

San José State University
CASA/Justice Studies Department
JS 189-5 (29781), Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems, Spring 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Sang Hea Kil, PhD
Office Location:	MQH 512
Telephone:	(415) 390-6523 (but email is the best way to reach me)
Email:	sang.kil@sjsu.edu M, W 9am-12pm; T, Th 9am-11am; F 11.30-1.30. No weekends and no holidays. Please be aware of my emails hours, as it will affect when I can respond.
Office Hours:	Office hours are: T 1.45-2.45 pm (in-person at MHQ 512) and W 12-1 pm (by phone appointment only). Use the link below to sign up for office hour appointments. Please cancel if you do not intend to show up for office hours. http://www.sjsu.edu/people/sang.kil/
Class Days/Time/Classroom:	TuTh 3:00PM - 4:15PM, Sweeney Hall 315 Canvas platform: http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/index.html
Prerequisites:	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.
JS Competency Area:	Area E: Analytical Research & Communication

Course Format

In-class meetings with Canvas online platform support.

Course Description

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

Section Description

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of justice concepts and controversies, including the state and media's role in perpetuating the criminalization of marginalized populations like racial minorities and undocumented people, forms of violence, human rights, and the need for social justice. We will examine three contemporary examples of racialized social problems: Critical Race Theory, Hurricane Katrina, and USA-Mexico Border and Immigration Studies.

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.

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

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO 1: Evaluate justice concepts and controversies. Students will achieve CLO1 through Writing Assignments, Lecture notes, and Quizzes.

CLO 2: Describe the media's and state's role in perpetuating injustice. Students will achieve CLO2 through Writing Assignments, Lecture Notes, and Quizzes.

CLO 3: Identification and analysis of selected topic in justice studies. Students will achieve CLO 3 through the Final Research Paper.

Required Texts/Readings

All readings are available in PDF format within Canvas under "Files".

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins

Digital Initiatives Librarian, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

Co-coordinator, SJSU Institutional Repository

Academic Library Liaison for Economics, Justice Studies, Forensic Science, & Military History

408-808-2118

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Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignments and Grading Information

Here is how the course assignments are weighted:

45% (WA) + 25% (Q) + 10% (LN) + 20% (FRP)= 100% class grade

Lecture Notes (LN)- For each reading, I will review the major concepts via blackboard collaborate within canvas. Take notes on these sessions to help you prepare for assignments. You can find notes under Blackboard

collaborate, under recordings. See detailed instructions in Canvas for this assignment.

Writing Assignments (WA)- These writings are abstracts of the reading assignments. See detailed instructions in Canvas for this assignment.

Quizzes (Q) - These quizzes test that the student has read the assignment from start to finish and understands the underlying structure of the argument as well as its finer, more critical points. See detailed instructions in Canvas for this assignment.

Final Research Paper (FRP) – This essay will serve as your final exam and culminating project for this course. See detailed instructions in Canvas for this assignment.

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final research paper will be your culminating project for the class.

Grading Policy

Assignments will be graded as described by the method below:

Grading Scale for All Assignments

A plus	97-100
A	94-96.9
A minus	90-93.9

The paper (or project) contains almost no grammatical, spelling, or typographical errors. It is outstanding in clarity, style, and organization. The depth and accuracy of the information covered are appropriate for the assignment. The style and format of the paper are appropriate for the assignment. Paper demonstrates sharp analytical ability. For quizzes, the grade scale is based on the number of questions answered correctly on a point system.

B plus	87-89.9
B	84-86.9
B minus	80-83.9

The paper (or project) contains some minor grammatical, typographical and spelling errors. For the most part, the paper is clearly written and logically organized. The topic is covered in reasonable depth and the information presented is accurate. The style and format of the paper are appropriate for the assignment. Paper demonstrates good analytical ability. For quizzes, the grade scale is based on the number of questions answered correctly on a point system.

C plus	77-79.9
C	74-76.9
C minus	70-73.9

The paper (or project) contains grammatical, typographical, or spelling errors. It could be more clearly written and logically organized. For the most part, the depth of coverage of the topic is thin and the information's accuracy is questionable. The style and format of the paper need improvement. Paper demonstrates ordinary analytical ability. For quizzes, the grade scale is based on the number of questions answered correctly on a point system.

D plus	67-69.9
D	64-66.9
D minus	60-63.9

One of these grades will be received for ANY of the following reasons, with the specific grade assigned depending on the severity of the problems. The paper contains significant or serious grammatical, typographical, or spelling errors. It is not clearly written or logically organized. The train of thought is difficult to follow. The depth of coverage of the topic is not adequate. The information presented is inaccurate. The style and/or format of the paper are not appropriate to the assignment. Project shows dull analytical ability. For quizzes, the grade scale is based on the number of questions answered correctly on a point system.

F <60

A paper or project will receive an F if two or more of the following conditions are satisfied: The paper contains significant or serious grammatical, typographical, or spelling errors; it is not clearly written or logically organized; the train of thought is difficult to follow; the depth of coverage of the topic is not adequate; the information presented is inaccurate; the style and/or format of the paper are not appropriate to the assignment. The paper will also receive an F if some or all parts of the paper have been plagiarized, as defined later in this syllabus/syllabus. For quizzes, the grade scale is based on the number of questions answered correctly on a point system.

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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

- 1) Students are required to read the feedback that I give on graded assignments. I provide feedback to help you improve on your assignments.
- 2) Late work is only accepted with a 3rd party documented excuse with signature and full contact information.
- 3) Remember, technical errors are the students' responsibility so get work done early to avoid last minute difficulties.
- 4) You must have regular and unfettered access to high-speed internet, a computer, word processing software (.doc or .docx), and software and hardware requirements that meet Canvas platform needs.

Seek me out by email or for office hour help to improve your performance in class. Please use your time wisely

to get assignments submitted on time. You can access assignments early to help you negotiate your time but deadlines are firm. Technical difficulties are the student's responsibility (e.g. personal computer glitches, poor internet connection, software compatibility, etc) unless they are beyond the student's control (CANVAS outage, CANVAS glitch, etc). **In the case that a technical difficulty occurs beyond the student's control, the student must 1) take a screen shot to document the difficulty 2) seek the help of the support desk (<http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/index.html>) and 3) inform the instructor of the issue ASAP by email.**

University Policies (Required)

[SJSU policies applicable to all courses are available here.](#)

JS 101-80 (48595), Critical Issues, Fall 2018, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice via Canvas.

SEE CANVAS CALENDAR FOR SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS