	October 15 & 17	Return and Review Assignment #4; Solitary Confinement and Death Row; Stanley "Tookie" Williams III (1953–2005); Read Chapter Eight: The Death Penalty, The History of Punishment (pgs 155-181); & Read Chapter 3: The Color of Justice, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness (pgs 97-139); In-class exercise/Discussion.
10	October 22 & 24	Causes of Action; Parole board review and furlough programs; Community Reintegration; Supervision and parole; Restorative approaches; Read Conclusion: Punishment Today, The History of Punishment (pgs 183-187); & Read Chapter 4: The Cruel Hand, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness (pgs 140-177); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Assignment #5; In-class exercise/Discussion.
11	October 29 & 31	Return and Review Assignment #5; Recidivism; Alternatives to incarceration and probation; Read Chapter 5: The New Jim Crow, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness (pgs 178-220); In-class exercise/Discussion.
12	November 5 & 7	The Myth of Closure; Prisons as Country Clubs; Sanctions and Community Corrections; Community Justice and the Future of corrections in the United States; Read Chapter 6: The Fire This Time, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness (pgs 221-261); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Assignment #6; In-class exercise/Discussion.
13	November 14 No Class Monday, November 12, Veterans Day!	Return and Review Assignment #6; Begin Group Project Presentations; Peer Review Exercise; In-class exercise/Discussion.
14	November 19 & 21	Group Project Presentations; Peer Review Exercise; In-class exercise/Discussion.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
15	November 26 & 28	<i>Group Project Presentations</i> ; Peer Review Exercise; In-class exercise/ Discussion.
16	December 3, 5 & 10	<i>Complete Group Project Presentations (12/5)</i> ; Peer Review Exercise; In-class exercise/Discussion; <i>Review for Final Examination (12/10)</i> ; <i>Final Paper Due (12/10)</i> ; Final Thoughts.
Final Exam	Wednesday, December 12	MacQuarrie Hall 520 12:15 PM - 2:30 PM