

## **Department of Justice Studies**

### **JS 189 Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems, Fall 2019**

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

**Instructor:** Jodie Warren, M.A., Ph.D.

**Office Location:** HB 214

**Email:** [Department Consent](mailto:Department.Consent@sjsu.edu)

Note: A grade of "C" or better is required for Justice Studies majors.

#### **Course Format**

The mode of instruction for this course is online. 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

## **Required Texts/Readings**

**Required Readings (ISBN:**

## 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 double spaced 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 viola21e juTJ 0.0--2 (e)4 (m)-2 (pha)4 (s)5 (u)2 (c)6 (8

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**

<b>Assignment/Exam</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Current Events/Participation	See schedule	15%
Reading Presentations/Discussion	See schedule	20%
Topic Materials	Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	15%
Policy Paper	Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	

## **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.

### **On-line Classroom Protocol**

1. Students are expected to logon weekly and complete all readings and assignments in accordance with the dates on the course schedule.
2. Students are responsible for all materials and announcements. You are encouraged to exchange contact information with someone in class just in case.
- 3.



Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, and Deadlines
9	10/16- 10/22	Ch. 13/14 Presentations and Discussion (if more students are added only) <b>Reading for today:</b> Ch. 13/14 <b>Due Oct 17<sup>th</sup> : Policy Paper (Upload to Canvas by 11:59 PM Thursday) - No hard copy</b>
10	10/23- 10/29	Policy Paper Presentations-



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