

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
Justice Studies 265
Comparative Criminal Justice Systems (online) FALL 2019

Instructor: Allison Martin, Ph.D.
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Location: Washington, D.C.
Office Hours: by email

Course Description

Theory-based comparative analysis of US criminal justice system with criminal justice systems around the world. Course focuses on legal traditions, policing, courts and corrections, with emphasis on the role of geographical, historical and cultural traditions in shaping criminal justice.

This course will examine the major criminal justice systems in the world and engage in comparative analysis of US criminal justice system with these major criminal justice systems. More specifically, this course will mainly focus on: (1) Measuring and Comparing Crime in and across nations, (2) Families of Law, (3) Criminal Procedure (4) Policing, (5) Courts, and (4) Corrections. Students' understanding of the American criminal justice system will serve as a basis for learning comparative analyses throughout this course. Students are expected to engage in active and informed discussion during the lecture.

Course Learning Objectives (CLOs) are as follows:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

CLO 1. identify social, cultural, economic, ideological, and political variables which contribute to the variation of crime problems across nations

CLO 2. understand the structure and function of the criminal justice systems in other countries

CLO 3. develop an appreciation and understanding of the ethical dilemmas confronting criminal justice systems worldwide

CLO 4.

Pakes, F. (2004). *Comparative Criminal Justice*. Gloucester, UK: Willan Publishing.

Reichel, P. (2018). *Comparative Criminal Justice Systems*, 7th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Terrill, R. (2012). *World Criminal Justice Systems: A Comparative Survey*, 8th edition. Cincinnati, OH: Anderson Publishing.

Winterdyk, J. (2002) *Juvenile Justice Systems: International Perspectives*, 2nd edition. Toronto, Canada: Canadian Scholars Press.

Other Readings

Articles on Canvas

MYSJSU Messaging

You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU. Course materials including syllabus, notes, assignment, and journal articles can be found on the Canvas website.

Library Liaison

Nyle Craig Monday, MLK Librarian (408) 808-2041 or Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu

Course Format

This is an online graduate level course and is designed to emphasize critical thinking and developing analytical perspectives to the material. As such, the bulk of the class will focus on weekly readings from the textbook and articles, online discussion boards, a final research paper with an accompanying outline and presentation highlighting the main ideas of your paper.

Weekly readings and assignments can be found in the syllabus, as well as the Modules tab on Canvas. All assignments become available on Monday at 12:00am PST and are due by Sunday at 11:59pm PST of their respective week (see course schedule below); *please note discussion board original posts are due Wednesday at 11:59pm and other assignments may have other due dates*. Late assignments will not be accepted.

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 read other students' discussion threads, prepare your own 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 and other course-related experiences.

Detailed Introduction Post

This assignment is meant for the class and the instructor, to get acquainted with you. In approximately one page, please tell us (1) your name and where you are from, (2) why you chose to take this class, (3) how familiar you are with the topic of comparative criminal justice, (4) how important you think it is to know about international crime and justice, and (5) the type of career you wish to pursue and/or what you plan on doing with your Graduate Degree. This assignment will be due week 1 (see Course Schedule).

Discussion Boards

Discussion boards simulate classroom discussion, which is a main focus of a graduate level course. You are to provide thoughtful and original discussions based on the weekly readings and course material in a manner that uses critical thinking skills and is respectful to other students.

Discussion boards will be heavily graded on your use of reading material and the conversations you have with me and other students. Each week, you must incorporate the assigned material; in other words, make reference to the textbook and/or article(s) where appropriate. Please do not rely simply on one reading to answer your discussion board posts; the purpose is to incorporate several works to develop your main arguments. When using evidence in your discussion posts, you must cite the source using APA format. If you need assistance on APA format, please view:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

Students are required to first read all assigned readings and then respond to the module discussion board topic **by Wednesday at 11:59pm**. Students will then respond to *two* other student's original posts, as well as any questions I may ask regarding their post **by Sunday at 11:59pm**, when the weekly topic will

detention. Then, the criminal either moves on through the process and proceeds to the courts, or the process is terminated. If passed on to the courts, the criminal continues on with the criminal justice process of pleading guilty or not guilty. If found guilty, the process continues. If not, the process ends for the defendant. Finally, if found guilty, the criminal is sentenced and begins their process into corrections. Depending on the sentence, once completed, the criminal is released back into the populations, where the process begins again (p. 6). Louthan also describes a similar process of the criminal justice system. He

Research Paper and Presentation

In this course, there is an extensive research paper with an accompanying detailed outline and PowerPoint presentation, both with peer-reviews. Further assignment directions will be posted to Canvas. All written assignments will be turned in on Canvas through their respective assignments tab by the assigned due date. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Grading

Your grade in the class will be based on the following:

- Four discussion boards
- Research Paper Detailed Outline
- Research Paper Presentation
- Final Research Paper

Discussion Boards	50 points (10 points each)
Research Paper Detailed Outline	20 points
Research Paper Presentation	30 points
Final Research Paper	100 points
Total	200 points

Percentages are obtained by dividing the total points you earn by the total points possible in the course.

A plus = 98 to 100%	A = 93 to 97.9%	A minus = 90 to 92.9%
B plus = 88 to 89.9%	B = 83 to 87.9%	B minus = 80 to 82.9%
C plus = 78 to 79.9%	C = 73 to 77.9%	C minus = 70 to 72.9%
D plus = 68 to 69.9%	D = 63 to 67.9%	D minus = 60 to 62.9%
F = 0-59.9%		

Grading Rubric for Written Assignments

A: An “A” paper is one that is well written, clearly organized, and comprehensive in its coverage of the assignment. The paper is structured to promote readability (e.g., clear introduction, supporting elements/statement, clear conclusion), and the main ideas are clearly supported and explained.

B: A “B” paper is one that is fairly organized and contains many good ideas, but could use improvement in terms of organization, clarity, and writing style (e.g., stronger topic statements, clearer introduction/conclusion, and fewer grammatical/typographical errors). Coverage of the assignment is

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Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab 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 audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. [The LARC website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/).

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC). Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. mpus

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.**

<u>Module</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>
1	8/21 – 8/25	Introduction -- Measurement of Crime Across Nations	

