

**San José State University**  
**Justice Studies Department**  
**JS156, Gangs, Criminal Syndicates & Justice 01, Fall 2020**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Virginia Montelongo, M.S.
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Online Only: ZOOM: Monday, 8:00 AM- 9:00AM or by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Online, asynchronous
<b>Classroom:</b>	Online
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Students must have passed the Writing Skills Test (WST), have upper division standing (56 units), and have completed their CORE GE classes. Successful completion in 100W is high recommended.
<b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b>	JS156 counts as a (D) in the Core Competency Area of (A-F) in the Justice Study Major.

**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 Format:

This is a fully online, asynchronous course. All instruction will take place online, with no physical in-person or on-campus meetings or in-person activities required. Students will need a computer and reliable internet access with the bandwidth to stream YouTube videos and to complete online assignments. Access to reliable internet is the responsibility of the student. Students will need to be comfortable with Canvas Learning Management System course [login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. All assignment submissions must be submitted in Canvas in the appropriate assignment. Assignments sent as email attachments will not be accepted as submitted. All communication will be sent through Canvas, either as announcements or emails. Students are responsible for regularly checking, and are encouraged to stay up-to-date, with class communication.

Embedded in Canvas is **Turnitin.com**, which generates an originality report. Each originality report is reviewed to evaluate for plagiarism. To ensure processing, students are required to submit assignments as Word documents (.docx). Other formats are not able to be consistently and reliably processed by Turnitin.com, an integrated component of Canvas. Students using Google docs or Pages will need to save documents in the .docx format. Failure to comply with this formatting requirement could result in late point deductions or a zero if the assignment is not able to be opened and fully processed for originality. Documents that cannot be processed through turnitin.com cannot be graded.

A fully online asynchronous course allows students to express their thoughts on the related topics via discussions, which is read, shared, and commented on by all students. All students are to become familiar with Netiquette, which provides detailed information on how to communicate effectively and respectfully online. More information can be found on the internet under ["10 Netiquette Guidelines Online Students Need to Know."](#)

## Course Description

A socio/historical examination of the emergence, evolution, persistence, activities and social structure of gangs and mobs, the effects of social factor, e.g., politics, law, technology and the economy, and consequences for communities and social institutions.

**Prerequisite:** Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.

Note: Course must be passed with a "C" or better as an SJSU graduation requirements.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

After successfully completing the course, students shall be able to:

- CLO 1. Identify the development and current situation of gangs in American society.
- CLO 2. Understand and explain theories of gang and criminal syndicates.
- CLO 3. Identify and write about policies addressing gang prevention and treatment.
- CLO 4. Make critical assessments of and draw logical conclusions about the influence of socioeconomic factors and political climate on gangs and criminal syndicates.

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbook

1. Howell, James, & Griffiths, Elizabeth, (2019) **Gangs in America's Communities-** 3rd Edition: Sage Publishing ISBN : 9781544300221 Can be purchased from Sage Publishing, and/or Amazon
2. English, T.J., **Born to Kill “ The Rise and Fall of America’s Bloodiest Asian Gang** (1995). ISBN #978-0-06-178238-1

### Other Readings

Additional articles and readings to enhance material covered in the chapter. These are subject to change with notice via instructor. Please note, the readings are TBA and will be assigned with due notice.

### Recommended Readings (not required).

1. American Psychological Association (APA) (2012) Publication Manual of the APA. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition  
a. Any APA reference guide (published since 2005) is acceptable. These are available at any bookstore or at [www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org) Also, APA 6th Edition can be found on Purdue Online Writing Lab (Owl). The APA 6th Edition (General APA Format) will be followed in grading critical thinking assignments.

### Technology Requirement / material requirements

Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone. SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students.

<https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php>

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during tests. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible or at the latest one week before the test date to determine an alternative. See Learn Anywhere website for current Wi-Fi options on campus.

Students will need dependable access to a computer and the internet. Students will need to be familiar with software associated with Canvas LMS™. Students need to be able to submit papers in standard work process format. For more information on how to use Canvas: Log on to Welcome to Canvas of San Jose State University ([sjsu.instructure.com](http://sjsu.instructure.com)) or Guides i Canvas LMS Community ([Community.canvas/ms.com](http://Community.canvas/ms.com)).

### Recording Zoom classes

This course or portions of this course ( i.e., lectures, discussions, student presentations) will be recorded for instructional or educational purposes. The recordings will only be shared with students enrolled in the class through Canvas. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the semester. If, however, you would prefer to remain anonymous during these recordings, then please speak with the instructor about possible accommodations (e.g., temporarily turning off identifying information from the Zoom session, including student name and picture, prior to recording).

### Students are not allowed to record without instructor permission

Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Material created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S12-7) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistance technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

### **Technical difficulties**

#### Internet connection issues:

Canvas autosaves responses a few times per minute as long as there is an internet connection. If your internet connection is lost, Canvas will warn you but allow you to continue working on your exam. A brief loss of internet connection is unlikely to cause you to lose your work. However, a longer loss of connectivity or weak/unstable connection may jeopardize your exam.

#### Other technical difficulties

Immediately email the instructor a current copy of the state of your exam and explain the problem you are facing. Your instructor may not be able to respond immediately or provide technical support. However, the copy of your exam will provide a record of the situation.

Contact the SJSU technical support for Canvas

Email: [ecampus@sjsu.edu](mailto:ecampus@sjsu.edu)

Phone: (408)924-2337

<https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/support/>

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Students who are suspected of cheating during an exam or on any assignment will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office and depending on the severity of the conduct, will receive a zero on the assignment or a grade of F in the course. Grade Forgiveness does not apply to courses for which the original grade was the result of a finding of academic dishonesty.

### **Library Liaison**

Silke Higgins, [silke.higgins@sjsu.edu](mailto: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 Syllabus Policy S16-9 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>

	Assignments/Activity	Due Date	Weight	Corresponding CLO
Papers	Equally weighted		35%	1, 2, 3
	Contemporary Issues Research Paper ( 20%)	9/21/2020		1, 2, 3
	PowerPoint Project Transnational Crim. Syndicate : 15%	10-19-2020		1, 2, 3
Exams	Equally weighted		35%	1 – 3
	(6)Quizzes (10%)	See Course Schedule		1, 2, 3
	<b>Final</b> (25%)	Thursday 12/10/2020 5:15 PM -7:30PM		
Participation	Discussions Assignments	See course Schedule:	30%	1, 2, 3
	Virtual Community Project (12%)	11/16/2020		1, 2, 3

### Grading Information

The class assignments will have a point total that will be included in the instructions for the activity or assignment, including due dates and late policies. Some assignments, such as discussions and quizzes will close at the deadline with no options for late submissions. Students failing to complete their assignments by these deadlines will receive a zero.

Students are evaluated based on Papers, Exams, and Participation. Point totals can be tracked in the grades tab in Canvas. The letter grades described below will be assigned based on the percent of the total points. Papers are graded on a rubric, which can clarify for students how to approach their assignments (included with assignment).

Discussions and quizzes will close at the due date and time. Students failing to complete their assignments or activity by the due date, will receive a zero. \*Quizzes will be scheduled for a certain time and date only.

Make-ups are not available except under extenuating circumstances where documentation can be provided.

### **Extra Credit**

There will be only one opportunity for Extra Credit worth 8 points. This opportunity will take place on August 26, 2020.

### **Papers (35%)**

Papers make up 35% of the student's grade. Two written assignments are required during the semester. Each assignment involves library research analysis of assigned topic, integration of information covered in the course culminating in a well-written six to eight (6-8) page paper.

All papers must be submitted to Canvas™ on or before the due date. Assignments are to be submitted via CANVAS with the following format: Word documents (.docx). If an assignment cannot be opened by the instructor-it will be considered late. Please familiarize yourself with CANVAS and note the due date. Late papers will be docked 4 points for the first day late and 1 point for each day after (including weekends and holidays). Papers more than two weeks late will not be accepted without prior approval.

Both papers require literature review (i.e. library research) and proper APA 6<sup>th</sup> Edition format and citation. Students are expected to be able to write at an upper division level. Students are strongly encouraged to use the San Jose State University Writing Lab if they feel that their writing ability and/or understanding of APA style may impact their performance on these papers. [www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/writing/](http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/writing/) Please review Purdue OWL on the internet. This website provides information about APA 6<sup>th</sup> Edition formatting, citations and referencing. [owl.purdue.edu/owl](http://owl.purdue.edu/owl)

Two writing assignments require students to demonstrate their understanding of the course content learning outcomes (CLO'S) 1-4. Other experiences that develop mastery of the outcomes include group discussions, exercises analyzing case vignettes, documentary film reviews, and a virtual observation in either a law enforcement agency, FBI, CIA, or ATF to gain an understanding of how law enforcement responds to gangs, and criminal syndicates.

#### **ASSIGNMENT No. 1: Contemporary Issues (CI) Research Paper**

Students will read the book, English, T.J. (1995) **The Rise and Fall of America's Bloodiest Asian Gang "Born to Kill."**

**ASSIGNMENT No. 2: PowerPoint Presentation (PPP)** Each student must select a member of a gang, or criminal syndicate ( religious, business, media, corporation, white collar). Assignment details TBA.

## Examinations (35%)

### Quizzes

Six quizzes will be assigned and must be completed by the **designated due date and time**. Students are encouraged to take all quizzes as a way to stay current with course material throughout the course and receive feedback on comprehension of key concepts. Please plan and prepare for each quiz. See the course schedule for quiz dates.

### Final Exam

A cumulative final exam will be given on the assigned final exam day. The exam will be cumulative and will cover content from assigned readings and lecture material. A recap of material will be available to all students prior to the Final. The cumulative score of the quizzes and the final will make up **35%** of the student's grade. More details can be found in University Policy S06-4 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>)

## Participation (30%)

- 1. Online class exercises:** Graded exercises (discussions, assignments, etc.) will be used to facilitate student dialogue, an important process for learning and the integration of complex social issues. Exercises to be held random according to textbook material. Please pay close attention to deadlines included in the syllabus. This is done to facilitate discussion among students. A class announcement will be made once class exercises are available. Students are responsible to keep updated on all course material and instructions. Grading rubric will be provided.
- 2. Virtual Community Project (CP)** regarding services provided for individuals with involvement past or present in gangs.

### Grades are calculated based upon the scale below:

98.0 - 100% = A+	78.0 - 79.9% = C+
93.0 - 97.9% = A	73.0 - 77.9% = C
90.0 - 92.9% = A-	70.0 - 72.9% = C-
88.0 - 89.9% = B+	68.0 - 69.9% = D+
83.0 - 87.9% = B	63.0 - 67.9% = D
80.0 - 82.9% = B-	60.0 - 62.9% = D-
	00.0 - 59.9% = F

NOTE : University policy F-15-12 (at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F-15-12.pdf>) states that, "Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the students. Participation may be used as a criterion for grading when the parameters and their evaluation are clearly defined in the course syllabus and the percentage of the overall grade is stated."

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.**

As a note of caution; the content of this course can raise sensitive issues. Given this, students should express and conduct themselves with the utmost respect and awareness of the potential impact on others based on statements written or views expressed. Students are to become familiar with Netiquette. More information can be found on the internet under “[10 Netiquette Guidelines Online Students Need to Know.](#)”

It is expected students will keep up with the course and its deadlines by checking for updates, new material and due dates on a regular basis, and by completing lectures and activities each week. All students can track their grade progress via CANVAS.

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy (Academic Senate Policy S07-2), require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all alleged violations of the Academic Integrity Policy to Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a [insert Academic Sanction you choose from section 4.0] and administrative sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified.

### **University Policies**

Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs maintain university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accomplishments, etc. You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP's Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

## JS 156: Gangs, Criminal Syndicates & Justice 2020, Fall Online Course Schedule

The following is an agenda for the semester including topics, readings, assignments, activities and the final exam. This course schedule provides a general plan that is subject to change with fair notice.

**Course Schedule: Schedule subject to changed should instructor deem necessary.**

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Wednesday, August 19,	<b>Module 0 ( Week 1)</b> <b>Course Overview</b> Instructor introduction Introduction to Gang, Criminal Syndicate and Justice Syllabus and Course Overview Introduction to use of Canvas in JS156 (Online) Review Ted Talk: TBA 1 <sup>st</sup> Assignment: Due 9/21/2020
2	8/24/2020  8/26/2020	<b>Module 1: (Weeks 2-3)</b> Discussion Assignment/Activity: Ted Talk ( 8/19)  <b>Reading Textbook:</b> Chapter 1: History of Gangs in the United States Discussion Assignment
3	8/31/2020  9/2/2020	Discussion Assignment <b>QUIZ (1)</b> Chapter 1  <b>Assignment/Activity:</b> Reading article:TBA Discussion Assignment

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
4	9/7/2020  9/9/2020	<p><b>Module 2:</b> (Weeks 4-5)  <b>Reading Textbook:</b> Chapter 2: Myths and Realities of Youth Gangs  Reading Article: TBA  Discussion  Assignment</p> <p><b>Assignment Activity</b> Discussion on Reading article (9/7/20)  Discussion</p>
5	9/14/2020  9/16/2020	<p><b>Reading Textbook :</b> Chapter 3: Defining Gangs and Gang Members  <b>QUIZ (2)</b> Chapters 2-3</p> <p>Reading article: TBA  <b>Virtual Guest Speaker:</b> TBA  1<sup>st</sup> Assignment Due</p>
6	9/21/2020  9/23/2020	<p><b>Module 3:</b> (Weeks 6-7)  Discussion on 1<sup>st</sup> Assignment  1<sup>st</sup> Assignment Due</p> <p>Group Activity: TBA  Reflection writing</p>
7	9/28/2020  9/30/2020	<p><b>Reading Textbook:</b> Chapter 4: General Macro-Level Theories and Modern-Day Applications  <b>QUIZ (3)</b> Chapter 4</p> <p><b>Assignment/Activity:</b> Discussion on Theories</p>
8	10/5/2020  10/7/2020	<p><b>Module 4:</b> (Weeks 8-9)  <b>Reading Textbook:</b> Chapter 5: Micro-Level Theories  Discussion</p> <p>Documentary : TBA  Assignment on Documentary</p>
9	10/12/2020  10/14/2020	<p><b>Reading Textbook:</b> Chapter 6 : Girls and Gangs  <b>Quiz (4)</b> chapters 5 and 6  Assignment: TBA</p> <p>YouTube Documentary  Discussion</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Assignment
10	10/19/2020	<b>Module 5:</b> (Weeks 10-11) <b>Assignment #2:</b> PowerPoint Presentations- Due Discussion
	10/21/2020	PowerPoint Presentations: Assignment #2 Due Pass out Virtual Community Project: Due 11/16/20
11	10/26/2020	<b>Reading Textbook :</b> Chapter 7: National Gang Problem Trends: 1996 to 2012 Discussion Assignment
	10/28/2020	Documentary: TBA Group Discussion Assignment
12	11/2/2020	<b>Module 6:</b> (Weeks 12-13) <b>Reading Textbook:</b> Chapter 8: Urban Gangs and Violence Discussion Assignment
	11/4/2020	<b>Virtual Guest Speaker:</b> TBD Case Study: TBA Discussion Assignment <b>QUIZ (5)</b> Chapters 7 and 8
13	11/9/2020	<b>Reading Textbook:</b> Chapter 9: What Works: Prevention Discussion Assignment
	11/11/2020	<b>Assignment/Activity:</b> Reading Article: TBA Discussion

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	11/16/2020  11/18/2020	<p><b>Module 7:</b> (Weeks 14- 15 ) Virtual Community Project Due Discussion Assignment <b>Quiz (6)</b></p> <p><b>Reading Textbook:</b> Chapter 10: What Works: Intervention and Suppression Discussion TedTalk: TBA Reading Article Assignment</p>
15	11/23/2020 11/25/2020	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>
16	11/30/2020  12/2/2020	<p><b>Module 8:</b> (Weeks 16-17-18) Reading Article: TBA Discussion Assignment</p> <p>Reflection on critical thinking article: TBA Discussion</p>
17	12/7/2020	Recap on material for Final <b>Last Day of Class</b>
18	12/10/2020 <b>Thursday</b>	<p><b>Final Exam -Time Specific</b> (Chapters 7-10 and Handouts). 5:15PM to 7:30PM.</p> <p>*If you have conflict (documented and substantiated in a timely manner) with the Final schedule, let me know at least a month in advance for consideration to be scheduled to take the Make-up Final on Wednesday 12/16/2020.</p>