

# San José State University

## Required Texts

Howell, J.C. & Griffiths, E. (2019). *Gangs in Americas Communities (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.  
(ISBN: 9781544300221)

## Other Readings

Additional readings will be posted on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>.

Consider investing in an APA style guide, there are many different formats including a pocket size one, that are very affordable (e.g. ISBN: 9781433805608)

## Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, [silke.higgins@sjsu.edu](mailto:silke.higgins@sjsu.edu)

## Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Late work will not be accepted.
2. Assignment will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed.
3. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed. If you have issues uploading to Canvas, it is your responsibility to contact the IT department and resolve the issue. I will not accept technical issues as an excuse for late or missing assignments.
4. Assignments must include proper APA citation. Students must reference their journal articles in APA-style formatting. Students should refer to an APA style guide or the Online Writing Lab (OWL) from Purdue University at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/> if unclear about APA guidelines on in-

### **Midterm (CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4)**

The midterm will cover weeks 1-8 and include multiple choice, short and long answer questions. The midterm will cover materials from the textbook, assigned readings, and class activities. The midterm will be taken on Canvas.

### **Presentation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4)**

In groups of up to 4, you will sign up to present a topic related to gangs, criminal syndicates & justice by completing a series of tasks, including: (1) summarizing the issue (2) discussing past approaches/attempts to resolve the issue, (3) presenting ideas of policy changes to resolve the issues presented and (4) generating discussion questions. Each member of the group will present one task, but your presentation must be cohesive. As a group, you will create a power point to guide your presentation. Your discussion of the material should be thoughtful and analytical, and invite participation by all students. For grading, you will receive both individual and group grades. Further instructions and expectations will be discussed.

### **Final Examination or Evaluation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4)**

The final exam will cover weeks 9-16 and include multiple choice, short, and long answer questions. The midterm will cover materials from the textbook, assigned readings, and class activities The final exam will be taken at the time of the scheduled in-class final on Canvas.

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

### **Grading Information**





The following schedule is subject to change; advance notice of any changes will be posted as early as possible on Canvas.

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	M – 1/28	Introduction & Review of Syllabus
	W – 1/30	Chapter 1: History of Gangs in the US
2	M – 2/4	<b>Reading Response 1</b> Chapter 3: Defining Gangs and Gang Members
	W – 2/6	Canvas: Armaline, W.T., Vera Sanchez, C.G. & Correia, M. (2014). ‘The biggest gang in Oakland’: re-thinking police legitimacy.
3	M – 2/11	<b>Reading Response 2</b> Chapter 4: General Macro Level Theories and Modern-Day Applications
	W – 2/13	Canvas: Patton, D.U., et al. (2017).

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
8	M – 3/18	Midterm Review
	W – 3/20	Midterm
9	M – 3/25	<b>Reading Response 6</b> Canvas: Joyce, K.L. (2016). Stars, Dragons, and the Letter “M”: Consequential Symbols in California Prison Gang Policy.
	W – 3/27	Canvas: Winterdyk, J. & Ruddell, R. (2010). Managing prison gangs: Results from a survey of U.S. prison systems.
10	M – 4/1	Spring Break
	W – 4/3	Spring Break
11	M – 4/8	<b>Reading Response 7</b> Chapter 6: Girls and Gangs
	W – 4/10	Canvas: Peterson, R.D. & Howell, J.C. (2013). Program Approaches for Girls in Gangs: Female Specific or Gender Neutral?
12	M – 4/15	<b>Reading Response 8</b> Chapter 7: National Gang Problem Trends: 1996 to 2012
	W – 4/17	Canvas: Pyrooz, D.C. & Decker, S.H. (2011). Motives and methods for leaving the gang: Understanding the process of gang desistance. <i>I was a MS-13 member (TedTalk)</i>
13	M – 4/22	<b>Reading Response 9</b> Chapter 9: What Works: Prevention
	W – 4/24	<i>The Interrupters</i>
14	M – 4/29	<b>Reading Response 10</b> Chapter 10: What Works: Intervention and Suppression
	W – 5/1	