

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies!
JS12-01, Introduction to Legal Studies, Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

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 Description

The course presents historical and modern perspectives of the theories and structures of law, and provides an

Required Textbook

M. Lippman (2018). *Law and Society* (2nd edition). Sage Publications. ISBN-13: 978-1-5063-6227-4

Recommended

Jordan, Terry (2010). *The U.S. Constitution And Fascinating Facts About It* (7th edition). Oak Hill Publishing
ISBN 978-1-891743-00-9

Students may purchase texts in the bookstore and online.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu

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Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	January 28 & 30	Introductions/Course overview; Syllabus, Class, Assignment, Quiz & Final Examination formats; Historical Foundations of Justice; Legal, Criminal & Social Justice; State & Federal Constitutions; Structure & Sources of Authority of the Legal System in the United States; In-class exercise.
2		

6 March Retributive & Restorative Models of Justice; Balancing Individual &
4 & 6

- 12 April 15 & 17 Return/Review Quiz #5; Retribution, Deterrence, Incapacitation & Rehabilitation; Mandatory Minimum Sentencing; Proportionality; Corporal & Capital Punishment; Unusually Cruel Punishment; Restitution & Restoration; **Read Chapter 10: The Impact of Law on Society (pgs 381-439); Review Terminology (p 440); Prepare and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-11 (p 439); In-class exercise.**
- 13 April 22 & 24 Community Engagement; Escalation & Deescalations of Force; Alternatives to Lethal Force; Broken Windows, Predictive Policing, Crime Mapping, Body Cameras & Crisis Intervention Training; **Read Chapter 11: Law and Racial and Ethnic Equality (pgs 441-501); Review Terminology (p 502); Prepare,**