## San José State University

# Department of Justice Studies JS 189-80, Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems, Fall 2022

#### **Course and Contact Information**

Instructor: John Halushka, Ph.D.

Office Location: MacQuarrie Hall 511

Email: john.halushka@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: In Person: Monday and Wednesday 10:30am-12:30pm

Online: Tuesday 10:30am-12:30pm via Zoom Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/92737538715

Class Days/Time: Online

#### **Catalogue Course Description**

Identification, discussion and analysis of selected problems in justice studies. A major term paper on a selected topic is required. Prerequisite: Senior standing in final semester; Justice Studies or Forensic Science major; JS 100W and JS 114 with a "C or better"; Department Consent Note: A grade of "C" or better is required for Justice Studies majors. 3 Units.

#### **Course Goals**

The main objective of this course is to teach students how to think and write critically about crime and criminal justice policy in the U.S. The course explores the relationship between crime, punishment, and various dimensions of inequality in American society, including race, class and gender inequalities. The goal is to cultivate students' skills as independent thinkers, researchers, and writers who will use these skills to actively contribute to their communities and professions.

#### **Course Format**

The mode of instruction for this course is asynchronous online. This means that there is no scheduled meeting time for this class.

#### **Technology Requirements**

Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet). SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students (<a href="https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php">https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php</a>). Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, see Learn Anywhere website for current Wi-Fi options on campus.

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 such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on <u>Canvas Learning Management System course login website</u> at <a href="http://sjsu.instructure.com">http://sjsu.instructure.com</a>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through <a href="http://one.sjsu.edu">MySJSU</a> on <a href="maintenance-partial http://one.sjsu.edu">Spartan App Portal <a href="http://one.sjsu.edu">http://one.sjsu.edu</a> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates. For help using Canvas Resource page at <a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student\_resources">http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student\_resources</a>.

Some 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).

#### **Program Information**

This degree program is housed in the Department of Justice Studies. More information is available at <a href="https://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/">www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/</a>

#### 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 Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

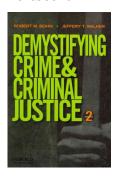
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CLO 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).
- CLO 2: Demonstrate their ability to present scholarly work to an audience of their peers.
- CLO 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.
- CLO 4: Demonstrate their ability to undertake a critical analysis of a contemporary problems relevant to justice studies.

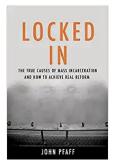
CLO 5: Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level that appropriately reflects the cumulating experience of their justice studies major.

#### **Required Texts**

#### **Textbooks**



Bohm, Robert M. and Walker, Jeffery T. (2013). *Demystifying Crime & Criminal Justice* (2nd Edition). Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-984383-1



Pfaff, John. (2017). Locked In: The True Causes of Mass Incarceration and How to Achieve Real Reform. Basic Books. ISBN: 0465096913

Physical textbooks or e-books can be purchased through the Spartan Bookstore (https://sjsu.bncollege.com/shop/sjsu/home) or through online sellers (e.g. Amazon)

#### **Other Readings**

Additional readings will be posted to the Canvas website.

#### **Other Useful Resources**

Bureau of Justice Statistics: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/

National Criminal Justice Reference Service: <a href="http://www.ncjrs.gov/index.html">http://www.ncjrs.gov/index.html</a>

The Sentencing Project: <a href="http://www.sentencingproject.org">http://www.sentencingproject.org</a>

MLK Library Database: <a href="http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/databases/index.htm">http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/databases/index.htm</a>
MLK Library Journal Index: <a href="http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/ejournals/index.htm">http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/ejournals/index.htm</a>

Criminal Justice Abstracts: HV60001.C67 (online: <a href="http://mill1.sjlibrary.org/search~S1">http://mill1.sjlibrary.org/search~S1</a> ) Justice Studies

APA guidelines: <a href="http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/resources/apa/APAREShome.html">http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/resources/apa/APAREShome.html</a>

SJSU Writing Center: (408-924-2308): www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter

#### **Library Liaison**

For help with library resources and library research (including the use of databases and online research

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materials—such as journal search engines), students are strongly encouraged to contact the Justice Studies Library Liaison: Nyle Craig Monday, MLK Librarian (408) 808-2041 or <a href="https://www.nyle.com/nyle.

#### **ACCESS Success Center**

The Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in the Social Sciences (ACCESS) provides General Education advising for undergraduate students majoring or intending to major in any of the departments in the College of Social Sciences (CoSS). ACCESS Academic Advisors are committed to helping you develop a clear path to graduation and supporting your academic success.

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Friday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. You can schedule an appointment and find more information at sjsu.edu/access.

#### **Course Requirements**

This senior seminar is designed to mimic a graduate level course. In a seminar, students actively discuss an area of study under the guidance of a professor. Students are expected to critically engage with course readings. This means not only completing the readings before class, but also forming critical opinions about the readings and being prepared to participate in an active online discussion.

Weekly readings and assignments can be found in the syllabus, as well as on the Modules tab on Canvas. All assignments become available on Tuesday at 12:00am PST and are due by Monday at 11:59pm PST of their respective week (see course schedule below); please note discussion board original posts are due Thursday at 11:59pm and other assignments may have other due dates. Late assignments will only be accepted with written evidence of extenuating circumstances (e.g. sudden illness, loss of family member, medical emergency, etc.).

Students are expected to log onto Canvas 3-4 times per week, or if possible, log on daily, to check for updates and announcements. There will be cut-off times that will close Canvas. If you do not post your responses and discussions before this cut-off time, you will **NOT** receive the points for that discussion board. Students who anticipate missing the cut-off times are responsible for making arrangements with the instructor prior to the cut-off times.

You are required to be an active participant in the class, which means that you are to prepare your own threads, read other students' discussion threads, and respond to other students' threads with substantive observations. This course will ask students to make a claim regarding the weekly discussion board posts, and support that claim with reason and evidence. The written work you submit will reflect your own thinking about information you obtain from the required readings, PowerPoints, and other course-related experiences.

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. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf">http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf</a>.

#### **Assignments**

#### • Class Participation – 20%

Throughout the semester, there will be a total of 8 class participation assignments (2.5 points each). These assignments include discussion boards and quizzes. Each assignment is worth 2.5% of your final grade. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be posted to Canvas.

Students are required to first read all assigned readings and then respond to the module discussion board topic by **Thursday at 11:59pm**. Original posts (responses to the question posed) should be approximately 1 page in length, in a Word document equivalent. Students will then respond to *two* other student's original posts, as well as any questions I may ask regarding their post by **Monday at 11:59pm**, when the weekly topic will close. These posts should be approximately 1/2 page. Be sure to use references to reading material in all the posts you can, especially when agreeing with or refuting points made by the author. Responses consisting of a lack of thought as in "I agree" or "great thought" will not count as a quality response.

#### • 2 Reading Reflection Papers – 15% (7.5% each, Due 9/26 and 10/24)

During the first half of the semester, students will write two essays reflecting on course readings and lectures. Students will be graded on their ability to synthesize course materials and provide a critical analysis of course content. Each essay should be a maximum of 750 words. Additional instructions will be provided later in the semester. (CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)

- 5 Writing Workshop Assignments 25% (5% each)
  - o Topic Memo (Due 9/19)
  - o Annotated Bibliography (Due 10/10)
  - o Introduction Rough Draft and Peer Review (Due 11/7)
  - o Literature Review Rough Draft and Peer Review (Due 11/14)
  - Manuscript Rough Draft and Peer Review (Due 11/21)

The last four weeks of the semester will consist of a writing workshop where students will work on their final papers. Students will submit rough drafts of their writing and receive peer review feedback via Canvas. Further instructions will be given throughout the semester. (CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)

### • Final Paper Presentation and Peer Review – 15% (12/5)

During the second to last week of class, students will provide presentations about their research papers lasting approximately 10 minutes. Students will upload a PowerPoint presentation with accompanying audio to Canvas. Students will be required to provide peer review comments to their peers. Further instructions will be given throughout the semester. (CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)

#### • Final Paper – 25% (Due 12/9)

Students will complete a 4,000-4,500 words research paper analyzing a justice-related topic. Students can choose their topic based on their own research interests, but the topic must be approved by the instructor during Week 4 when the Topic Memo is due. Students will be given time to work on drafts of the paper during the second half of the semester. Further instructions will be given throughout the semester. (CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)

In their paper, students should include the following:

- 1) Introduction describing the paper's topic and its relevance
- 2) Review of the relevant literature on the issue (minimum of 15 scholarly sources)
- 3) Critique of current policies from the point of view of their effectiveness and social justice/injustice
- 4) Summary of findings and suggestions for alternative policies

#### **Grading Policy and Late Submissions**

Written assignments will primarily be graded on content; however, poor writing mechanics and APA 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 assignment submissions will not be accepted without a documented, verifiable, and valid reason.

Class Participation Assignments: 20%

Reading Reflection Papers: 15% Writing Workshop Assignments: 25%

Final Paper Presentation and Peer Review: 15%

Final Paper: 25% Total: 100%

#### **Grading Information**

Grade	Percentage
A plus	98 to 100%
A	93 to 97.99%
A minus	90 to 92.99%
B plus	88 to 89.99 %
В	83 to 87.99%
B minus	80 to 82.99%
C plus	78 to 79.99%
C	73 to 77.99%
C minus	70 to 72.99%
D plus	68 to 69.99%
D	63 to 67.99%
D minus	60 to 62.99%

PLEASE NOTE: Extra credit opportunities might be available throughout the semester upon the exclusive discretion of the instructor.

#### "Classroom" Protocol

Mutual respect and civility will be the foundation in this course. Every student will have an optimum opportunity for learning and gaining knowledge; differences of opinion are welcomed in a positive and encouraging manner. Some topics covered in this course may be considered sensitive, so please be respectful of all students' backgrounds and personal opinions.

#### **Academic Integrity**

Students should know that the University's Academic Integrity Policy is available at <a href="http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=299327&p=2475645">http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=299327&p=2475645</a>. 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 <a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/">http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/</a>. 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 Americans with 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**

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 audiovisual 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.

#### **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 <a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/">http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/</a>.

#### **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. Website of Peer Mentor Center is located at <a href="http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/">http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/</a>.

#### **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/"

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# **Course Schedule**

\*The instructor reserves the right to alter this schedule at any time during the semester. Logging into Canvas multiple times a week will ensure that you are abreast of any changes that are made.

#### **Course Schedule**

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug. 19-29	Introduction and Class Overview Readings and Lectures:  Reading: Syllabus Lecture #1
		Assignments  Introduction Post  Due: Mon 8/29
2	Aug. 30-Sept. 5	The Extent of Crime in America Readings and Lectures:  Reading: "The Myth of Accurate Crime Measurement"  Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice, Chapter 1  Reading: "Myths and Realities: Understanding Recent Trends in Violent Crime"  CANVAS  Lecture #2  Assignments  Discussion Post and Response: Recent Trends in Violent Crime  Initial Post Due: Thurs 9/1  Response Post Due: Mon 9/5
3	Sept. 6-12	Gun Violence in America  Readings and Lectures:  Reading: "The Myth of Black Crime"  Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice, Chapter 5  Reading: "Neighborhood Inequality and Violence in Chicago, 1965-2020"  CANVAS  Video: "The state of gun violence in the US, explained in 18 charts"  CANVAS

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<ul> <li>Video: "The gun solution we're not talking about"         <ul> <li>CANVAS</li> </ul> </li> <li>Lecture #3</li> <li>Assignments         <ul> <li>Discussion Post and Response: Gun Violence and Gun Control</li> <li>Initial Post Due: Thurs 9/8</li> <li>Response Post Due: Mon 9/12</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4	Sept. 13-19	Gender-Based Violence in America Readings and Lectures:  Reading: "The Sexual Violence Continuum" CANVAS  Reading: "Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape" CANVAS  Reading: "The Myth That Sex Offenders Are Beyond Redemption" Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice, Chapter 11  Reading: "The Myth That the Best Police Response to Domestic Violence is to Arrest the Offender Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice, Chapter 19  Lecture #4  Assignments Discussion Post and Response: Gender Inequality and Crime Initial Post Due: Thurs 9/15 Response Post Due: Mon 9/19  Topic Memo Due: Mon 9/19
5	Sept. 20-26	Library Research Readings and Lectures:  Reading: Library Tutorials and Quizzes CANVAS Lecture #5  Assignments Quiz: Plagiarism and Paraphrasing Due: Mon 9/26 Reflection Paper #1 Due: Mon 9/26

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	Sept. 27-Oct. 3	Police and Communities of Color  Readings and Lectures:  Reading: "Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety" CANVAS  Reading: "Stop-Question-Frisk Analyses" CANVAS  Reading: "The Worst Thing to Hit Us Since Slavery: Crack and the Advent of Warrior Policing, 1988-1992" CANVAS  Reading: "The Myth of Racial Profiling" Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice, Chapter 18  Lecture #6  Assignments Discussion Post and Response: Police-Community Relations Initial Post Due: Thurs 9/29 Response Post Due: Mon 10/3
7	Oct. 4-10	Police Violence Readings and Lectures:  • Reading: "Fatal Force" (Washington Post Police Shooting Database)  ○ CANVAS  • Reading: "American Policing and the Danger Imperative"  ○ CANVAS  • Reading: "The Myth That Police Use of Force Is Widespread"  ○ Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice, Chapter 17  • Lecture #7  Assignments  • Discussion Post and Response: Police Reform  ○ Initial Post Due: Thurs 10/6  ○ Response Post Due: Mon 10/10  • Annotated Bibliography  ○ Due: Mon 10/10
8	Oct. 11-17	Mass Incarceration, the War on Drugs, and the Prison-Industrial Complex Readings and Lectures:  • Reading: Locked In

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<ul> <li>Preface</li> <li>Introduction</li> <li>Chapters 1</li> <li>Chapter 2</li> <li>Lecture #8</li> </ul>
		Assignments  ■ Discussion Post and Response: The War on Drugs and the Prison Industrial Complex  □ Initial Post Due: Thurs 10/13  □ Response Post Due: Mon 10/17
9	Oct. 18-24	Mass Incarceration, Prosecutors, and Politics  Readings and Lectures:  Reading: Locked In  Chapter 4  Chapter 5  Chapter 6  Lecture #9  Assignments  Reflection Paper #2
		O Due: Mon 10/24
10	Oct. 25-31	Mass Incarceration, Violence Crime, and the Future of Reform  Readings and Lectures:  • Reading: Locked In  • Chapter 7  • Chapter 8  • Conclusion  • Lecture #10  Assignments  • Discussion Post and Response: The Future of
		Criminal Justice Reform <ul> <li>Initial Post Due: Thurs 10/27</li> <li>Response Post Due: Mon 10/31</li> </ul>
11	Nov. 1-7	Writing Workshop Readings and Lectures:  • Lecture #11
		Assignments  ■ Introduction Rough Draft and Peer Review  □ Introduction Rough Draft Due: Thurs 11/3

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		o Peer Review Due: Mon 11/7
12	Nov. 8-Nov. 14	Writing Workshop Readings and Lectures:  • Lecture #12
		Assignments  • Literature Review Rough Draft and Peer Review  • Lit Review Rough Draft Due: Thurs 11/10  • Peer Review Due: Mon 11/14
13	Nov. 15-21	Writing Workshop Readings and Lectures  • Lecture #13  Assignments
		<ul> <li>Manuscript Rough Draft and Peer Review</li> <li>Manuscript Rough Draft Due: Thurs 11/17</li> <li>Peer Review Due: Mon 11/21</li> </ul>
14	Nov. 22-28	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
15	Nov. 29-Dec. 5	Final Paper Presentations and Peer Review Readings and Lectures  • Lecture #14  Assignments  • Final Paper Presentations and Peer Review  • Presentation Due: Thurs 12/1  • Peer Review Due: Mon 12/5
16	Dec. 6-9	Final Paper  Assignments  Final Research Paper  Due: Fri Dec. 9