San José State University

College of Applied Sciences and Arts / Department of Justice Studies
JS 25-02, Introduction to Human Rights and Justice, Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Natalie Birthelmer
Office Location:	HB 125
Telephone:	(408) 924-2753 x42753 – email is the best way to reach me!
Email:	natalie.birthelmer@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday 1:15-3:15PM – email me for an appointment please! If you wish to schedule an online office hour, please email me.
Class Days/Time:	T/R 9:00AM -10:15AM
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall 520

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Leaning Management System course login website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on Spartan App Portal http://one.sjsu.edu.edu to learn of any updates.

Course Description

This course is a lower division introduction to the history of human rights as a concept and body of international law, and to the complicated role of human rights in contemporary social justice campaigns.

GE Area: D3

Note: A grade of "C" or better is required for graduation.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

1. Place contemporary social issues in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.
2. Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.
3. Apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and international levels.
4. Examine and discuss forces that shape individuals and modern society.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Confidently discuss contemporary issues and change in human rights and justice.

2. Understand the historical context, definition and continuous importance of human rights.
3. Recognize how international human rights relate to human rights struggles and social problems in the U.S. and our local communities.
4. Make critical assessments of and draw logical conclusions about human rights issues and violations.
5. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

Required Texts

1. Clapham, A. (2015). *Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction (2nd Ed.)*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
   ISBN: 9780198706168

2. Armaline, W.T. (2013). *Human Rights in Our Own Backyard: Injustice and Resistance in the United States*.
   This book is available at the King Library and electronically through the library's website: https://sjsuprimo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primoexplore/fulldisplay?docid=01CALS_ALMA71390359270002901&context=L&vid=01CALS_SJO&search_scope=EVERYTHING&tab=everything&lang=en_US

Other Readings

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas Leaning Management System course login website at http://sjsu.instructure.com.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Late work will not be accepted.
2. Assignment will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed.
3. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Assignments will only be accepted if submitted in 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. Assignments must include proper APA citation. Students must reference their journal articles in APA-style formatting. Students should refer to an APA style guide or the Online Writing Lab (OWL) from Purdue University at https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/ if unclear about APA guidelines on in-text citations and reference pages.

Participation (GELO1-4 & CLO1-5)

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. 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.

Reading Responses (GELO1-4 & CLO1-5)

Students will write weekly reading responses to the required readings. Reading responses are due on Tuesdays as listed on the Course Schedule (below) at 9:00AM on Canvas. Late work will not be accepted. Reading responses should be no less than one (1) page and no more than two (2) pages long, and must be written in

formal English, in Times New Roman, 12pt. font, and double-spaced. You must cite the chapter or article at least one (1) time in your reading response and show that you have read and understood the material through informed discussion. In-text citations and references must be in APA-style formatting.

Midterm (GELO1-4 & CLO1-5)

The midterm will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions and will cover all materials assigned from week 1 to week 8. The midterm will take place on 3/21/2019.

Human Rights Presentation (GELO1-4 & CLO1-5)

In groups of up to 4, you will sign up to present a current human rights issue (domestic or international) by completing a series of tasks, including: (1) summarizing the issue (2) discussing past approaches/attempts to resolve the issue, (3) presenting ideas of policy changes to resolve the issues presented and (4) generating discussion questions. Each member of the group will present one task, but your presentation must be cohesive. As a group, you will create a power point to guide your presentation. Your discussion of the material should be thoughtful and analytical, and invite participation by all students. For grading, you will receive both individual and group grades. Further instructions and expectations will be discussed.

Final Examination or Evaluation (GELO1-4 & CLO1-5)

The final will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions and will cover all materials assigned from week 8 to week 16. The final will take place on May 17th.

"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 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus."

Grading Information

Department of Justice Studies Course Grade Determination

Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade
98.0 to 100	**A plus**	**84.0 to 87.99**	**B**	**71.0 to 73.99**	**C minus**
94.0 to 97.99	**A**	**81.0 to 83.99**	**B minus**	**68.0 to 70.99**	**D plus**
91.0 to 93.99	**A minus**	**78.0 to 80.99**	**C plus**	**64.0 to 67.99**	**D**
88.0 to 90.99	**B plus**	**74.0 to 77.99**	**C**	**61.0 to 63.99**	**D minus**

Determination of Grades

Human Rights Project	100 pts / 20%
Midterm	100 pts / 20%
Participation	100 pts / 20%
Reading Responses	100 pts / 20%
Final	100 pts / 20%
Total	500 pts / 100%

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to:

1. Come to class prepared and participate
2. Complete all readings and assignments as scheduled on the syllabus
3. Check canvas and mysjsu regularly and be aware of any changes in the class schedule
4. Be respectful to their classmates in discussions and debates
5. Turn off their cell phones while class is in session

Late work will not be accepted. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. 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.
General questions (format, deadlines, etc.) can be posted on the course Q&A Board on Canvas.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/.

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 inform me immediately by emailing me or by making an appointment with me as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.

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.

JS 25-02 / Introduction to Human Rights and Justice,

Spring 2019, T/R 9:00AM -10:15AM

The following schedule is subject to change; advance notice of any changes will be posted as early as possible on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	R – 1/24	Introduction and review of Syllabus
2	T – 1/29	Clapham Chapter 1: Looking a Rights
	R – 1/31	Looking at Rights continued
3	T – 2/5	**Reading Response 1** Clapham Chapter 2: Historical Development & Contemporary Concerns
	R – 2/7	Clapham Chapter 3: Human Rights Foreign Policy & the Role of the UN
4	T – 2/12	Political and Civil Rights: Deprivation of Life and Liberty **Reading Response 2** Clapham Chapter 5: Deprivation of Life and Liberty
	R – 2/14	Armaline Chapter 17: Caging Kids of Color: Juvenile Justice and Human Rights in the United States
5	T – 2/19	**Reading Response 3** Canvas: Schlanger, M. & Fettig, A. (2015). Eight Principles for Reforming Solitary Confinement
	R – 2/21	*Last Days of Solitary (Frontline S33 E19)*
6	T – 2/26	**Reading Response 4** Clapham Chapter 9: The Death Penalty
	R – 2/28	Armaline Chapter 22: Critical Resistance and the Prison Abolitionist Movement
7	T – 3/5	Political and Civil Rights: Discrimination and Equality **Reading Response 5** Clapham Chapter 8: Discrimination and Equality
	R – 3/7	Armaline Chapter 19: Sex Trafficking: In our Own Backyard?
8	T – 3/12	**Reading Response 6** Armaline Chapter 20: The US Culture of Violence

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	R –3/14	*Me Facing Life: The Cyntoia Brown Story*
9	T – 3/19	Midterm Review
	R – 3/21	Midterm
10	T – 3/26	Political and Civil Rights: Immigration and Border Conflicts **Reading Response 7** Armaline Chapter 12: US Asylum and Refugee Policy: The "Culture of No"
	R – 3/28	*Separated: Children at the Border (Frontline S37 E1)*
11	T – 4/2	Spring Break
	R – 4/4	Spring Break
12	T – 4/9	**Reading Response 8** Armaline Chapter 11: Erosion of Political and Civil Rights: The Patriot Act
	R – 4/11	Clapham Chapter 4: Torture
13	T – 4/16	**Reading Response 9** *The Torture Question (Frontline S24 E1)*
	R – 4/18	Social Rights: Homelessness and Food Insecurity Clapham Chapter 7: Food, Education, Health, Housing, and Work
14	T – 4/23	**Reading Response 10** Armaline Chapter 6: Hurricane Katrina and the Right to Food and Shelter
	R – 4/25	*When the Levees Broke*
15	T – 4/30	Presentations
	R – 5/2	Presentations
16	T – 5/7	Presentations
	R – 5/9	Final Review
17	T – 5/14	Dead Day
Final Exam	Friday, May 17th	**Final on Canvas**