

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS128 Section 1, Punishment, Culture, Society, Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Instructor: | Dr. Louise Buckingham |
| Office Location: | MacQuarrie Hall (MH) 508 |
| Email: | Louise.Buckingham@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | Mondays/Wednesdays 13:15 – 14:00 |
| Class Days/Time: | Monday/Wednesday 10:30-11:45 am |
| Classroom: | MH 523 |
| Pre/Corequisites: | Any 100W. Note: Must achieve a grade of “C” or better to fulfil Justice Studies major requirements. |
| Units: | 3 |

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.

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.

Student Learning Objectives (SLO)

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

SLO 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.

SLO 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.

SLO 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.

SLO 4: Read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

Required Reading

David Garland, (2001), *The Culture of Control: Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago [ISBN-13: 978-0226283845; SBN-10: 9780226283845]*

*Note: Students are encouraged to review trusted news sources daily about current developments relating to punishment and culture in U.S./Californian societies in particular, and will be provided with more up to date scholarly readings in class and on Canvas from time to time to supplement this now historical account; please see recommended reading and viewing below, in addition. The required text is available (used and new) in paperback at Barnes & Noble online, and on Amazon, and has been requested in the SJSU library and bookstore.

Recommended Readings

Mary Bosworth (2010), *Explaining US Imprisonment*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Angela Y. Davis (2011), *Are Prisons Obsolete? Seven Stories Press* [ISBN-13: 978-1583225813; ISBN-10: 1583225811]

Michael Welch (2004), *Ironies of Imprisonment*. London: Sage.

Recommended Viewing

Ava DuVernay, *13th* (USA, 2016), available on Netflix (<https://www.netflix.com/title/80091741>). We may watch this during class time if access proves difficult otherwise.

Philip Zimbardo, *The Stanford Prison Experiment* (USA, 2004) (see: <https://www.prisonexp.org/>)

Required

APA (2009) *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. 6th edition.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu, (408) 808-2118, <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies> Students are strongly encouraged to contact their library liaison for individual help with their research.

Course Requirements and Assignments

In addition to the range of readings referenced above, scholarly and professional articles and reports will be provided in class from time to time. Students must bring writing materials to each class.

Details for each assignment will be discussed in class and posted on Canvas. Due dates are listed in the course schedule and subject to change with fair notice.

Though subject to change, required activities and graded assignments are likely to be as follows:

Groupwork: Class Instruction Related to Reading

Students will each be assigned two dates during which they will teach the class, in groups or pairs, depending on final class numbers, about a topic arising from the reading for the assigned day. Audience members will ask questions of teachers/presenters. Both of these tasks will contribute to class participation grades (see below).

Detailed Outline of Research Paper (10%)

Students will be required to submit a 1-2 page outline of their research paper. Additional details for this assignment will be covered in class (and on Canvas).

Research Paper (30%)

An original research paper analyzing a topic related to punishment, culture and society, and how this fits in with notions of justice, is required for this course. Students are encouraged to choose their topic based on their research interests. This is strictly an individual task. In the case that a student can't come up with a topic by the required time, the instructor will provide a 'set' question.

Papers must incorporate a minimum of 15 scholarly sources and be 15 pages long (excluding references), typed, double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font, and should comply with APA formatting. Additional details for this assignment will be provided in class and on Canvas.

Midterm ('open book', on Canvas) (20%)

A midterm examination comprised of short answer responses to questions relating to materials covered thus far in class will be conducted online (via Canvas).

Final Examination (25%)

A final examination comprised of short and long answer responses to questions covering material from throughout the semester will take place at a date to be determined by the university (to be shared in class and on Canvas as soon as the information is available).

Class Participation (15%)

Students are expected to attend and to participate in all classes, activities and online discussions. Participation grades are based on preparedness for class, including evidenced capacity to summarize set readings; contribution to discussions in class and online; non-assignment activities and group work that will be set from time to time; and questions asked of presenters. See also, 'Class Instruction Related to Reading' (this also contributes to students' participation grade).

Grading Information

We will discuss grading in class prior to every assignment. Students are encouraged to ask questions to ensure they understand expectations. Rubrics will be provided on Canvas or in class for every assignment.

Determination of Grades

Grades will be used along with substantive feedback to indicate students' performance in a variety of tasks. Exams and final grades will be calculated as a percentage on a typical "100 point scale." Missing, late, or plagiarized work will be given a grade of zero. Contact the professor early if you are having difficulty completing assignments or need accommodations for disabilities or absences for religious holidays.

The final course grade will be calculated based on the following standard scale:

98-100 A+
94-97 A
90-93 A-
88-89 B+
84-87 B
80-83 B-
78-79 C+
74-77 C
70-73 C-
68-69 D+
64-67 D
60-63 D-
<60 F

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to attend all classes and to participate in all discussions, debates and activities in class and on Canvas in a respectful and mindful manner. Specifically:

1. Students are expected to deposit/submit assignments and discussion posts to our online class on time, prepared to take part in their own and collective learning.
2. All classroom participants are expected to foster an environment that encourages participation, and that is respectful to others and their opinions.
3. Students are expected to complete graded assignments by the time indicated in this syllabus. Late assignments will not be graded.
4. Students are responsible for making up material missed in their absence on their own.

While an emergency personal or health related situation appropriately verified (for instance, a doctor's certificate in the case of illness), will be grounds for a student making up missed work or assignments without penalty, in no other circumstances will making up missed tasks be allowed. With regard to any unavoidable missed classes, it is incumbent upon students themselves to 'catch up' in terms of content and materials.

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/>

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.

JS128, Punishment, Culture, Society, Spring 2019 Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice (in class and/or via Canvas or email).

Course Schedule

| Week | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines |
|------|----------|--|
| 1 | M: 01/28 | Introductions and Expectations |
| 1 | W: 01/30 | In class writing on a current punishment 'hot topic' (https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/21/us/california-incarceration-reduction-penalties.html) |
| 2 | M: 02/04 | In class reading on a current punishment 'hot topic' |
| 2 | W: 02/06 | Required reading: Garland Ch 1 Recommended: DuVernay, 13th |
| 3 | M: 02/11 | Required reading: Garland Ch 6 Recommended: Bosworth Chs 1& 2 |
| 3 | W: 02/13 | Required reading: Garland Ch 6 Recommended: Davis, <i>Are Prisons Obsolete?</i> |
| 4 | M: 02/18 | Required reading: Garland Ch 2 Recommended: Davis, <i>Are Prisons Obsolete?</i> Detailed Outline of Research Paper due (10%) |
| 4 | W: 02/20 | Required reading: Garland Ch 2 Recommended: Davis, <i>Are Prisons Obsolete?</i> |
| 5 | M: 02/25 | In class writing on a current punishment 'hot topic' (material provided in class and on Canvas) Recommended: review readings weeks 1-5 |
| 5 | W: 02/27 | Class debate: Incarceration in California Recommended: review <i>all</i> readings weeks 1-5 |
| 6 | M: 03/04 | Required reading: Michael Welch, "Penal Tourism", available in class and here: https://content.ucpress.edu/chapters/12956.ch01.pdf ; Daily Mail, "Go inside stunning hotels" (article about contemporary prison tourism/luxe accommodation): https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel_news/article-3115323/Go-inside-stunning-hotels-PRISONS.html Recommended: Bosworth Chs Introduction, 1& 2 |
| 6 | W: 03/06 | Required reading: Garland Ch 3 Recommended: Bosworth Ch 5 |
| 7 | M: 03/11 | Required reading: Garland Ch 3 |
| 7 | W: 03/13 | Required reading: Garland Ch 4 Recommended: Bosworth Ch 6 |
| 8 | M: 03/18 | Required reading: Garland Ch 4 Recommended: Bosworth Chs 7&8 |
| 8 | W: 03/20 | Required reading: Garland Ch 8 |

| Week | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines |
|------|------------------|---|
| | | Recommended: Bosworth Chs 7&8 |
| 9 | M: 03/25 | CLASS ONLINE: Midterm ('open book', on Canvas) (20%) |
| 9 | W: 03/27 | In class writing on a current punishment 'hot topic' (material provided in class) Recommended: <i>Zimbardo, The Stanford Prison Experiment</i> |
| 10 | 04/01 & 04/03 | Spring Recess NO CLASSES |
| 11 | M: 04/08 | Required reading: Garland Ch 8 Recommended: Bosworth Conclusions; Davis, <i>Are Prisons Obsolete?</i> |
| 11 | W: 04/10 | Required reading: Garland Ch 8 Recommended: Bosworth Conclusions; Davis, <i>Are Prisons Obsolete?</i> |
| 12 | M: 04/15 | Required reading: Garland Ch 7 Recommended: Bosworth Conclusions; Davis, <i>Are Prisons Obsolete?</i> |
| 12 | W: 04/17 | Required reading: Garland Ch 7 Recommended: Bosworth Conclusions; Davis, <i>Are Prisons Obsolete?</i> |
| 13 | M: 04/22 | Required reading: Garland Ch 5 Recommended: review readings weeks 5-13 |
| 13 | W: 04/24 | Required reading: Garland Ch 5 Recommended: review readings weeks 5-13 Research Paper due (30%) |
| 14 | M: 04/29 | Required reading: Provided in class (and Canvas) Recommended: DuVernay, 13th |
| 14 | W: 05/01 | Required reading: Provided in class (and Canvas) Recommended: DuVernay, 13th |
| 15 | M: 05/06 | Review overall and: In class discussion on a current punishment 'hot topic' (material provided in class) |
| 15 | W: 05/08 | Review overall and: In class discussion on a current punishment 'hot topic' (material provided in class) |
| 16 | M: 05/13 | Last day of Instruction for Spring Final Examination date reminder – TBD (25%) |