

Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems Section 01

JS 189

Spring 2023 3 Unit(s) 01/25/2023 to 05/15/2023 Modified 01/25/2023

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. John M. Halushka

Email: john.halushka@sjsu.edu

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, MacQuarrie Hall, Room 511

Tuesdays, 10:30am-12:30pm Online via Zoom

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/92737538715>

Course Description and Requisites

Identification, discussion and analysis of selected problems in justice studies. A major term paper on a selected topic is required.

Prerequisite(s): Senior standing in final semester; Justice Studies or Forensic Science major; FS 100W or JS 100W and JS 114 with a "C" or better; Department Consent.

Note(s): Must achieve a grade of "C" or better is required for Justice Studies majors.

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

This is a seminar based on the student's active involvement and participation. Each topic will be analyzed, presented, and thoroughly discussed in class during each meeting. Students are expected to come to class having done the assigned readings for each session. PLEASE NOTE: active participation to in-class discussion is crucial for the successful completion of JS 189.

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

At the end of a Bachelor of Science degree in Justice Studies in the Department of Justice Studies, students should be able to:

1. Explain the major concepts, theories, and historical trends within studies of crime, law, and social justice at all levels, from local to global.
2. Describe and apply ways to gather valid information and conduct research to answer questions about crime, law, and social justice issues.
3. Understand and critically analyze individual, institutional, and societal responses to crime, law, and social justice issues.

4. Employ interdisciplinary perspectives on systems of inequality and concepts of justice to propose grounded, informed, and sustainable solutions to social problems in communities and/or institutions.

5. Articulate compelling, reasoned, and empirically-informed positions on issues of justice to diverse audiences. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society

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 Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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.

Course Materials

Demystifying Crime & Criminal Justice

Author: Robert M. Bohm and Jeffery T. Walker

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Edition: 2nd

ISBN: 978-0-19-984383-1

Availability: Spartan Bookstore, Online

Locked In: The True Causes of Mass Incarceration and How to Achieve Real Reform

Author: John Pfaff

Publisher: Basic Books

ISBN: 0465096913

Availability: Spartan Bookstore, Online

Additional Readings

Additional readings will be posted to the Canvas website.

Availability: Canvas

☰ Course Requirements and Assignments

Co-Teaching and Discussion Leadership - 20%

During the first half of the semester, students will co-teach the seminar with the professor and lead a class discussion. During each class session, 2-3 students will be co-teachers and discussion leaders. The professor will provide an introduction and overview of the day's Lecture Readings during the first 30 minutes of class.

For the remaining 45 minutes, the student co-teachers will provide an overview of the assigned Discussion Reading (with PowerPoint slides) and lead a class discussion about the assigned course readings.

You will be graded on a scale of 100 points based your ability to summarize readings and incite a lively class discussion. How you do this is entirely up to you. You are encouraged to be creative: ask interesting and difficult questions; play devil's advocate; divide the class and have a debate; present visual aids. Whatever you choose to do, make things interesting for yourself and your classmates. The instructor will serve as the discussion moderator. However, these discussions depend heavily on student participation.

The detailed calendar of presentations will be circulated during the first week of class. PLEASE NOTE: make-up presentations will not be allowed.

2 Reading Reflection Papers - 15% (7.5 each, Due 2/22 and 3/22)

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)

- Topic Memo (Due 2/15)
- Annotated Bibliography (Due 3/8)
- Introduction Rough Draft (Due 4/5)
- Literature Review Rough Draft (Due 4/12)
- Policy Critique Rough Draft (Due 4/19)

The second half of the semester will consist of a writing workshop where students will work on their final papers. Students will split up into groups based on their paper topics and will present rough drafts of their writing to the group for feedback. In order for students to fully participate, they must complete all research and writing assignments *before* class. Further instructions will be given throughout the semester. (CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)

Final Research Paper - 25%

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

Final Paper Presentations - 15%

During the final weeks of class, students will offer in-class presentations about their research papers lasting approximately 15 minutes. Further instructions will be given throughout the semester. (CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)

✓ Grading Information

Breakdown

Co-Teaching and Discussion Leadership: 20%

Reading Reflection Papers: 15%

Writing Workshop Assignments: 25%

Final Paper Presentation and Peer Review: 15%

Final Paper: 25%

Total: 100%

Grade	Range	Notes
A+	98 to 100	
A	93 to 97.99	
A-	90 to 92.99	
B+	88 to 89.99	
B	83 to 87.99	
B-	80 to 82.99	
C+	78 to 79.99	
C	73 to 77.99	
C-	70 to 72.99	
D+	68 to 69.99	
D	63 to 67.99	
D-	60 to 62.99	

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
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When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week #1 01/25/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Introduction and Syllabus Overview	Reading: Syllabus
Lecture and Discussion Week #2 01/30/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	The Extent of Crime in America	<p>Lecture Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Myth of Accurate Crime Measurement" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice</i>, Chapter 1 <p>Discussion Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Myths and Realities: Understanding Recent Trends in Violent Crime" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p>Myths and Realities: Understanding Recent Trends in Violent Crime</p>
Lecture and Discussion Week #2 02/01/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Urban Poverty and Gun Violence	<p>Lecture Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Myth of Black Crime" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice</i>, Chapter 5 • "Neighborhood Inequality and Violence in Chicago, 1965-2020" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p>Discussion Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A New Model of Public Safety" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p>A New Model of Public Safety Neighborhood Inequality and Violence in Chicago, 1965-2020</p>
Lecture and Discussion Week #3 02/06/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Mass Shootings and Gun Control	<p>Lecture Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "What the Data Says About Gun Deaths in the U.S." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS • "The Myth That Mental Illness Causes Crime" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice</i>, Chapter 6 • "Gender-Based Mass Shootings: An Examination of Attacks Motivated by Grievances Against Women" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p>Discussion Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District of Columbia v. Heller (2008) (https://www.oyez.org/cases/2007/07-290) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS • "Why <i>Heller</i> is Such Bad History" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p>Why Heller is Such Bad History What the data say about gun deaths in the U.S. Gender-Based Mass Shootings: An Examination of Attacks Motivated by Grievances Against Women</p>

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture and Discussion Week #3 02/08/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Gender Inequality and Sexual Assault	<p><u>Lecture Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sexual Violence Continuum (Diagram) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS • "The Continuum of Sexual Violence in Urban Nightlife" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p><u>Discussion Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p> Sexual Assault on Campus Continuum of Sexual Violence in Urban Nightlife The Sexual Violence Continuum (Diagram) </p>
Lecture and Discussion Week #4 02/13/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Gender Inequality and Domestic Violence	<p><u>Lecture Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Myth That Stalking Is Not a Serious Crime" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice</i> Chapter 12 • "The Myth That the Best Police Response to Domestic Violence is to Arrest the Offender" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice</i> Chapter 19 <p><u>Discussion Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Sociology of Gaslighting" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p>Sociology of Gaslighting</p>
Lecture and Discussion Week #4 02/15/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Juvenile Justice	<p><u>Lecture Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Myth That Violent Juvenile Offenders Will Become Adult Criminals" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice</i> Chapter 4 • "Stealing a Bag of Potato Chips and Other Crimes of Resistance" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p><u>Discussion Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Consequences of the Criminal Justice Pipeline on Black and Latino Masculinity" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p><u>Assignment Due:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOPIC MEMO <p> Consequences of the Criminal Justice Pipeline on Black and Latino Masculinity Stealing a Bag of Potato Chips and Other Crimes of Resistance </p>

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture and Discussion Week #5 02/20/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Police and Communities of Color	<p>Lecture Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Myth of Racial Profiling" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice</i> Chapter 18 • "Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS • "Case Study: Floyd v. City of New York" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p>Discussion Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Law Enforcement's Warrior Problem" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p> Law Enforcement's Warrior Problem Case Study: Floyd v. City of New York Broken Windows - The Police and Neighborhood Safety </p>
Library Research Seminar Week #5 02/22/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Library Classroom 213	Library Research Seminar	<p><u>ASSIGNMENT DUE:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>REFLECTION PAPER #1</u>
Lecture and Discussion Week #6 02/27/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Police Violence	<p><u>Lecture Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping Police Violence Database (https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/) • "What is the Legal Standard for Deadly Force in a Shooting by Police?" • "American Policing and the Danger Imperative" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS • Law Enforcement Officer Deaths 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p><u>Discussion Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Too Much Policing: Why Calls are Made to Defund the Police" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p> American Policing and the Danger Imperative Law Enforcement Officer Deaths Too Much Policing What is the Legal Standard for Deadly Force? </p>

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture and Discussion Week #6 03/01/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Mass Incarceration and the War on Drugs	<p><u>Lecture Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preface <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Locked In</i>, Preface • Introduction: American Exceptionalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Locked In</i>, Introduction • "The War on Drugs" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Locked In</i>, Chapter 1 • "Have we gone too far myth busting criminal justice reform? Drug policy is still important" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p><u>Discussion Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Justice Reform in the Fentanyl Era <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS • Racially Targeted Arrests in the Era of Marijuana Reform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p> Criminal Justice Reform in the Fentanyl Era Racially Targeted Arrests in the Era of Marijuana Reform Have we gone too far myth busting criminal justice reform? Drug policy is still important </p>
Lecture and Discussion Week #7 03/06/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Mass Incarceration and the Prison-Industrial Complex	<p><u>Lecture Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A Brief History of Time (Served)" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Locked In</i>, Chapter 2 • "Private Prisons, Public Spending" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Locked In</i>, Chapter 3 <p><u>Discussion Readings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Prison Officer Unions and the Perpetuation of the Penal Status Quo" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p>Prison Officer Unions</p>
Lecture and Discussion Week #7 03/08/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Mass Incarceration and Prosecutors	<p><u>Lecture Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Man Behind the Curtain" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Locked In</i>, Chapter 5 • "The Road to Ending Mass Incarceration Goes Through the DA's Office" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p><u>Discussion Readings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "What the San Francisco DA Really Tells Us" • "Philly's Reform Prosecutor Reacts to His Impeachment" <p> What the SF DA Recall Really Tells Us Philly Reform Prosecutor Reacts to Impeachment </p>

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture and Discussion Week #8 03/13/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Mass Incarceration and Violent Crime	<p><u>Lecture Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Third Rail: Violent Offenses" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Locked In</i>, Chapter 7 <p><u>Discussion Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Lifetimes of Violence in a Sample of Released Prisoners" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p><u>Assignment Due:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY</u> <p>Lifetimes of Violence in a Sample of Released Prisoners</p>
Lecture and Discussion Week #8 03/15/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Collateral Consequences of Mass Incarceration	<p><u>Lecture Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: Costs of the Standard Story <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Locked In</i> • "The Mark of a Criminal Record" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS • "Careers in Criminalization: Reentry, Recidivism, and Repeated Incarceration" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p><u>Discussion Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Runaround: Punishment, Welfare, and Poverty Survival After Prison" <p>Careers in Criminalization The Runaround: Punishment, Welfare, and Poverty Survival After Prison</p>
Lecture and Discussion Week #9 03/20/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	The Future of Criminal Justice Reform	<p><u>Lecture Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Quo Vadis" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Locked In</i>, Chapter 8 • Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Locked In</i>, Conclusion <p><u>Discussion Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Current Crisis of American Criminal Justice: A Structural Analysis" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CANVAS <p>The Current Crisis of American Criminal Justice</p>
Film Week #9 03/22/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Film: Police on Trial	<p><u>ASSIGNMENT DUE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>REFLECTION PAPER #2</u>
Spring Break - NO CLASS Week #10		

When	Topic	Notes
Writing Workshop Week #11 04/03/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Writing an Introduction	
Writing Workshop Week #11 04/05/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Peer Workshop: Introduction	<u>Assignment Due:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>INTRODUCTION ROUGH DRAFT</u> • <u>IN-CLASS PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP</u>
Writing Workshop Week #12 04/10/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Writing a Literature Review	
Writing Workshop Week #12 04/12/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Peer Workshop: Literature Review	<u>Assignment Due:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>LITERATURE REVIEW ROUGH DRAFT</u> • <u>IN-CLASS PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP</u>
Writing Workshop Week #13 04/17/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Writing a Policy Critique	
Writing Workshop Week #13 04/19/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Peer Workshop: Policy Critique Rough Draft	<u>Assignment Due:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>POLICY CRITIQUE ROUGH DRAFT</u> • <u>IN-CLASS PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP</u>

When	Topic	Notes
Writing Workshop Week #14 04/24/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Bringing It All Together	
Writing Workshop Week #14 04/26/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Peer Workshop: Full Manuscript Rough Draft	<u>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>FULL MANUSCRIPT ROUGH DRAFT</u> • <u>IN-CLASS PEER WRITING WORKSHOP</u>
Final Paper Presentations Week #15 05/01/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Final Paper Presentations	
Final Paper Presentations Week #15 05/03/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Final Paper Presentations	
Final Paper Presentations Week #16 05/08/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Final Paper Presentations	
Final Paper Presentations Week #16 05/10/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Final Paper Presentations	

When	Topic	Notes
Final Paper Presentations Week #17 05/15/2023 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 357	Final Paper Presentations	
Final Research Papers Due Final Exam Week 05/23/2023 12:00 AM - 11:59 PM Canvas	Final Research Papers Due	<u>Final Research Papers Due</u>