

Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems Section 05

JS 189

Spring 2023 3 Unit(s) 01/25/2023 to 05/15/2023 Modified 01/23/2023

Contact Information

Instructor : Natalie Birthelmer

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Office: HB 125

Office Hours

Tuesday, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Zoom

by appointment

Monday, 1:15 PM to 2:15 PM, HB125

In-person office hours will be held on Monday after class starting at 1:15pm, by appointment only

Course Description and Requisites

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

Prerequisite(s): Senior standing in final semester; Justice Studies or Forensic Science major; FS 100W or JS 100W and JS 114 with a "C" or better; Department Consent.

Note(s): Must achieve a grade of "C" or better is required for Justice Studies majors.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

Students are expected to:

1. Come to class prepared and participate
2. Complete all readings and assignments as scheduled on the syllabus
3. **Bring laptops, APA Publication Manual, and completed ARs to designated Workshop days**
4. Check canvas and mysjsu regularly and be aware of any changes in the class schedule
5. Be respectful to their classmates in discussions and debates
6. Turn off their cell phones while class is in session

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

At the end of a Bachelor of Science degree in Justice Studies in the Department of Justice Studies, students should be able to:

1. Explain the major concepts, theories, and historical trends within studies of crime, law, and social justice at all levels, from local to global.
2. Describe and apply ways to gather valid information and conduct research to answer questions about crime, law, and social justice issues.
3. Understand and critically analyze individual, institutional, and societal responses to crime, law, and social justice issues.
4. Employ interdisciplinary perspectives on systems of inequality and concepts of justice to propose grounded, informed, and sustainable solutions to social problems in communities and/or institutions.
5. Articulate compelling, reasoned, and empirically-informed positions on issues of justice to diverse audiences. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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

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). (CLO1)
2. Demonstrate their ability to present scholarly work to an audience of their peers. (CLO2)
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. (CLO3)
4. Demonstrate their ability to undertake a critical analysis of a contemporary problems relevant to justice studies. (CLO4)
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. (CLO5)

Course Materials

The American Prison

Author: Cullen, F.T., Johnson, C.L. & Stohr, M.K.

Publisher: Sage

ISBN: 9781452241364

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association

Author: American Psychological Association

Publisher: American Psychological Association

Edition: 7th

ISBN: 9781433832161

The only edition of the APA Publication Manual that can be used for this class is the 7th edition. Older editions differ in content is not applicable to this class.

Microsoft Office

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>

Availability: SJSU IT

Course Requirements and Assignments

Course Requirements

1. Late work will not be accepted. Missing, late, or plagiarized work will receive a grade of zero points.
2. Assignment will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed.
3. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed. If you have issues uploading to Canvas, it is your responsibility to contact the IT department and resolve the issue. I will not accept technical issues as an excuse for late or missing assignments.
4. Quality of writing must be appropriate for university level education and must include proper APA citation. Refer to an APA style guide if unclear about APA guidelines on in-text citations and reference pages.
5. To ensure compliance with academic integrity policies, all work in this class must be turned in through Turnitin.com on Canvas, a plagiarism detection service with which San José State University contracts. Turnitin.com is integrated into all Canvas assignments, but students are responsible for ensuring their work is accepted and evaluated by Turnitin.com. Inability to do so will lead to an incomplete grade for affected assignments.
6. 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>

Participation (CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, CLO5)

This class should be engaging for everyone, and therefore relies on student participation. All students will be expected to have read all assigned readings and completed any assignments before class, to be able to successfully participate in class discussions. Some aspects of weekly class discussions will be assigned to the discussion audience for participation credit. Come to class ready to engage, debate, and discuss! Your participation grade will not be based on simply being present in the classroom but on meaningful participation. Review the participation rubric on Canvas for detailed grading information.

Class discussion facilitation (CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, CLO5)

To demonstrate the ability to critically analyze contemporary problems in the justice system, as well as place such issues in the larger sociological context, each student will be responsible for facilitating one in-class discussion for a specific textbook chapter and topic. Students must familiarize themselves with the reading assignments as well as do additional research necessary for their in-class discussion facilitation. There are multiple components to facilitating in class discussions, with the facilitator in charge of most preparation and research (some aspects will be assigned to the discussion audience for participation credit).

Weekly Discussion Facilitation Support (CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, CLO5)

To support classroom discussions facilitated by peer moderators, every week, each student must submit 2 news items that relate to the discussion topics, as well as 2 discussion question. News items must show that you can place contemporary issues in justice into the larger sociological context and therefore cannot be criminal justice news. They must fall into one of the following categories: social justice news, political news, and/or international news. News items have to be current news (2022/2023) and discussion questions must be thoughtful and open-ended. Further instructions and expectations will be discussed.

Written Assignments : Annotated bibliography (CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, CLO5)

Using your assigned topic, thoroughly research the SJSU library database for scholarly, peer-reviewed articles. Through your research you will narrow down your topic based on your interests. Fifteen (15) appropriate articles will then be compiled into an annotated bibliography.

Written Assignments : Introduction & Thesis (CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, CLO5)

Students will write an introduction followed by a thesis on a topic assigned to them by the instructor, based on the articles gathered in their annotated bibliography. Introductions must be engaging and concise. Theses must be short, clear and concise.

Written Assignments : Research Paper (CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, CLO5)

Students will write one comprehensive research paper, based on the research conducted at the beginning of the semester.

Students will use their previously compiled reference page, as well as their introduction and thesis, with revisions based on previously received instructor feedback. Additionally, students will write a literature review, discussion and conclusion to be included in their research paper.

Research Presentation (CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, CLO5)

Students will create a presentation of their research paper. Your discussion of the material should be thoughtful and analytical, and invite participation by all students. Further instructions and expectations will be discussed.

✓ Grading Information

Criteria

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Participation	20%	100 points	
Discussion Facilitation	20%	100 points	
Weekly Facilitation Support	10%	50 points	
Annotated Bibliography	5%	25 points	
Introduction with Thesis	5%	25 points	
Research Paper	20%	100 points	
Research Presentation	20%	100 points	

Breakdown

Grade	Range	Notes
A+	490 to 500	98.0 to 100%
A	470 to 489	94.0 to 97.99%
A-	455 to 469	91.0 to 93.99%
B+	440 to 454	88.0 to 90.99%
B	420 to 439	84.0 to 87.99%
B-	405 to 419	81.0 to 83.99%
C+	390 to 404	78.0 to 80.99%
C	370 to 389	74.0 to 77.99%
C-	355 to 369	71.0 to 73.99%
D+	340 to 354	68.0 to 70.99%
D	320 to 339	64.0 to 67.99%
D-	305 to 319	61.0 to 63.99%

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](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
Week 1 01/25/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Introduction to the course	Syllabus Review
Workshop Week 2 01/30/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Workshop: Class discussion facilitation	
Class discussion facilitation (Natalie) Week 2 02/01/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Classism	Canvas: Gustafson, K.S. (2011) The criminalization of poverty.
Class discussion facilitation (Team 1) Week 3 02/06/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Racism	Due: <i>The American Prison</i> . Chapter 6 - The Racially Just Prison
Class discussion facilitation (Team 2) Week 3 02/08/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Anti-feminism	Due: <i>The American Prison</i> . Chapter 5 - The Feminist Prison
Workshop Week 4 02/13/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Workshop	Annotated Bibliography Workshop Bring your laptop and APA Publication Manual to class!
Class discussion facilitation (Team 3) Week 4 02/15/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Accountability	Due: Annotated Bibliography Due: <i>The American Prison</i> . Chapter 12 – The Accountable Prison
Class discussion facilitation (Team 4) Week 5 02/20/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Safety	Due: <i>The American Prison</i> . Chapter 7 - The Safe Prison
Class discussion facilitation (Team 5) Week 5 02/22/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Health	Due: <i>The American Prison</i> . Chapter 8 - The Healthy Prison

When	Topic	Notes
Class discussion facilitation (Team 6) Week 6 02/27/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Privatization	Due: <i>The American Prison</i> . Chapter 9 - The Private Prison
Class discussion facilitation (Team 7) Week 6 03/01/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Environmentalism	Due: <i>The American Prison</i> . Chapter 10 - The Green Prison
Workshop Week 7 03/06/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Workshop	Introduction & Thesis Workshop Bring your laptop and APA Publication Manual to class!
Week 7 03/08/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520		Due: Intro & Thesis
Class discussion facilitation (Team 8) Week 8 03/13/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Virtuosity	Due: <i>The American Prison</i> . Chapter 4 - The Virtuous Prison
Class discussion facilitation (Team 9) Week 8 03/15/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Restorative Justice	Due: <i>The American Prison</i> . Chapter 2 - The Restorative Prison
Class discussion facilitation (Team 10) Week 9 03/20/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Size	Due: <i>The American Prison</i> . Chapter 11 - The Small Prison
Workshop Week 9 03/22/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Workshop	Research Paper Workshop Bring your laptop and APA Publication Manual to class!
Spring Break Week 10		
Class discussion facilitation (Team 11) Week 11 04/03/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Therapy	Due: Research Paper Due: <i>The American Prison</i> . Chapter 1 - The Therapeutic Prison
Class discussion facilitation (Team 12) Week 11 04/05/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Faith	Due: <i>The American Prison</i> . Chapter 3 - The Faith-Based Prison

When	Topic	Notes
Workshop Week 12 04/10/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Presentation Workshop	Presentation Workshop Bring your laptop and APA Publication Manual to class!
Presentations Week 12 04/12/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Presentations	Due: Presentations 2 Research Paper Presentations
Presentations Week 13 04/17/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Presentations	2 Research Paper Presentations
Presentations Week 13 04/19/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Presentations	2 Research Paper Presentations
Presentations Week 14 04/24/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Presentations	2 Research Paper Presentations
Presentations Week 14 04/26/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Presentations	2 Research Paper Presentations
Presentations Week 15 05/01/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Presentation	2 Research Paper Presentations
Presentation Week 15 05/03/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Presentations	2 Research Paper Presentations
Presentation Week 16 05/08/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Presentations	2 Research Paper Presentations
Presentation Week 16 05/10/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Presentations	2 Research Paper Presentations

When	Topic	Notes
Last day of instruction Week 17 05/15/2023 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM MQH 520	Presentations	2 Research Paper Presentations