

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 18901 Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems Summer 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Dina M. Kameda, M.S., M.A.

Office Location: MacQuarrie Hall 58

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, or by appointment

Class Days/Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:00 AM - 11:45 AM

Classroom: MacQuarrie Hall 233

Prerequisites: Senior standing in final semester; Justice Studies or Forensic Science major; JS 100W and JS 114 with a "C or better";

2. E-mailed inquiries should be relatively short in nature. Students should make an appointment to meet with me to discuss more extensive inquiries. Students will be referred to the course syllabus with respect to questions that are addressed by simply reading the syllabus.

Course Description

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

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

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

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to [1-5]:

Demonstrate their ability to complete a formal research paper (a) synthesizes relevant scholarly sources; (b) reflects professional formatting and writing standards (APA format); (c) addresses relevant policy needs (such as necessary reforms) to intangible 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).

Demonstrate their ability to present scholarly work to an audience of their peers.

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.

Demonstrate their ability to undertake a critical analysis of a contemporary problem relevant to justice

Out-of-class written assignments must be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise noted by the instructor. Students are 100% responsible for uploading the correct file when submitting an assignment. Failure to upload the correct file will result in a zero for the assignment

Current Event Submissions (Participation)

Students will be required to submit current event summaries relevant to our justice system. Students will submit a 1-page writeup per assignment [CLO4-5]

Reading Presentation and Discussion Lead

Each student will be responsible for offering one in-class presentation of a response to a short answer essay question/prompt for a specific textbook chapter [CLO 2-5]

A schedule of presentations along with question/prompts will be provided; presentations will tentatively begin on 06/10/19. The presentation of a response will be roughly 15 minutes in length, with an additional 10-15 minutes for questions and discussion.

1. Students should begin with a reading of the relevant essay question/prompt providing their response.
2. Each response should incorporate substantive examples from the associated reading and/or outside research.

Following each presentation, students should be prepared to pose questions in class to facilitate class discussion. While the instructor will moderate discourse, students are largely responsible for engaging in inquiry and discussion.

Reading Presentati

Department of Justice Studies Course Grade Determination

Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade
98.0 to 100	A plus	80.0 to 82.99	B minus	63 to 67.99	D
93.0 to 97.99	A	78 to 79.99	C plus	60.0 to 62.99	F
90.0 to 92.99	A minus	73.0 to 77.99	C		
88.0 to 89.99	B plus	70.0 to 72.99	C minus		
83 to 87.99	B	68.00 to 69.99	D plus		

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.

Classroom Protocol

1. Students are expected to: attend all class meetings, arrive on time, stay for the duration of the class period, complete all readings and assignments in accordance with the dates on the course schedule.
2. Students are responsible for all missed notes, materials and announcements due to absence. You are encouraged to exchange contact information with someone in class just in case.
3. As neither a laptop nor tablet is required for the course, use of them is strictly limited to note taking or accommodation purposes. Students caught using such items for other purposes may be prohibited from bringing them back to class, and will likely be dismissed from class the day. At the instructor's discretion, students may be dismissed from class for cell phone use of any kind during class time, unless expressly permitted by the instructor.

University Policies

University Policies: Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs maintains universitywide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP's Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

