

San José State University
College of Health and Human Sciences Justice Studies Department

Justice Studies 140 – Fall 2020
Record Clearance Project – Practical Legal Skills

Instructor: Margaret (Peggy) Stevance W nBT-0.005-0. BT0 g12 -0 0 12 255 581.2

court hearings on record clearance petitions and conduct client interviews at online advice sessions (“Speed Screenings”).

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

After satisfactorily completing RCP, students are ready to assist their own clients (under attorney supervision), and have background skills applicable in other situations that involve assisting clients in a legal setting. By the end of the course, in addition to skills, students should have gained experience and insight regarding the criminal justice system, those involved in it, and ways in which processes might be improved.

In other classes, students learn that the criminal justice system is not neutral: Black and Latinx people are stopped by police, held in custody pretrial, charged with more serious crimes, offered less favorable pleas, and sentenced more severely than others. In the RCP, students see the personal consequences of this discrimination and, in their affirmative antiracist work, alter the lives of some of those affected.

Specifically, students have the following course learning outcomes (CLOs), as measured by the Tc -0.0sefecof

Reserve workshop space ahead of time by signing up in class. Once you sign up, you are expected to attend except in the case of an emergency. This is because we plan workshop sessions specifically based on the number of people attending.

After you attend each workshop, email me at Margaret.stevenson@sjsu.edu (i.e., not thru Canvas) a statement regarding (1) when you attended, (2) what you did well at the workshop, and (3) where –

unless I am promptly notified regarding situations like medical and family emergencies that reflect a good reason for the inability to complete the work on time.

Written assignments. There are two written assignments for class: a Speed Screening client profile and a mock record clearance petition described below. (CLOs 1-4). Turn these assignments in by the due dates to me via email at margaret.stevenson@sjsu.edu. Please keep a copy in case of loss.

Speed Screening client profile. The Speed Screening client profile is a roughly four-page description of one or more people you interviewed at a Speed Screening. The goal of this assignment is to encourage reflection on the process of your legal interview. Among things you might write about are: how the person corresponds to the profile of other RCP participants we have seen or read about, how effectively (or not) the law provides a remedy for the client's situation. What were your impressions of the client and interview? Was there anything surprising regarding the person? What went well in your interview? What will you improve on next time, if anything? How well prepared for the interview did you feel? Was there additional training or information that would have helped you be prepared? (CLOs 1-4)

Mock petition. Students prepare a mock record clearance petition, based on a role-played, in-class interview. (CLOs 1-4)

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tXhR3cLUp2H7g2aNuYkVDfrgkdymOeLSsZ5Ui4w2cng/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g119583dea1_0_0

Grading Policy

Grading is based on accumulated points earned from work on the above. Relative weight of each component appears in the following table. Related course learning outcomes (CLOs) are listed following the assignment.

Faculty members are required to report all alleged violations of the Academic Integrity Policy to Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) [will result in] an Academic Sanction and administrative sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that San José State's Academic Integrity Policy requires approval of instructors.

Classroom Protocol

Timeliness and communication. Check the course website at least twice a week for updates. Check your sjsu.edu email daily and respond promptly to notes to you from teaching assistants and me. Read your email on a real computer, not a handheld. This allows you to read the entire email and the attachments.

Problems. Please check with me if you experience or anticipate any problems or issues regarding class. Since problems are best dealt with early on, getting in touch sooner rather than later is best.

ACCESS Student Success Center :

The Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in the Social Sciences (ACCESS) provides General Education advising for undergraduate students majoring or intending to major in any of the departments in the College of Social Sciences (CoSS). ACCESS Academic Advisors are committed to helping you develop a clear path to graduation and supporting your academic success.

Fall 2020 Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Friday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. You can schedule an appointment and find more information at sjsu.edu/access.

Library Liaison

The Department's library liaison is Nyle Monday, nyle.monday@sjsu.edu.

University Policies

Please review the university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping / adding and other important information and resources on the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs (GUP)'s Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

Justice Studies reading and writing philosophy

It is departmental policy to include the following paragraph in every JS course syllabus:

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.