

San José State University
School/Department
JS189, Senior Seminar, Section 03, Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Judith Randle, J.D. Ph.D.
Office Location:	MH 508
Telephone:	(408) (924-8126)
Email:	judith.randle@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	T/R 2:45 – 3:30pm
Class Days/Time:	T/R 1:30 – 2:45pm
Classroom:	MH 322
Prerequisites:	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.

Course Description

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

Course Format

The mode of instruction for this course is in person with online supplements. All written assignments will be submitted via Canvas, and must be in Microsoft Word (*.doc or *.docx). If you do not currently own Microsoft Word, the software (both PC and Mac) is available for free to students: <http://its.sjsu.edu/services/software/microsoft-students/index.html>. Copies of course materials will be posted on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking your e-mail and Canvas regarding announcements, reminders, and any additional course materials.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to [CLO1-5] :

1. Demonstrate their ability to complete a formal research paper that (a) synthesizes relevant scholarly sources; (b) reflects professional formatting and writing standards (APA format); (c) addresses relevant policy needs (such as necessary reforms) to solving tangible social problems; (d) somehow contributes to our collective understanding of concepts and approaches to "justice," however defined (social justice, criminal justice, community justice, and so forth).

2. Demonstrate their ability to present scholarly work to an audience of their peers.
3. Demonstrate a working understanding of "evidence-based" approaches to social problems and public policy. As a culminating skill set in our program, students should demonstrate their ability to apply social scientific (and otherwise rational) forms of reasoning, argumentation, research, and support in forming any particular worldview or position in the pursuit of "justice" and addressing social problems in our communities/societies.
4. Demonstrate their ability to undertake a critical analysis of a contemporary problems relevant to justice studies.
5. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level that appropriately reflects the cumulating experience of their justice studies major.

Required Texts/Readings

Readings Posted on CANVAS

There is no required textbook for this course. Instead, you will be assigned weekly readings by the instructor and by your fellow students.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Reliable access to a computer and the internet will be required. The majority of course materials will be posted in Adobe PDF format; if you choose to download them, you will need Adobe Reader to view the documents. There is no cost to download Adobe Reader (<http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>). Some course materials may need to be accessed via the internet (i.e., web sites).

Library Liaison

LiaisonNyle.Monday@sjsu.edu

<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

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.

Course Requirements and Assignments

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

“Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

Out-of-Class Written Assignments

General formatting requirements for written assignments include a cover page, page numbering, 1” margins, strict double-spacing, and Times New Roman 12pt. font. All assignments must be written in formal English, with college-level writing mechanics, and APA-style formatting, inclusive of in-text citations and references. Out-of-class written assignments must be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Topical Presentation, Assignment, and Discussion Lead

Each student will be responsible for “running class” for one class period or one portion of the class period. The student has three responsibilities [CLO 2-5]

- 1) A 30-minute oral presentation in class containing a) a visual component and b) discussion questions (60 mins if done in a pair or 75 mins if done in a group of three). While the professor may help moderate, students are responsible for moderating and leading the discussion. (30 points)
 - 2) Assign a minimum of two relevant readings, including at least one news article and one scholarly article. (20 points)
 - 3) Create an in-class exercise, homework assignment, or quiz for students to complete. (10 points)
- Students must select their topic by Feb 9 and will receive 5 points for doing so.

Student-Created Assignments

Students who are not presenting must complete the assignment or quiz created by the student presenter(s). Each assignment is worth approximately 10 points.

Policy Paper

Each student will write a 20-page policy paper (not including the cover page or references) analyzing a justice-related topic as a requirement for this course. Students can choose their topic based on their own research interests, but the topic must be communicated with the instructor through the submission of Topic Materials (see course schedule). No paper will be accepted without previous communication and approval. Approval of a topic will be dependent on thorough preparation of your Topic Materials (see details regarding Topic Materials to follow). The purpose of the paper is not just to specifically test knowledge, but to also force critical thinking about an aspect of a chosen topic.

Students may not write on a topic that has been used for previous course, or currently being used for another course. Any attempt to violate this requirement will result in an automatic “F” for the paper, which ultimately will result in failing the course. Such an attempt would constitute a violation of the Academic Integrity policy. This paper will include a review of scholarly literature on an approved topic. Students will be required to not only analyze and critique existing policies, but propose new or amended policies. The research reviewed must come from high quality justice-related journals, which establish and examine relationships between and among variables, concepts, theories, and policies. Based on the evidence reviewed, policy implications will be drawn. A handout detailing the expectations, content, formatting, and submission requirements will be provided in a timely manner. [CLO 1, 3-5]

The paper must include the following:

1. Introduction: Description of the specific topic, importance of the topic, and thesis
2. Literature Review: Relatively concise coverage of your literature review

3. Policy Critique and Implications: A critique of current policies, based upon the literature, in terms of the implications of their effectiveness/ineffectiveness, and suggestions about alternative policies. This critique should pull upon findings in the literature to support the presenter's point of view.
 - The research paper proposal is worth 5 points.
 - The annotated bibliography is worth 10 points.
 - The outline is worth 5 points.
 - The draft is worth 10 points.
 - Attendance and participation at the writing workshops are worth 5 points each period.
 - The final draft is worth 60 points.

On-Call Discussion Questions and In-Class Exercises

Between Jan 29 – Feb 21 there will be multiple graded assignments distributed and completed in class. They may include, for example, oral questions, pop quizzes, written responses, and charts to complete.

Grading Information

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>98 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 97%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>87 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 86%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>77 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 76%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>67 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 66%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to: attend all class meetings, arrive on time, stay for the duration of the class period, complete all readings and assignments in accordance with the dates on the course schedule.

Students are responsible for all missed notes, materials and announcements due to absence. You are encouraged to exchange contact information with someone in class just in case.

As neither a laptop nor tablet is required for the course, use of them is strictly limited to note taking or accommodation purposes. Students caught using such items for other non-class purposes may be prohibited from bringing them back to class, and will likely be dismissed from class for the day. At the instructor's discretion, students may be dismissed from class for cell phone use of any kind during class time, unless expressly permitted by the instructor.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

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Course Schedule

*All Student Presentation readings and assignments TBD

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Deadlines
1	(Date) Jan 23	Introduction to the Course
2	Jan 28	Overview of Major Themes and Controversies: Lawmaking Readings: “Thinking About Criminal Justice Policy: Process, Players, and Politics” (Ismaili)
2	Jan 30	Overview of Major Themes and Controversies: Law Enforcement Readings: “The Significance of Race in Contemporary Urban Policing Policy” (Jones-Brown et al)
3	Feb 4	Overview of Major Themes and Controversies: Adjudication Readings: “Procedural Fairness, Criminal Justice Policy, and the Courts” (Rottman)
3	Feb 6	Overview of Major Themes and Controversies: Responses Readings: “U.S. Corrections Policy Since the 1970s” (Barkan) Due: Select Presentation Topic (Feb 9)
4	Feb 11	Skills Review: Legal analysis, research, and writing <i>Presentation Topics Assigned</i>
4	Feb 13	Skills Review: Legal analysis, research, and writing
5	Feb 18	Skills Review: Policy analysis, research, and writing
5	Feb 20	Skills Review: Policy analysis, research, and writing Due: Research Paper Proposal
6	Feb 25	Student Presentations: Lawmaking <i>Research Paper Proposal Returned with Professor Feedback</i>
6	Feb 27	Student Presentations: Lawmaking
7	Mar 3	Student Presentations: Lawmaking
7	Mar 5	Student Presentations: Lawmaking
8	Mar 10 & 12	**Self-Study – Work on Research Paper – No Lecture**
9	Mar 17	Student Presentations: Law Enforcement Due: Annotated Bibliography with minimum of 10 sources
9	Mar 19	Student Presentations: Law Enforcement
10	Mar 24	Student Presentations: Law Enforcement
10	Mar 26	Student Presentations: Law Enforcement <i>Annotated Bibliography Returned with Professor Feedback</i>
11	Mar 31 & Apr 2	

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Deadlines
12	Apr 7	Student Presentations: Adjudication
12	Apr 9	Student Presentations: Adjudication Due: Research Paper Outline
13	Apr 14	Student Presentations: Adjudication <i>Research Paper Outline Returned with Professor Feedback</i>
13	Apr 16	Student Presentations: Adjudication
14	Apr 21	Student Presentations: Responses
14	Apr 23	Student Presentations: Responses
15	Apr 28	Student Presentations: Responses Due: Research Paper Draft
15	Apr 30	Student Presentations: Responses
16	May 5	Writing Workshop <i>Research Paper Draft Returned with Professor Feedback</i>
16	May 7	Writing Workshop
Final Exam	May 19	Research Paper Due online by 2:30pm