

San José State University
JS 114, Research Methods in Justice Studies Section 80, Summer, 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Michael Vallerger, M.A.

Office Location:

Telephone:

Email: michael.vallerger@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Online, 5-6PM, Tues/Thurs
By Appointment

Class Days/Time: Online, Asynchronous

Classroom:

Prerequisites: JS 10, 12, 25, or FS 11; JS 100W with a grade of "C" or better; JS 15 or Stat 95 or equivalent with a "C" or better; Upper Division Standing; Restricted to JS majors and minors.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking the system to learn of any updates.

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

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

Course Learning Outcomes:

CLO1: Thoroughly read and understand academic writing and demonstrate that understanding through course assignments.

CLO2: Synthesize academic readings into written work formatted in APA style.

CLO3: Discuss assignments and examples in a professional and collegial manner, asking insightful questions and contributing to the class conversation.

CLO4: Demonstrate a critical understanding of concepts covered in this course.

Texts/Readings

Textbook

Chambliss & Schutt (2015). *Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation*, 5th Edition. SAGE Publications. ISBN10: 1483380610

Required Software

SPSS will be required for portions of this course. A student license is available for free if you bring them a thumbdrive (you may purchase a CD-ROM for \$32.95 @ 1-800-421-0126 or a DVD for \$37.95 @ 1-800-421-0126).

Quizzes

To measure your understanding of research and research methods covered in this course more broadly, there will be three quizzes. They will be multiple choice and short answer. They will each be worth 8 points, totaling 24 points.

Research Paper Checkpoints

To help students develop their Final Research Paper, there will be four Research Paper Checkpoint Assignments.

RPC1 – Topic Development Paper

RPC2 – Literature Review Draft

RPC3 – Analyses and Results

RPC4 – Research Paper Draft

Each of these assignments are worth 5 points, totaling to 20 points. Late work will be accepted for a maximum of half credit within a week of the due date – then the assignment will be graded as per usual. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact me ASAP.

Final Research Paper

This paper will be the culmination of many things students have learned over the whole course. It will include the following sections: introduction, literature review, sample methodology, data analyses, results, and conclusions. It will be an original research paper, which will involve data collection (most likely through a class survey). It will be due at the end of the course and will be worth 24 Points.

Grading Policy

The course grade is based on the final score out of 100 possible points. Theoretically, it is possible for everyone to earn an A. Missing any assignment may result in a grade of zero for the item. The grading scale is:

97 – 100 A+

92 – 96 A

89 – 91 A

87 – 88 B+

82 – 86 B

79 – 81 B

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their gradedependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

Instructor’s Note on Communication

As you know, a university degree is a significant undertaking and requires a high level of commitment, time management, organization, and initiative. Thus, it is in your best interest to stay on top of the readings and keep in touch with the instructor. The best way to keep in touch is in-person during office hours, or at another time by appointment. If you cannot meet with me in person, I prefer that you email me. Emails will be mostly only responded to during business hours (Monday through Friday). When you send me an email please put “JS 114 Section 1” and your full name in the subject line. Emails without this will most likely be discarded without response.

Classroom Etiquette

Please try to avoid being late. It is understood that many have numerous other commitments, but students must understand that they have enrolled in school aware of the demands of those commitments. Please make arrangements in order to arrive in time for class to begin promptly at the designated time. Please silence phones, laptops, and any other electronic device. The use of anything that beeps or consistently vibrates during class is disruptive then the instructor will need to ask that it be turned off, and then no one is happy. Please don’t do subjecti texting or browsing the internet during class that can be distracting to students behind you. Students are responsible for all missed notes, materials, and announcements due to absence (i.e., do not email the instructor asking about what you mis

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S127](#),

drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC). Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 10th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate, psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or to learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

