

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS100W-84, Writing Workshop, Fall 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Greg Woods, J.D.
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Office Hours:	Mondays & Wednesdays, 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM, and by email appointment; Invitations/Zoom links through Canvas under Announcements.
Class Days/Time:	Mondays & Wednesdays, 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM live streamed Zoom lectures; Recordings of all class sessions are on Canvas under Files.
Classroom:	On Line; Invitations/Zoom links to live lectures through Canvas under Announcements.

Justice Studies Department 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 Description

Development of advanced communication skills, both written and oral. Emphasis on writing formats used by criminal justice professionals. A scholarly paper, written in APA format and informed by research, will be required. GE Area: Z Prerequisite: A3 or equivalent second semester composition course (with a grade of C- or better); Completion of core GE, satisfaction of Writing Skills Test and upper division standing. Allowed Declared Major: Justice Studies. Note: Must be passed with C or better (not C-) to satisfy the CSU Graduation Writing Assessment requirement (GWAR). 3 Units.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Critically examine social justice issues and develop a broader understanding of social justice and the relationship between social justice and social policy.
2. Reflect upon the relationship between race, class, gender, nationality and social justice.
3. Write reports, assignments, and papers with professional and academic aptitude demonstrating a familiarity of class materials.
4. Read academic materials with proficiency.
5. Contribute to class discussion in thoughtful, critical, and collaborative ways.
6. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

Required Texts

No textbook is required. All readings will be posted on Canvas as PDFs or will be available via the internet.

Library Liaison

Nyle Monday, Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu, (408) 808-2041

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

Course Requirements and Assignments

Our class is offered completely online with no designated day/time meeting pattern. However, students are provided the opportunity to be virtually present and interact during regularly scheduled live streamed Zoom lectures and review questions and subject matter during regularly scheduled Office Hours on Zoom and via email. 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.

Weekly Assignments

Students will be assigned a total of eight (**8**) weekly reading, writing and research assignments in class and as reflected below, are due at the conclusion of every other weekly class session as reflected below, or as instructed, and will consist of a minimum of a **two-to-three** paged double spaced typed analysis in 12-point font. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Situation Analyses

Students will produce two (**2**) situation analyses throughout the course, to be assigned and explained extensively in class, due as reflected below in response to subject matter from class lecture and weekly readings, and will consist of a minimum of a **seven-to-ten** paged double spaced typed analysis in 12-point font. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Final Project

Final Projects will require students to conduct independent research to craft a thesis paper specific to the justice system in the United States supported by reliable data, to be assigned and explained extensively in class, in the form of a **fifteen-to-twenty page** written analysis, **due during the last scheduled day of instruction (12/7)** as reflected below. Reliable sources for all assertions should be cited in the American Psychological Association (APA) format. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Participation

Students are invited to participate on Zoom during live lectures in an informed, professional and respectful manner, check in during virtual office hours at least once during our semester, and consistently submit quality work in a timely manner. Participation credit will also be rewarded in response to student preparedness and politeness during online class sessions. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Grading Policy

Final grades will be evaluated as follows:

Weekly Assignments (8)	30%
Situation Analyses (2)	30%
Final Project	30%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 and below.

Please Note: Extra credit will not be awarded and late assignments will not be accepted for credit.

Students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades. **Students are encouraged to review their progress in person no later than Week Eight (Wednesday, October 7th) and periodically throughout the semester** during office hours, and by appointment.

Classroom Protocol

Attendance/Punctuality

Our class is offered completely online with no officially designated day/time meeting pattern. However, students are provided the opportunity to be virtually present and interact during regularly scheduled live streamed Zoom lectures and review questions and subject matter during regularly scheduled office hours on Zoom and via email. Regular attendance and punctuality are encouraged.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted without prior agreement.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

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Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	August 19	Introductions/Course overview; Syllabus, Class, Weekly Assignment, Situation Analysis & Final Project Formats; Persuasive & Informative writing in general; Approaches to Critical Thinking; the Five-Sentence Paragraph; the American Psychological Association (APA) citation style format; Writing Basics: Effective Thesis and Issue Statements; Assign Weekly Assignment #1 (DUE 8/26) ; In-class exercise: <i>Personal mission statement</i> .
2	August 24 & 26	Review Assignment #1 ; The Percipient & Expert witness; Jurisdictional Structures; Identifying and articulating key facts; Employing the SARA Model (Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment/Evaluation) and the IRAC Method (Issue, Rule, Analysis, and Conclusion) to perfect written analysis of Criminal Justice and relevant legal issues; Statements of Fact; Writing Basics: Short, Clear Sentences with Concise, Concrete Words; Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #1; Assign Weekly Assignment #2 (DUE 9/9) ; In-class exercise: <i>Percipient Witness/Lt. John Pike and the Use of Force at UC Davis</i> .
3	August 31 & September 2	Assign Situation Analysis #1 (DUE NO LATER THAN 9/23) ; Review Assignment #2 ; Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of Investigations; Writing Basics: The Outline is Key; Voluntary one-on-one consultations ; In-class exercise: <i>Laws as Legislative Solutions to Society's Problems resulting in Criminalized, Restricted Behavior for all</i> .
4	September 9 (No Class Monday the 7th, Happy Labor Day!)	Assign Final Project (DUE NO LATER THAN 12/7) ; In the Narrative: First Person, Past Tense, Active Voice & Chronological Order; Writing Basics: Supporting your Assertion with Reliable and Verifiable Information; Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #2; Assign Weekly Assignment #3 (DUE 9/23) ; In-class exercise: <i>BART Police officer Johannes Mehserle, Oscar Grant and the Duty to Protect and Serve</i> .
5	September 14 & 16	Review Final Assignment and Assignment #'s 2 & 3 ; Conducting Interviews; Writing Basics: The Rough Draft; Voluntary one-on-one consultations ; In-class exercise: <i>Snowden, Manning, WikiLeaks, National Security and Traditional Notions of Perfect Personal Liberty Contradicted by the Necessities of the State</i> .

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	September 21 & 23	Review Assignment #3; Affidavits & Search Warrants; Writing Basics: Know Your Reader; Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Situation Analysis #1 & Weekly Assignment #3; <i>Assign Weekly Assignment #4 (DUE 10/7);</i> In-class exercise: <i>Megan's Law, Compulsory Sex Offender Registration and California Penal Code Section 290.</i>
7	September 28 & 30	Review Situation Analysis #1 and Assignment #'s 3 & 4; Distinguishing facts from opinion; Writing Basics: Case Brief and Memorandum formats; Voluntary one-on-one consultations; In-class exercise: <i>Tough on Crime Strategies, Mandatory Minimum Sentencing and the "Three Strikes" sentence enhancement law of California.</i>
8	October 5 & 7	Assign Situation Analysis #2 (DUE NO LATER THAN 11/4); Review Assignment #4; Motions & Pleadings; Return and review Assignment #6; Writing Basics: Use Plain Language; Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #4; <i>Assign Weekly Assignment #5 (DUE 10/21);</i> In-class exercise: <i>Amber Alerts, Flash Mobs, Social Media and Law Enforcement.</i>
9	October 12 & 14	Review Situation Analysis #2, Final Project and Weekly Assignment #5; Objective & Subjective Standards; Writing Basics: Be Concise, Less is More; Voluntary one-on-one consultations; In-class exercise: <i>Surveillance, Body Cameras and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.</i>
10	October 19 & 21	Review Final Project and Assignment #5; Motions & Pleadings; Return and review Assignment #6; Writing Basics: Use Plain Language; Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #5; <i>Assign Weekly Assignment #6 (DUE 11/4);</i> In-class exercise: <i>Amber Alerts, Flash Mobs, Social Media and Law Enforcement.</i>
11	October 26 & 28	Review Situation Analysis #2 and Weekly Assignment #6; Documentation & Memorialization; Writing Basics: Think Loose and Write Tight; Voluntary one-on-one consultations; In-class exercise: <i>Miranda and Custodial Interrogation rights in the 21st Century.</i>
12	November 2 & 4	Review Weekly Assignment #6; Qualities of a superior investigator; Writing Basics: Plagiarizing is a Bad Idea; Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Situation Analysis #2 & Weekly Assignment #6; <i>Assign Weekly Assignment #7 (DUE 11/18);</i> In-class exercise: <i>Incarceration rates, Recidivism, Release, Community Integration and Expungement.</i>
13	November 9 (No Class Wednesday the 11th, Happy Veteran's Day!)	Review Final Project, Situation Analysis #2 and Weekly Assignment #7; Crafting oral and written presentations; Writing Basics: Edit with Fresh Eyes; Voluntary one-on-one consultations; In-class exercise: <i>Credibility and Pretrial Witness Identification Methods.</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	November 16 & 18 (Happy Thanksgiving!)	Review Final Project and Weekly Assignment #7; Problem identification & Solution proposal; Writing Basics: Expect to Rewrite it; Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #7; Assign Weekly Assignment #8 (DUE 12/2); In-class exercise: <i>Improving Relationships between Law Enforcement Agencies and the Communities they Serve.</i>
15	November 23 & 25	Review Final Project and Weekly Assignment #8; Voluntary one-on-one consultations; In-class exercise: <i>Is “badge bending” real?</i>
16	November 30 & December 2	Review Final Project; Just the facts; Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #8; Voluntary one-on-one consultations; Peer Review Exercise.
Final Project Due	December 7	Submit Final Project by no later than 12:00 PM (high noon) on Monday, December 7, our last scheduled class session; Final Thoughts.