San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 189-03 Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems, Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dina M. Kameda, M.S., M.A.
Office Location:	MacQuarrie Hall 508
Telephone:	(408) 832-9939 (cell phone – emergency only)
Email:	dina.kameda@sjsu.edu (**preferred/best method of contact**)
Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:15 AM - 10:45 AM, or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM
Classroom:	Spartan Complex Central 152
Prerequisites:	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.

Course Format

The mode of instruction for this course is in person with online supplements. Reliable access to a computer and the internet will be required. 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://its.sjsu.edu/services/software/microsoft-students/index.html

Canvas Course Page and E-mail

Copies of course materials will be posted on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking your e-mail and Canvas regarding announcements, reminders, and any additional course materials. The majority of 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://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/). Some course materials may need to be accessed via the internet (i.e., web sites).

E-mail Policy

Feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check several times per day); however, please adhere to the e-mail guidelines below:

1. Please include in the "subject line" the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS189, Your Name, subject). The instructor **will not** respond to "**no subject**" e-mails, or any e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.

2. E-mailed inquiries should be relatively short in nature. Students should make an appointment to meet with me to discuss more extensive inquiries. Students will be referred to the course syllabus with respect to questions that are addressed by simply reading the syllabus.

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.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to [CLO1-5]:

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

Required Readings

Mallicoat, S. L. (2016). *Crime and criminal justice: Concepts and controversies*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, Inc.

Library Liaison

Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu
(408) 808-2118
http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies

Course Requirements and Assignments

Out-of-Class Written Assignments

General formatting requirements for written assignments include a cover page, page numbering, 1” margins, strict double-spacing, and Times New Roman 12pt. font. All assignments must be written in formal English, with college-level writing mechanics, and APA-style formatting, inclusive of in-text citations and references.

Out-of-class written assignments must be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise noted by the instructor. **Students are 100% responsible for uploading the correct file when submitting an assignment. Failure to upload the correct file will result in a zero for the assignment.**

Current Event Submissions (Participation)

Students will be required to submit current event summaries relevant to our justice system. Students will submit a 1-page write-up per assignment. [CLO4-5]

Reading Presentation and Discussion Lead

Each student will be responsible for offering one in-class presentation of a response to a short answer essay question/prompt for a specific textbook chapter. [CLO 2-5]

A schedule of presentations, along with questions/prompts, will be provided; presentations will tentatively begin on **02/05/19**. The presentation of a response will be roughly 15 minutes in length, with an additional 10-15 minutes for questions and discussion.

1. Students should begin with a reading of the relevant essay question/prompt, before providing their response.
2. Each response should incorporate substantive examples from the associated reading and/or outside research.

Following each presentation, students should be prepared to pose questions to the class to facilitate class discussion. While the instructor will moderate discourse, students are largely responsible for engaging in inquiry and discussion.

Reading Presentation and Discussion Grading

Each presentation/discussion will receive a "grade" ranging from 0 – 20 points based on the fulfillment of requirements. Weekly presentations will account for 20% of the final course grade. Please note that make-up presentations will not be allowed, except under extreme circumstances which can be substantiated (documentation will be required).

Topic Materials

The following criteria are required materials. You will be submitting all the materials on Canvas (see course schedule for date). Your policy paper will not be accepted unless you have successfully submitted your Topic Materials, and received instructor approval.

1. A specific topic/delimited title (i.e., have a specific focus in mind).
2. A properly formatted (APA style) annotated bibliography for your required sources.
3. A type-written outline for your paper which demonstrates the utility of your chosen journal articles, and a clear conception of what policy/policies you intend to examine.

Policy Paper

Each student will write an 18-20 page policy paper (not including the cover page or references) analyzing a justice-related topic as a requirement for this course. Students can choose their topic based on their own research interests, but the topic must be communicated with the instructor through the submission of Topic Materials (see course schedule). No paper will be accepted without previous communication and approval. Approval of a topic will be dependent on thorough preparation of your Topic Materials (see details regarding Topic Materials to follow). The purpose of the paper is not just to specifically test knowledge, but to also force critical thinking about an aspect of a chosen topic.

Students are prohibited from writing on a topic that has been used for previous course, or currently being used for another course. Any attempt to violate this requirement will result in an automatic "F" for the paper, which ultimately will result in failing the course. Such an attempt would constitute a violation of the Academic Integrity policy.

This paper will include a review of scholarly literature on an approved topic. Students will be required to not only analyze and critique existing policies, but propose new or amended policies. The research reviewed must come from high quality justice-related journals, which establish and examine relationships between and among variables, concepts, theories, and policies. Based on the evidence reviewed, policy implications will be drawn.

A handout detailing the expectations, content, formatting, and submission requirements will be provided in a timely manner. [CLO 1, 3-5]

Policy Paper Presentation

Students will be required give a 20-minute formal presentation of their policy papers. [CLO 2]

The presentation must include the following:

1. **Introduction**: Description of the specific topic, importance of the topic, and thesis
2. **Literature Review**: Relatively concise coverage of your literature review
3. **Policy Critique and Implications**: A critique of current policies, based upon the literature, in terms of the implications of their effectiveness/ineffectiveness, and suggestions about alternative policies. This critique should pull upon findings in the literature to support the presenter's point of view.

Paper Presentation Grading

The presentation will be graded based on the level of competency and flow, knowledge of the subject, and conclusions. It is highly recommended that students practice their presentations several times (preferably in front of someone who will provide constructive feedback). The presentations will be held to strict time limits. Failure to complete a presentation within the allotted time frame (i.e., 20 minutes), or too brief of a presentation, will result in a loss of points.

Grading Policy

Assignment/Exam	Exam/Due Date	Weight
Current Events/Participation	See schedule	15%
Reading Presentations/Discussion	See schedule	20%
Topic Materials	February 28th	15%
Policy Paper	March 28th	30%
Paper Presentation	See schedule	20%
		100%

Grading Policy and Late Submissions

Written assignments will primarily be graded on content; however, poor writing mechanics and APA formatting 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 submissions will not be accepted unless a valid, documented, and verifiable reason is provided.

A grade of "C" (i.e., at least 73%) is required to pass this course.

Department of Justice Studies Course Grade Determination

Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade
98.0 to 100	A plus	80.0 to 82.99	B minus	63 to 67.99	D
93.0 to 97.99	A	78 to 79.99	C plus	00.0 to 62.99	F
90.0 to 92.99	A minus	73.0 to 77.99	C		
88.0 to 89.99	B plus	70 .0 to 72.99	C minus		
83 to 87.99	B	68.00 to 69.99	D plus		

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.

Classroom Protocol

1. Students are expected to: attend all class meetings, arrive on time, stay for the duration of the class period, complete all readings and assignments in accordance with the dates on the course schedule.
2. Students are responsible for all missed notes, materials and announcements due to absence. You are encouraged to exchange contact information with someone in class just in case.
3. As neither a laptop nor tablet is required for the course, use of them is strictly limited to note taking or accommodation purposes. Students caught using such items for other non-class purposes may be prohibited from bringing them back to class, and will likely be dismissed from class for the day. At the instructor's discretion, students may be dismissed from class for cell phone use of any kind during class time, unless expressly permitted by the instructor.

University Policies

University Policies: Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP's Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

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The following course schedule is subject to change; advance notice of any changes will be provided via an announcement on Canvas as early as possible.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
1	01/24/19	Course introduction Overview of assignments and expectations **Reading for today:** Syllabus; Academic Integrity and Student Conduct policies
2	01/29/19	Policy discussion Discuss **Reading Presentation and Discussion** assignment
2	01/31/19	Detailed policy paper expectations Review of requirements for Topic Materials
3	02/05/19	Ch. 1 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 1
3	02/07/19	Ch. 2 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 2
4	02/12/19	Ch. 3 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 3 **Due today: Current Event 1 (Upload to Canvas by 11:59 PM)**
4	02/14/19	Ch. 4 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 4
5	02/19/19	Ch. 5 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 5
5	02/21/19	Ch. 6 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 6 **Due today: Current Event 2 (Upload to Canvas by 11:59 PM)**
6	02/26/19	Ch. 7 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 7
6	02/28/19	Ch. 8 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 8 **Due today: Topic Meeting Materials (Upload to Canvas by 11:59 PM)**

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
7	03/05/19	Ch. 9 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 9 **Due today: Current Event 3 (Upload to Canvas by 11:59 PM)**
7	03/07/19	Ch. 10 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 10
8	03/12/19	Ch. 11 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 11
8	03/14/19	Ch. 12 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 12 **Due today: Current Event 4 (Upload to Canvas by 11:59 PM)**
9	03/19/19	Ch. 13 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 13
9	03/21/19	Ch. 14 Presentations and Discussion **Reading for today**: Ch. 14
10	03/26/19	**Instructor Away at APS National Conference – No Class** **Due today: Current Event 5 (Upload to Canvas by 11:59 PM)**
10	03/28/19	**Instructor Away at APS National Conference – No Class** **Due today**: **Policy Paper (Upload to Canvas by 11:59 PM) - No hard copy**
11	04/02/19	**Spring Break - No Class**
11	04/04/19	**Spring Break - No Class**
12	04/09/19	Policy Paper Presentations
12	04/11/19	Policy Paper Presentations
13	04/16/19	Policy Paper Presentations
13	04/18/19	Policy Paper Presentations
14	04/23/19	Policy Paper Presentations

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
14	04/25/19	Policy Paper Presentations
15	04/30/19	Policy Paper Presentations
15	05/02/19	Policy Paper Presentations
16	05/07/19	Policy Paper Presentations
16	05/09/19	Policy Paper Presentations
Final	**05/17/19**	**Spartan Complex Central 152, 12:15 PM - 2:30 PM**