

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 158, The Prison Community, Sec 01, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Judith Randle
Office Location:	MQH 508
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Office Hours:	R 10:30 – 11:45am
Class Days/Time:	TR 1:30-2:45
Classroom:	MQH 520
Prerequisites:	Any 100W
JS Competency Area:	Local, Transnational, and Historical Analyses (D)

Course CANVAS Page

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, lecture slides, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for checking daily with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

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

Analysis of formal and informal systems of organization and interaction among inmates and staff. Effects of the social structure and external system on the organization of the prison community.

Note: Must achieve a grade of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO 1: Identify the various penal systems throughout the United States.

CLO 2: Analyze the effects of the external social structure on the history of prisons and on the organization of the prison community.

CLO 3: Analyze formal and informal systems of organization and interaction among inmates and staff.

CLO 4: Identify and write about the critical issues facing the American prison system.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

Irwin, J. (2005). The Warehouse Prison: Disposal of the New Dangerous Class. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9870195330472

Simon, J. (2014) Mass Incarceration on Trial: A Remarkable Court Decision and the Future of Prisons in America. The New Press. ISBN: 9871595587695

Sykes, G. (2007) The Society of Captives. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 9780691130644

Journal Articles, News Articles, and Book Excerpts

Journal articles, news articles and book excerpts are listed on the **Course Schedule** below and posted on the CANVAS website.

Websites, Web-Based Videos, and Web-Based Audio Files

Required website material, web-based videos, and web-based audio files are listed on the **Course Schedule** below. Links are posted on the CANVAS website. You must have a computer with appropriate software to support video and audio playback, which is available for free on the Internet.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu, (408) 808-2118
<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Course Requirements and Assignments

Your grade is derived from work in five (5) categories:

Homework Assignments (15) -- Homework Assignments (HW) are designed to help enhance your learning of the week's topic by: reviewing key information, learning new details about a topic, practicing the application of

a rule, and/or making connections among concepts and readings. Homework assignments are completed at home and are designed so that you can complete them without having attended lecture. You must bring a hard copy to class on the assigned due date and upload an electronic copy to CANVAS before midnight on the assigned date. If you do not attend lecture, you must upload the homework to CANVAS by 1:30pm on the due date. Electronic-only submissions will incur a 10% penalty. Late submissions will incur a 10% penalty for each day late; after 1:30pm on the due date counts as day one. Each homework is worth approximately 15 points. Note: One additional homework assignment will be assigned for each lecture from a guest speaker; as of this writing, three guest speakers are planned for this semester. (CLOs 1 – 4)

On-call Q&A (3) – On three (3) dates in the semester you will be called upon in class to answer questions about the material covered that day. You will be given themes, terms or questions in advance to help prepare you for questions that you may be asked. Your on-call dates have been assigned in advance. I will accommodate reschedule requests received by **Aug 30**. If you do not attend lecture on the date shown, you cannot receive points for the Q&A, even in the event of illness or emergency. Each On-call Q&A day is worth 10 points. (CLOs 2 & 3)

Quiz – There is a multiple-choice quiz at the end of Unit 1 that is worth approximately 50 points. (CLOs 1 & 2)

Facility Tours or Data Sets (2) -- Tours of two local incarceration facilities are scheduled for this semester. You are expected to make every effort to attend both tours because of their direct relevance to this course. Students unable to attend a tour will earn equivalent credit by contributing to a data report on the toured facility. The tour dates and times below are tentative and will be finalized during the first two weeks of the semester. Each tour or data set is worth 15 points. (CLOs 2 & 3)

- ❖ **Oct 16:** Santa Cruz County Jail, 9am – 12pm
- ❖ **Nov 20:** San Quentin State Prison, 8am – 2pm

Final Exam (1) – The final exam is a multiple choice exam that covers units 3 & 4 and it worth 75 points. Please contact me ASAP if you have school, work, or other obligations, or experience an emergency, and need to reschedule an exam. You will have to provide proof of interference and you may take an alternative version of the exam given in class. (CLOs 3 & 4)

Final Essay (1) -- At the end of the course you turn in an essay that reflects on the nature of incarceration as a response to crime. The final essay is worth 75 points. (CLOs 3 & 4)

Other Course Work:

Class Exercises (13) -- Class Exercises (CE) are designed to help enhance your learning of the week's topic by reviewing key information, learning new details about a topic, practicing the application of a rule, and/or making connections among concepts and readings. They include activities such as listing facts or concepts and completing charts and tables. Class Exercises are distributed and completed in class on the scheduled lecture period. They are not graded but may be referenced during all quizzes and the final exam. (CLOs 1 – 4)

Extra Credit: Extra credit assignments may be offered during the semester. I will take into consideration students' proposals for extra credit assignments.

Grading Information: Point and Percentage Values (Approximate and Subject to Minor Changes)

Homework	240 (48%)
On-Call Q&A	30 (6%)
Tours/Data Sets	30 (6%)
Quiz	50 (10%)
Final Exam	75 (15%)
Final Essay	75 (15%)
Total	500 (100%)

Grading Scale (Percentages)

A plus: (98 – 100)	B plus: (88 – 89)	C plus: (78 – 79)	D plus: (68 – 69)	F : (\leq 59)
A: (93 – 97)	B: (83 – 87)	C: (73 – 77)	D: (63 – 67)	
A minus: (90 – 92)	B minus: (80 – 82)	C minus: (72 – 70)	D minus: (60 – 62)	

Classroom Protocol

Attendance -- If you are late, enter quietly in the back of the classroom. Please do not exit the classroom during a guest speaker's lecture.

Materials – Bring a pencil or pen and a notebook with which to complete in-class assignments and to take notes.

Cell phones -- Cell phones must be in silent mode and not accessed during the lecture period.

Communication outside of class -- Check your university email account at least once daily for messages related to the course. I encourage regular communication with me over email and in office hours to clarify and enrich your understanding of the course material. **To ensure confidentiality, I am required to communicate with you using only your university account.**

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/>

Important University Dates: <http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/2182/index.html>

JS 158 / The Prison Community, Fall 2018, Course Schedule

* Readings, websites, videos, audio clips, and Homework Assignments (HW) are to be completed *before class* on the assigned date. Each in-class lecture period contains one HW or CE except for the quiz date (Sept 20).

** The schedule is subject to change with fair notice by the Announcements section on the website and emails to your University account.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
UNIT 1: PRISONS IN SOCIETY		
1	T 8/21	<u>Introduction</u>
	R 8/23	<u>The Birth of the Prison</u> CANVAS Reading: “The Body of the Condemned” (Foucault) In Class: CE1
2	T 8/28	<u>Punishment and Social Theory: Expressive Functions of Incarceration</u> CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Law of God and Man” pp. 31-50 (Friedman) • “Punishment and Social Solidarity” pp. 122-124 (in Garland, “Sociological Perspectives on Punishment”) CANVAS Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Judge in Brock Turner Case Faces Recall</i> (3 mins) • <i>Leader of the Recall Judge Persky Campaign Reads Emotional Response</i> (1 min) Due: HW1
	R 8/30	<u>Punishment and Social Theory: Oppressive Functions of Incarceration</u> CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Law of God and Man” pp. 50-54 (Friedman) • “The Political Economy of Punishment” pp. 127-132 (in Garland, “Sociological Perspectives on Punishment”) • “The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison” (excerpts) (Reiman) In Class: CE2
3	T 9/4	<u>Punishment and Social Theory: Rationalizing and Civilizing Processes</u> CANVAS Reading: “Punishment and Sensibilities” pp. 141-152 (in Garland, “Sociological Perspectives on Punishment”) Due: HW2
	R 9/6	<u>Penance, Reform, and Rehabilitation in American Prisons</u> WP: Chs. 1&2 (stop at p. 42, “Dismantling the Rehabilitative Ideal”) CANVAS Reading: “California State Prisons Chronology” In Class: CE3
4	T 9/11	<u>The Severity Revolution & Mass Incarceration</u> CANVAS Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mass Incarceration, Visualized</i> (3 mins) • <i>California Moves Inmates Out of State</i> (2 mins) WP: Ch. 2 (p. 42 – end; start at “Dismantling the Rehabilitative Ideal”) MIOT: Ch. 1

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Due: HW3
	R 9/13	<p><u>The Politics of Mass Incarceration</u> CANVAS Video: <i>California's 3 Strikes Law</i> (9 mins) CANVAS Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Three Strikes and You’re Out! The Political Sentencing Game” (Benekos) <p>In Class: CE4</p>
5	T 9/18	<p><u>The Warehouse Prison</u> WP: Ch. 3, beginning – p. 60 (stop at “Conflict and Divisions”); p. 69 (start at “Solano”) – end CANVAS Video: <i>Life in Prison</i> (27 mins) Due: HW4</p>
5	R 9/20	QUIZ 1
UNIT 2: PRISON SUBCULTURES		
6	T 9/25	<p><u>Power, Roles, and the Prison as a Social System</u> In-Class Video: <i>The Stanford Prison Experiment</i> Sykes: Introduction & Ch. 1 Due: HW5</p>
	R 9/27	<p><u>The Custodial Regime</u> Sykes: Ch. 2 In Class: CE5</p>
7	T 10/2	<p><u>Exercises of Power</u> Sykes: Ch. 3 Due: HW6</p>
	R 10/4	<p><u>Deprivations</u> Sykes Ch. 4 WP: Ch. 6 In Class: CE6</p>
8	T 10/9	<p><u>Masculinity and the Social Order in Male Prisons</u> Sykes Ch. 5 CANVAS Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Gender and the Politics of Punishment” (Sabo) • “Caged and Celibate” (Abu-Jamal) • “Rape and the Prison Code” (Kupers) <p>CANVAS Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In the Gay Wing of LA Men’s Central Jail – Part 1</i> (3 mins) • <i>In the Gay Wing of LA Men’s Central Jail – Part 2</i> (3 mins) <p>Due: HW7</p>
	R 10/11	<p><u>Race and Gangs in Male Prisons</u> CANVAS Website: “How Gangs Took Over Prisons” (Wood) <i>Guest Speaker: Kyle Ward, Correctional Officer</i> In Class: CE7</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
9	T 10/16	SANT CRUZ COUNTY JAIL TOUR – NO LECTURE
	R 10/18	<u>The Social in Male Prisons: Wrap-Up</u> WP: Ch. 4 Sykes Ch. 6 Due: HW8
10	T 10/23	<u>The Social Order in Female Prisons</u> WP: Afterward (“The Case of the Women”) CANVAS Video: <i>Mothers of Bedford</i> (96 mins) HW9
UNIT 3: REGULATING (EXTREME) PRISON CONDITIONS		
10	R 10/25	<u>Prisoners’ Rights: Overview</u> CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “California Murder Convict Becomes First U.S. Inmate to Have State-Funded Sex Reassignment Surgery” (AP / L.A. Times) • “California’s Transgender Inmates Could Soon Be Allowed Bras, Cosmetics” (AP / CBSNews) In Class: CE8
11	T 10/30	<u>Prisoners’ Rights in the Era of Mass Incarceration</u> MIOT: Intro CANVAS Video: <i>Overcrowded: The Messy Politics of California’s Prison Crisis</i> (10 mins) Due: HW10
	R 11/1	<u>Solitary Confinement & Control Units: Overview</u> WP: Ch. 5 CANVAS Video: <i>Frontline: Solitary Nation</i> (53 mins) In Class: CE9
12	T 11/6	<u>Solitary Confinement & Control Units: History</u> <i>Guest Speaker: Keramet Reiter</i> In Class: CE10
	R 11/8	<u>Solitary Confinement & Control Units: <i>Madrid v. Gomez</i></u> MIOT: Ch. 2 CANVAS Reading: “Psychiatric Effects of Long Term Solitary Confinement” (Grassian) Due: HW11
13	T 11/13	<u>Chronic Overcrowding & Health Deterioration: <i>Coleman v. Wilson & Plata v. Davis</i></u> MIOT: Chs. 3&4 Due: HW12
	R 11/15	<u>Chronic Overcrowding & Health Deterioration: <i>Coleman-Plata v. Schwarzenegger</i></u> MIOT: Ch. 5 & 6 CANVAS Website: “Public Safety Realignment” In Class: CE11

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	T 11/20	SAN QUENTIN STATE PRISON TOUR – NO LECTURE Due: HW13
	R 11/22	THANKSGIVING – NO LECTURE
UNIT 4: DECARCERATION, REHABILITATION, AND RE-ENTRY		
15	T 11/27	<u>Decarceration</u> CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Prop 47 Press Release” (Public Policy Institute of California) CANVAS Video: “The Impact of Proposition 47 on Crime and Recidivism” (76 mins) DUE: HW14
	R 11/29	<u>Alternative Prison Designs</u> CANVAS Website: “Why Scandinavian Prisons are Superior” (Larson) CANVAS Video: “The Norden – Nordic Prisons” (27 mins) In Class: CE12
16	T 12/4	<u>Rehabilitation & Re-Entry</u> CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “New Law Puts Most of S.F. Off-Limits to Sex Parolees” (Matier) • “Jessica’s Law Sex Offender Buffer Zone Struck Down” (Egelko) CANVAS Websites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Questions Regarding Sentencing, Incarceration, & Parole of Offenders” • “Life Parole Process” WP: Ch. 7 Due: HW15 <i>Guest Speaker: Andre Serita</i>
	R 12/6	<u>Course Wrap-Up: Prisons & Crime</u> MIOT: Ch. 7 WP: Ch. 8 In Class: CE13
Final	R 12/13	FINAL EXAM & FINAL PAPER Final Exam 12:15 – 2:30pm Final Paper Due