

San José State University

Course and Contact Information

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| Instructor: | Natalie Birthelmer |
| Office Location: | HB 125 |
| Telephone: | (408) 924-2753 x42753 email is the best way to reach me! |
| Email: | natalie.birthelmer@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | M/W 8:00 9:00AM email me for an appointment please! M 4:00 5:00 PM online email me for a Zoom invite please! If you wish to schedule alternate times, please email me. |
| Class Days/Time: | M/W 10:30AM-11:45AM |
| Classroom: | MQH 523 |
| Prerequisites: | Upper Division Standing |

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) on [Spartan App Portal](#) <http://one.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Critical analysis of the cultural, political and economic dimensions of penal politics in contemporary American society, with particular reference to the relationships between criminal justice and social justice. Emphasis on issues of racial, economic, and gender inequality.

Pre/Co-requisite: Any 100w

Note: Must achieve a grade of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Confidently discuss the cultural, political and economic dimensions of penal politics in contemporary American society. (CLO1)
2. Recognize race, class, and gender disparities in contemporary American penal politics. (CLO2)
3. Write papers examining the cultural, political, and economic dimensions of national and international penal politics through a social justice lens. (CLO3)
4. Make critical assessments of and draw logical conclusions about the relationship between criminal justice and social justice. (CLO4)

5. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level. (CLO5)

Required Texts

Cullen, F.T., Jonson, C.L., & Stohr, M.K. (2013). *The American Prison: Imagining a Different Future* (1st Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. (ISBN: 9781452241364)

Bosworth, M.F. (2009). *Explaining U.S. Imprisonment*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. (ISBN: 9781412924863)

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

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Late work will not be accepted. Missing, late, or plagiarized work will receive a grade of zero points.
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-text citations and reference pages.

Participation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

This class should be engaging for everyone, and therefore relies on student participation. All students will be expected to have read all assigned readings and completed any assignments before class, to be able to successfully participate in class discussions. Come to class ready to engage, debate, and discuss! Your participation grade will not be based on simply being present in the classroom but on meaningful participation.

Reading Responses (CLO1, CLO 2, CLO4, CLO5)

Students will write weekly reading responses to the required readings. You will respond to the provided discussion prompt to reflect on the readings in preparation for the upcoming classes.

Reading responses are due as listed on the Course Schedule (below) at 10:30AM on Canvas. Late work will not be accepted. Reading responses should be no less than one (1) page and no more than two (2) pages long, and must be written in formal English, in Times New Roman, 12pt. font, and double-spaced.

You must cite the chapter at least one (1) time in your reading response and show that you have read and understood the material through informed discussion. All citations and references must be in APA-style formatting.

Research Paper (CLO3)

In teams of two (2) you will choose a topic related to punishment as a reflection of culture and society. You will write a research paper on this topic together (you can choose to split up the tasks or pages, but your paper has to

A handout detailing the expectations, content, formatting, and submission requirements will be provided on Canvas.

Students must reference any sources 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.

Presentation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

You will present your research to the class as a team using a power point or other multi-media format. Your presentation will include an introduction, as well as the 4 prompts I provided for the literature review. You must ensure that the class is actively engaged with your presentation by providing open ended discussion questions following the presentation of your topic. Make sure to use media clips to keep your presentation interesting. Your discussion of the material should be thoughtful and analytical, and invite participation by all students. You will receive both individual and group grades. Further instructions and expectations will be discussed.

Final Examination or Evaluation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

The final exam will be cumulative, open notes, and include multiple choice, short, and long answer questions. The final exam will be taken at the time of the scheduled in-class final on Canvas.

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

Grading Information

Department of Justice Studies Course Grade Determination

| Total Points | Grade | Total Points | Grade | Total Points | Grade |
|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| 98.0 to 100 | A plus | 84.0 to 87.99 | B | 71.0 to 72.99 | C minus |
| 94.0 to 97.99 | A | 81.0 to 83.99 | B minus | 68.0 to 70.99 | D plus |
| 91.0 to 93.99 | A minus | 78.0 to 80.99 | C plus | 64.0 to 67.99 | D |
| 88.0 to 90.99 | B plus | 74.0 to 77.99 | C | 61.0 to 63.99 | D minus |

Determination of Grades

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Presentation | 100 pts / 20% |
| Research Paper | 100 pts / 20% |
| Participation | 100 pts / 20% |
| Reading Responses | 100 pts / 20% |
| Final | 100 pts / 20% |
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| Total | 500 pts / 100% |

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.

