

San José State University
CASA/Justice Studies Department
JS-25, Introduction to Human Rights & Justice, Section 01, Spring Semester, 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Elizabeth Pacheco
Class Location:	MacQuarrie Hall 520
Email:	elizabeth.pacheco@sjsu.edu (all contacts for this course should occur via Canvas)
Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:00am
Class Days/Time:	Monday and Wednesday 12:00 – 12:00pm
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	D3: Social Issues

Course Description

This course is a lower division introduction to the history of human rights as a concept and body of international law, and to the complicated role of human rights in contemporary social justice campaigns.

This course gives students a basic understanding of the: events, actors and ideas that human rights emerged from; concept of human rights; a basic understanding of international human rights law and a general familiarity with common human rights instruments; the opportunity to grapple with the complicated relationship in theory and practice between human rights and social justice.

This course explores:

- The origins of contemporary conceptions of human rights and justice
- The forms and expressions of human rights in international legal instruments
- Definition of human rights defined through international law
- Critical perspectives of human rights so determine if they valid
- Relationships between international human rights and social justice, global and local, discourse and practice?
- A call to justice and “human rights” right today

Required Texts/Readings

Required Textbooks

Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Approach 2nd Edition, by Michael Freeman

Human Rights in Our Own Backyard: Injustice and Resistance in the United States, 2013, by William T. Armaline

This book is available at the King Library and electronically through the library’s website: https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=01CAL5_ALMA71390359270002901&context=L&vid=01CAL5_SJO&search_scope=EVERYTHING&tab=everything&lang=en_US

The multiple choice final exam requires a Scantron form.

Course Format

This course is taught in class using a mix of traditional lectures, both assessable and non-assessable assignments and group or team-based approach to learning. Group or team-based method facilitates much of the learning in class through students' engagement and their active participation in team or group work. The approach generally emphasizes collaboration, exchange and sharing. Still, students are expected to read and review materials, and ultimately to perform, individually. Students' work is reflected in individual submission.

All Communications Through Canvas

Programs

You need a computer and reliable internet connectivity to run Canvas and its programs. Assignments, quizzes, and/or exams require that the submission be in word-processing software (.doc or .docx), and software and hardware requirements that meet Canvas platform needs. You must also have the related software and hardware requirements to access and download readings from the SJSU, library, and related websites, including but not limited to Adobe Acrobat Reader or equivalent. Some course lessons and videos might require that you have access to media player, YouTube, and speakers.

Course Materials-

Updates and supplementary course materials - such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, readings, etc. - will frequently be posted for the course. It will be posted on either: (a) posted on Canvas and/or (b) a hyperlink link will be given on Canvas to where it can be accessed.

Canvas website is <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You must be regularly checking Canvas and the email address associated with your MySJSU account at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates. Any difficulty accessing the materials must be reported to be before the deadline.

Course Communication –

All communication with me must be sent through Canvas. My announcements will be sent to you in Canvas. Make sure Canvas has your current contact information and that you set Canvas to send you immediate notifications of updates.

If you have general questions regarding the course, policies, and schedule, post it on the course's Q&A Discussion board.

Canvas Submissions

Sometimes, you may be asked to make a submission in Canvas. I would notify you of this requirement in the instructions. If a Canvas submission is required, it will not be considered "submitted" until it is uploaded into Canvas. The submission must be completely uploaded by the due date and time.

Students are responsible for technical difficulties are your responsibility (e.g. personal computer glitches, poor internet connection, software compatibility, etc.). You must have a computer and reliable internet connectivity to run Canvas and its programs.

If a Canvas outage occurs, students must do each of: 1) take a screen shot to document the difficulty 2) submit a request to Canvas for help (keep written request of the request), and 3) immediately send me an email explaining the issue. I must receive notice of the Canvas outage before the due date and time. This course's Canvas page has information and links to Canvas guides and tutorials.

See University Policy F13-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students can:

1. GELO 1: Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, and/or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S. *Assessed through class exercises, reflection papers, assignments, and exams.*
2. GELO 2: Identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how they have influenced American culture. *Assessed through class exercises, reflection papers, assignments, and exams.*
3. GELO 3: Explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures. *Assessed through class exercises, reflection papers, assignments, and exams.*
4. GELO 4 - Apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels. *Assessed through class exercises, reflection papers, assignments, and exams.*

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students can:

1. CLO 1- Recall a general history of human rights including the significant events, actors, and ideas that gave rise to the concept of human rights.
2. CLO 2 - Recognize and access human rights instruments defining “human rights” according to international law (such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People) via online and library resources.
3. CLO 4 - Compare and contrast how “rights” and “dignity” have been defined by and for various cultures throughout the world.
4. CLO 5 - Apply a human rights discourse to analyze social problems, policies, and practices in the U.S.
5. CLO6- Compare and contrast human right approaches. This requires students to recognize the unique nuances of “Western,” “non-Western,” and indigenous concepts of fundamental right and dignity.
6. CLO8- Apply a human rights discourse to analyze social problems, policies, and practices in the US—particularly in California.

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 a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over a lifetime.

Credit Hour Requirement

SJSU classes are designed so to succeed students must spend **at least forty-five hours for each unit of credit**. This includes 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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Learning in this course is accomplished primarily through (1) class exercises, (2) reading textbook, (3) reviewing supplemental videos and materials *posted on Canvas*, and (4) assignments, quizzes and exams.

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Participation (40%)

Participation points are based on your meaningful contribution to the class exercise. This means, you must do each of: arrive on time and remain for duration of the class; come prepared for the class lesson by having with you the textbook and corresponding notes; think critically regarding the course issues; listen actively and participate in the class discussion.

You might be asked to look into or think about an issue for homework. Even though it requires no written submission, you still must come to the next class with an answer and be prepared to discuss it in class.

You will turn in a written reflection paper from the class exercise. **Student can only turn in their own paper; you cannot turn in a paper on behalf of a classmate.** Any attempt to do so will cause both students to lose points. All deadlines must be complied with. And while there is no “right” answer, the class exercise paper must have enough information to show you were thoughtful and responsive to the question asked. A pro forma (paper lacking any substance) will not earn the participation points for that session.

Merely being present in the classroom is not enough to earn participation points. You must show you are engaged and actively contributing to the class discourse that day. And you must maintain professionalism and respect to the University, the instruction, and your fellow students. Actions affect your participation score includes but is not limited to:

- Show up late to class and/or leave early.
- Cell phone use of any kind (calls, texts, emails) is strictly prohibited.
- Earphones cannot be worn in class.
- **Recording and pictures of the class is strictly prohibited.**
- **You cannot share or distribute any instructor/class material to persons outside of this class.**

Laptops are distracting. Students can use laptops only if it is necessary for note-taking. **If you must use your laptop for notetaking, you must sit in one of the first rows of the classroom.** Facebook and other social media is prohibited, and even suspected use affects your participation points.

For more info, see <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>.

2. Reflection Papers (10%)

Your reading will consist of the textbook and supplementary articles. We will not rehash the reading in class lecture. Instead, you are expected to read the articles before class. You must read them to be prepared to participate in class activities. So you are credited for doing so, you will submit a paper that reflects on the reading.

The instructions will be posted on Canvas. Your answer (doc. or docx.) must be uploaded to Canvas by the due date and time. **No late submissions are accepted; no exception** regardless of reason.

It is a credit/no-credit assignment. There is no right answer. However, since the article is tested on your final exam, you must use this opportunity to test your understanding of the article. Your answer must give enough information to show you were thoughtful and responsive to the question asked. A pro forma (paper lacking any substance) will not earn the participation points.

3. Human Rights Paper (15%) – by April 30th 10PM

Throughout the course we will be drawing on and considering perspectives on different human rights and justice issues from a range of academic disciplines. This will broaden students’ own perspectives and provide them with a depth of interest and more profound engagement with the subject. It is expected that by engaging in class exercises, completing required readings, and getting class feedback students will be prepared to write a human rights paper in such a way they are interested and excited about doing it.

The paper measures your comprehension of the course concepts by applying them to real-world examples. The assignments ask you to think critically about the course topics. You conduct brief research and write a summary (aim for approx. 3 pgs.) of what you discovered.

The instructions will be posted on Canvas. Your answer (doc. or docx.) must be uploaded to Canvas **by 4/30 at 10PM**. **No late submissions are accepted; no exception** regardless of reason.

4. Group Research Paper: Media Literacy (15%) – by May 9^h 10PM

You will be assigned a group (approx. 2-3 classmates). As a group, you will research and write a paper that examines a real-world example of our course concepts. The group turns in one submission; the grade received applies to all group members. Each group must itself divide the assignment responsibilities equitably and in a meaningful way.

The instructions will be posted on Canvas. Your answer (doc. or docx.) must be uploaded to Canvas **by 5/9 at 10PM**. **No late submissions are accepted; no exception** regardless of reason.

5. Final Exam (20%) - May 16th 9:45 am

The **in-person** final exam is multiple choice, true/false, matching, and/or fill in the blank. You need a **Scantron**. We will discuss the expectations and parameters for the final exam in class. Students are encouraged to complete and take notes on class readings and classroom activities for use on the final. The final exam will require students to recall and apply human rights discourse and instruments to analyze contemporary social problems (domestic and international). Students should expect the final to cover all significant class readings and activities and be ready to demonstrate their original and critical thinking.

You can refer to the assigned textbook and the supplementary articles, and the notes you created. No collaboration or reference to sources outside the assigned course material is allowed. **You cannot bring electronic devices into the testing site**. So if you use an electronic version of the textbook, you must create and print out your notes.

Grading Information

- **Final Grade**

The final course grade is based on the final **weighted** score out of 100 percent.

<u>Grades are based on these percentages:</u>	Category Total
Lesson Reflection Papers	10%
Participation/Preparation Assignment	40%
Group Research Paper: Media Literacy	15%
Human Rights Paper	15%
Final Exam	20%
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Total	100 %

- **Grading Scale**

The grading scale is based on **these percentages:**

A+ 100 – 97	A 96 – 91	A- 90 – 89
B+ 88 – 87	B 86 – 81	B- 80 – 79
C+ 78 – 77	C 76 – 71	C- 70 – 69
D+ 68 – 67	D 66 – 61	D- 60 – 59
F 58 or below		

“This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.”

- **Late Assignment** – Since this course is cumulative, students must be current on the lessons. So, no late submissions are accepted for points. No exception even for cause. Late means after the due date and time (even by a minute). Your paper is not considered “submitted” until it is turned in according to the instructions.
- **Grading Criteria:** The criteria includes: clarity of your writing (using proper grammar, punctuation, spelling, legibility and organization); relied upon authority and/or support (citations to the textbook and class lessons); the accuracy and comprehensiveness of your responses (defining all terms/concepts, illustrating the terms/concepts, and including all key points); and creativity of your responses (demonstrating in your own words or with your own examples you understand the terms, concepts and questions and reason critically).
- **Grading Policy:** All grades are final; no re-grading will occur. If you have a disability that might require accommodations, speak to the AEC immediately to arrange.
- **Ethical Conduct** –

Academic misconduct will occur according to University policy. Academic misconduct includes cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, violating course rules, and facilitating academic dishonesty. Violations can be unintentional or inadvertent. A violation can cause you to fail the assignment or even the course. Even a suspected violation will lead me to file an academic dishonesty report.

Ask if you are in doubt. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- presentation of another’s words or ideas as one’s own without attributing the proper source.
- copying or taking material from books, journals, or the internet.
- privately purchasing or obtaining papers from others, which one then presents as one’s own.

Any material taken word-for-word from another source must be placed in quotation marks and footnoted or cited *within the text*. Even those ideas and information from other authors that are not a direct quote must be acknowledged with a citation. **Faculty members must report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development.** Academic misconduct could cause failure for an assignment (typically a grade of zero), or for the course, or even in expulsion from the university.

For more information see, the University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 (at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf>)

requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

You cannot share or distribute any instructor/class material to persons outside of this class. Both persons involved can be subject to discipline.

- **Add and Drop:**

Students must process their adding and dropping the class by the University deadline. Check the university calendar for the last day to drop the class without a “W” grade. Students must know of the deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

More information can be found at: Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>.

Add/drop deadlines can be found on the academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Student Resources

Student Technology Resources

This course's Canvas page has information and links to Canvas guides and tutorials.

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and 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 in IRC 112. For more information on student resources see the course's module on Canvas has links and information to assist you with this.

Academic Liaison Librarian

Higgins, Silke, Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu; (408) 808-2118; <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>
You are strongly encouraged to contact Ms. Higgins for individual help with your research.

Disabilities

The winter session is on an accelerated schedule. So any student who has needs academic accommodations for a disability must contact without delay the Accessible Education Center (AEC) (at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec>) to register and get assistance. Telephone: 408-924-6000; email: aec-info@sjsu.edu. See Presidential Directive 97-03 (at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf)

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. is 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/>”

CASA Student Success Center

The Student Success Center in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA), on the 5th floor of MacQuarrie Hall, provides advising for undergraduate students majoring in or wanting to major in programs offered in CASA. All CASA students and students who would like to be in CASA are invited to stop by the Center for general education (GE) 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 (MH) 5331. Contact information: 408.924.2910. Website: The CASA Student Success Center also provides study space and laptops for checkout.