

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 201 Seminar in Justice and Social Theory, Section 01, Fall 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dina M. Kameda, M.S., M.A.
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Email:	dina.kameda@sjsu.edu (best method of contact)
Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM or by appointment via Zoom (see Canvas course page)
Class Days/Time:	Thursdays, 4:30 PM - 7:15 PM
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall 526
Units/GWAR:	3 units This course satisfies graduate-level GWAR in this master’s program.

Course Format

The mode of instruction for this course is in-person. Reliable access to a computer and the internet will be required. 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://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/collaboration/software/instructions.php>

Canvas Course Page and E-mail

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. 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://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/students/index.html>). Some course materials may need to be accessed via the internet (i.e., web sites).

E-mail Policy

Feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check several times per day); however, please adhere to the e-mail guidelines below:

1. Please include in the “subject line” the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS201, Your Name, subject). The instructor **will not** respond to “**no subject**” e-mails, or any e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.
2. E-mailed inquiries should be relatively short in nature. Students should utilize office hours to discuss more extensive inquiries. Students will be referred to the course syllabus with respect to questions that are addressed by simply reading the syllabus.

Course Description

Examines classic and contemporary theories of justice, including legal, social, economic and criminal justice and their application to current social issues. This course satisfies graduate-level GWAR in this master's program. JS-201 is a 3-unit course.

Please note: required courses in the graduate program (JS-201; JS-202; JS-203; JS-204; JS-207) must be completed with a grade point average of 3.0 ("B") or better.

Course Overview

This seminar provides a critical reconstruction of some recent transformations of punishment and social control in the United States. Since the mid-1970s, a long cycle of "domestic wars" (i.e., war on drugs, war on crime, war on welfare) has reshaped North-American society, turning the United States into one of the world's most punitive countries. Furthermore, this "punitive turn"—exemplified by mass-incarceration, draconian drug-laws, the resurgence of the death penalty, harsh anti-immigration laws, and increasingly punitive welfare policies—has contributed to deepen social inequalities along the lines of race, class, nationality, and gender. The seminar will analyze these developments from a broad range of scholarly perspectives and methodological approaches within the field of punishment & society studies. Throughout the seminar students will be exposed to theoretical critiques of the US penal field, as well as to ethnographic and documentary narratives of the "underworlds" targeted by the new punitiveness.

Course Objectives

The main objective of this seminar is to help students develop a scholarly grounded critical understanding of the inner contradictions of punitive penal policies in the United States. In order to achieve this objective, students will be encouraged to observe the consequences of the American punitive turn particularly from the point of view of the communities and social groups most affected by the penal state. This is an interactive seminar based on intensive reading and discussion. Although the instructor will introduce and illustrate the main issues and topics in order to facilitate the debate, the success of this learning experience is heavily dependent on the students' active participation to the seminar. Therefore, all participants should come to class having done the assigned readings—a necessary condition for a productive and meaningful participation.

Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to [SLO 1-5]:

1. Identify, distinguish, and analyze the various types of theories introduced in class. [RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: IN-CLASS EXAM]
2. Demonstrate the ability to apply theory to contemporary social issues. [RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: JUSTICE AND SOCIAL POLICY VIDEO PRESENTATION]
3. Critically contribute to class discussion with curiosity, interest, and a desire to understand more about theories of justice and their impact on society. [RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: IN-CLASS PRESENTATION]
4. Complete a research paper that applies theoretical concepts, analyzes current literature that relates to the topic, applies APA 6th ed. citation formats, and offers directions for future research based on a comprehensive understanding of the research topic. [RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: POLICY PAPER]
5. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level. [RELEVANT ASSIGNMENTS: IN-CLASS EXAM/POLICY PAPER/IN-CLASS PRESENTATION]

Classroom Protocol

Attendance: According to University policy F69-24 “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading”. Attendance is taken at each class meeting using sign-in sheets.

Etiquette: While in class please turn your cell phone off. If your laptop has wireless access you may use it to access information relevant to the discussion, but please do not read emails, newspapers or other non-class related material during class. Students are encouraged to speak up with questions and comments, and to respond to points raised by other students. However, the maintenance of an effective discussion space in class requires all of us to act with respect for everyone else in the room.

Required Texts/Readings

Required Readings

1. JS-201 Reader, available electronically on Canvas
2. Any other readings distributed in class or in electronic format.

Library Liaison

Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu

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

Course Requirements and Assignments

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.

Students are 100% responsible for uploading the correct file when submitting an assignment. Failure to upload the correct file will result in a zero for the assignment.

In-Class Presentations and Debate (max of 20 points/ 20% of course grade)

For specified weeks, two students will give in-class presentations based on the relevant reading(s) for that week, and coordinate the debate. In their presentations, students are required to summarize the reading, but also to provide some meaningful critique of its arguments, and to introduce a minimum of three questions to be debated in class. At the end of each presentation there will be a debate moderated by student with the support of the instructor. Presenting students will be graded both on their presentations and on their contribution to the ensuing debate.

In-Class Exam (max of 30 points/ 30% of course grade)

This exam will be completed during class time, and will consist of 3 questions about any of the readings discussed in class. Each question will receive a grade ranging between 0 and 10 (for a maximum of 30 points). The test is scheduled to take place on **10/13/22** during class time (4:30 pm - 7:15 pm).

PLEASE NOTE: The exam will be submitted as a Word document on Canvas.

Paper Preparation Materials (PPM)

The following are required materials you will be submitting via Canvas (see course schedule for date). **Your policy paper will not be accepted unless you have successfully submitted your PPM, and received instructor approval.** PPM will not be graded; however, feedback will be provided.

1. A specific topic/delimited title (i.e., have a specific focus in mind).
2. A properly formatted (APA style) annotated bibliography for your required sources.
3. A detailed type-written outline for your paper which demonstrates utility of your chosen journal articles, and a clear conception of applicable theory, and what policy/policies you intend to examine.

Policy Paper (max of 30 points/ 30% of course grade)

Each student is required to write an 18 to 20-page policy paper (not including the cover page or references) analyzing a topic relevant to the 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 PPM (see course schedule). No paper will be accepted without previous communication and approval. Approval of a topic will be addressed in class (see course schedule). Acceptance of the paper will be dependent on thorough preparation of your PPM. 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 area.

Students are prohibited from writing 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 theory and 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.

Justice and Social Policy (JSP) Presentation

You will be required to prepare a narrated video presentation project focused on multiple justice and social policy issues, it will incorporate visual images and written text. While the written word can speak volumes, so can images of what constitutes and impacts our daily lives. The project will require a minimum of 10 content slides (not including the cover slide or references slide) that addresses 5 distinct issues relevant to the course. Each issue will be addressed with an image slide(s) and a corresponding text slide(s). Choose at least one exemplary image that captures the issue, and include text on next slide that explains (a) what the image depicts, and (b) its significance in relation to **theory and policy**. The text portion of the assignment must substantively incorporate information from at least two scholarly research sources for each slide. A basic PowerPoint template is available on the Canvas course page.

Grading Policy

Assignment	Due Date	Weight
In-Class Presentations/Debate	See schedule	20%
In-Class Exam	October 13 th	30%
Paper Preparation Materials	November 4 th	N/A
Policy Paper	November 28 th	30%
JSP Presentation	December 8 th	20%
		<hr/> 100%

Grading Policy and Late Submissions

Written assignments will primarily be graded on content; however, poor writing mechanics and APA formatting will result in a moderate point deduction. Assistance with APA can be found at:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

In order to demonstrate comprehension of the course material, one must be able to write in a clear and effective manner. Always carefully proofread your assignments before submitting them. Late submissions will not be accepted unless a valid, documented, and verifiable reason is provided.

Department of Justice Studies Course Grade Determination

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>98 to 100</i>	<i>98 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 97.99</i>	<i>93 to 97.99%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92.9</i>	<i>90 to 92.9%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>88 to 89.9</i>	<i>88 to 89.9 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 87.99</i>	<i>83 to 87.99%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82.9</i>	<i>80 to 82.9%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>78 to 79.9</i>	<i>78 to 79.9%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 77.9</i>	<i>73 to 77.9%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72.9</i>	<i>70 to 72.9%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>68 to 69.9</i>	<i>68 to 69.9%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 67.9</i>	<i>63 to 67.9%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62.9</i>	<i>60 to 62.9%</i>

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.

University Policies

University Policies: Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, 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 201 Seminar in Justice and Social Theory, Section 01, Fall 2022

The following course schedule is subject to change; advance notice of any changes will be provided via an announcement on Canvas and/or during class as early as possible.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
1	08/25/22	Course introduction Overview of assignments and expectations Reading: Syllabus Reading: The Sentencing Project, <i>Trends in US Corrections</i>
2	09/01/22	Reading: Simon, <i>Mass Incarceration: From Social Policy to Social Problem</i> Reading: Wacquant, <i>Class, Race & Hyperincarceration in Revanchist America</i> [2 in-class presentations]
3	09/08/22	Reading: Pager, <i>The Mark of a Criminal Record</i> DOCUMENTARY: PBS Frontline, <i>Locked Up in America: Prison State</i> (USA 2014, 83 min.)
4	09/15/22	Reading: Western – Pettit, <i>Incarceration and Social Inequality</i> Reading: Wacquant, <i>Deadly Symbiosis</i> [2 in-class presentations]
5	09/22/22	Reading: Alexander, <i>The Lockdown</i> Reading: Alexander, <i>The Rebirth of Caste</i> [2 in-class presentations]
6	09/29/22	Reading: De Giorgi, <i>Punishment and Political Economy</i> Reading: Rusche, <i>Labor Market and Penal Sanction</i> [2 in-class presentations]
7	10/06/22	Reading: Wacquant, <i>Crafting the Neoliberal State</i> Reading: Gustafson, <i>The Criminalization of Poverty</i> [2 in-class presentations]
8	10/13/22	IN-CLASS EXAM (30% of total grade)
9	10/20/22	IN CLASS DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF POLICY PAPER TOPICS

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
10	10/27/22	<p>Reading: Comfort, <i>Papa's House</i></p> <p>Reading: Comfort, <i>Punishment Beyond the Legal Offender</i></p> <p>[2 in-class presentations]</p>
11	11/03/22	<p>Reading: Hirschfield, <i>Preparing for Prison?</i></p> <p>Reading: Simmons, <i>Profiting from Punishment</i></p> <p>DOCUMENTARY: Story, <i>The Prison in Twelve Landscapes</i> (USA 2016, 87 min.)</p> <p>Due Friday, 11/04/22: Paper Preparation Materials (upload as Word document to Canvas by 11:59 PM)</p>
12	11/10/22	<p>Reading: Lynch, <i>The Disposal of Inmate #85271</i></p> <p>Reading: Reiter, <i>Parole, Snitch, or Die</i></p> <p>[2 in-class presentations]</p> <p>DOCUMENTARY: D. Edge, <i>Solitary Nation</i> (USA 2014, 54 min.)</p>
13	11/17/22	<p>Reading: Halushka, <i>Work Wisdom</i></p> <p>Reading: De Giorgi, <i>Back to Nothing: Prisoner Reentry and Neoliberal Neglect</i> <i>If needed</i> [2 in-class presentations]</p>
14	11/24/22	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class
15	12/01/22	<p>Due Monday, 11/28/22: Policy Paper (upload as Word document to Canvas by 11:59 PM)</p> <p>LAST DAY OF CLASS: FINAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION</p>
16	12/08/22	Due today: JSP Presentation (upload as Zoom or Canvas Studio video to Canvas by 11:59 PM)