

San José State University
College of Humanities and the Arts/Philosophy
Philosophy 190, Seminar on Violence

Fall 2018

Instructor:	Prof. Carlos A. Sanchez
Office Location:	Faculty Offices 211
Telephone:	(408) 924-7581
Email:	Carlos.sanchez@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Mondays, 3:00-5:00 p.m. or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mondays, 6:00-8:45 p.m.
Classroom:	SH 242
Units	3 units
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	

Course Description

Works of a major philosopher or philosophical tradition. Course is repeatable for up to 12 units of credit when a seminar topic is different. Prerequisite: PHIL 70A and PHIL 70B and 6 units of upper division philosophy or instructor consent.

In this course, we ask the questions: What is violence? Is violence an essential aspect of human being? Is violence merely instrumental? What does it mean to speak of “degrees of violence”? What does it mean to “think beyond violence”? What does it mean to talk about “non-violence”? In this course, we will consider these and many other questions related to the idea of violence, including a consideration of violence in specific cultural situations in which the lived experience of violence appears to overly saturate the concept itself.

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes (LO)

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

SLO 1: Examine and appreciate the philosophical engagement with the idea of violence.

1. This will be accomplished via a thorough reading of the assigned texts and via lecture.

SLO 2: Understand the influence of Violence as concept on 20th century thought.

2. Seminar presentations will accomplish this.

SLO 3: Respond to such works by writing both **research-based** critical analyses and personal responses.

3. An end-of-the-semester research paper will be required as well as a series of in-house “reaction” papers.

Required Texts/Readings

1. Sayak Valencia, *Gore Capitalism* (in Bookstore)
2. Hannah Arendt, *On Violence* (in Bookstore)
3. Judith Butler, *Precarious Life* (in Bookstore)
4. Franz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, “Introduction” (on Canvas)
5. Michel Henry, *On Barbarism*, selections (on Canvas)
6. Carlos Sanchez, *A Sense of Brutality*, manuscript in progress, selections (handouts)

I will introduce other texts as we go, depending on our progress and our interests.

Classroom Protocol

Like other philosophy courses, this course endeavors to improve the student’s ability to write cogently, to think critically and independently, and to read and analyze philosophical arguments and issues. It tries to challenge you to reflect more philosophically on religion, politics, ethics, and the nature of human existence and human knowledge. In addition, students are expected to acquire a mastery of the material.

Course requirements: Participation is a must! Without lively discussion of the themes and issues presented by its authors philosophy becomes stale and other-worldly. So please read the material and *show up* to class.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on this is available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html> . Information about late drop is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/> . Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Grade Breakdown

A	100-93
A-	92-88
B+	87-86
B	85-83
B-	82-78

Etc....

Your Grade will be determined as follows:

Research Paper	40%
1. Rough Draft	20%
2. Final Draft	20%
In Class Work	40%
3. Reflection Papers (8)	40%
Class Presentation	20%
4. In-Class Presentation	20%
Total	100%

Description of 1: Each student will be required to write a 15 to 20 page *research paper* on a topic/idea found in, or occasioned by, our readings and discussions. The Rough Draft is a “working paper” with a full annotated bibliography and well developed argument/interpretation. The Rough Draft must not be less than 4000 words. **IT MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE DUE DATE. NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

Description of 2: Once the Rough Draft is returned to the student, it is the student’s responsibility to complete the paper in accordance with comments and suggestions included in, or regarding, the returned copy. Full credit for the Final Paper will be based on the student’s ability to follow through on the “promise” of the paper. The Final Paper will exceed 4000 words.

Description of 3: You will be required to write eight (8) “reflection papers.” These papers are meditations, responses, interpretations, observations, arguments that take the week’s readings or discussions as point of departure. These will be no less than 1.5 full pages in length, double spaced, and proof read. Due dates are on the Calendar below.

Description of 4: Each student will present on a topic, text, or argument. Two things will be required (and the student will be graded on each of these): an outline (10%) and the presentation (10%). Presentations must be 15 minutes long and can be done in teams, etc.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University’s Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams 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 failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources (Optional)

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles.

On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/> .

Schedule of Readings

*Consider this schedule fluid, dynamic, vulnerable to change due to my interests, my foci, and the weather.

August 27	Introduction and Syllabus
September 3	<i>The Wretched of the Earth</i> , Sartre’s “Preface” “Reflection Paper” 1 due. (RP#1)
Sept. 10	Hannah Arendt, <i>On Violence</i> , Part I
Sept. 17	Adriana Cavarero, <i>Horrorism: Naming Contemporary Violence</i> RP#2
Sept. 24	Judith Bulter, <i>Precarious Life</i>
Oct. 1	“Narco-Culture”
Oct. 8	Sayak, <i>Gore Capitalism</i>
Oct. 15	Agamben, selections from <i>Homo Sacer</i>
Oct. 22	*catch up day/presentations
Oct. 29	Etienne Balibar, “On Cruelty” RP#5
Nov. 5	Sanchez, “On Brutality” Rough Draft of Final Paper Due
Nov. 12	“Preface in 3 Parts”

	RP#6
Nov. 19	Carl Schmidt, selections <i>Concept of the Political</i>
Nov. 26	Achille Mbembe, "Necro-Politics" RP#7
Dec. 3	*catch-up and presentations
Dec. 10	Sánchez, <i>A Sense of Brutality: Philosophy and Narco-Culture</i> RP#8
Dec. 17	Final Paper Due