

San José State University

College of Social Sciences/Department of Justice Studies
JS 156-01, Gangs, Criminal Syndicates & Justice Spring 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor :	Natalie Birthelmer
Office Location:	HB 125
Telephone	(408) 9242753 x42753- email is the best way to reach me!
Email:	nataliebirthelmer@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday 9:30-11:30, email for Zoom appointment
Class Days/Time	M/W 12:00PM-1:15PM
Classroom	Canvas / Zoom
Prerequisites	Upper Division Standing

Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses

This course adopts asynchronous online delivery format with a M/W meeting pattern. You must have access to a webcam during scheduled class time. Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone. SJSU has a [free equipment loan program](#) available for students. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi tests. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible or at the latest one week before the test date to determine an alternative. [See Anywhere website](#) for current WiFi options on campus. All course work will take place on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#) <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. See [University Policy E-1a](#) <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/E1a.pdf> for more details.

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](#) <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU Student App Portal](#) <http://one.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

are responsible for ensuring their work is accepted and evaluated by Turnitin.com. Inability to do so will

Late work will not be accepted. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed. If assignments will not be accepted. If you have issues uploading to Canvas, it is your responsibility to contact the IT department and resolve them. I will not accept technical issues as an excuse for late or missing assignments.

General questions (format, deadlines, etc.) can be posted use the course Q&A Board on Canvas.

Zoom Classroom Etiquette

1. Mute Your Microphone: To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
2. Be Mindful of Background Noise and Distractions: Find a quiet place to attend class to the greatest extent possible.
3. Avoid video setups where people may be walking behind you, people/making noise, etc.
4. Avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.
5. Limit Your Distractions/Avoid Multitasking: You can make it easier to focus on meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).
6. Use Appropriate Virtual Backgrounds: If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is offensively offensive or demeaning.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16, universitywide policy information relevant to all courses such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on

JS 156-01 / Gangs, Criminal Syndicates & Justice Spring 2021, M/W 12:00PM -1:15PM

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 – 1/27	Introduction & Review of Syllabus
2	M – 2/1	Reading Response 1 Chapter 1: History of Gangs in the US
	W – 2/3	Chapter 3: Defining Gangs and Gang Members Canvas: Armaline, W.T., Vera Sanchez, C.G. & Correia, M. (2014). 'The biggest gang in Oakland': rethinking police legitimacy.
3	M – 2/8	Reading Response 2 Chapter 4: General Macro Level Theories and Modern Applications
	W – 2/10	Canvas: Patton, D.U., et al. (2016). Gang violence on the digital street: Case study of a South Side Chicago gang member's Twitter communication
4	M – 2/15	Reading Response 3 Chapter 5: Micro Level Theories: Developmental Life Course Pathways and Other Micro Level Explanations for Gang Involvement
	W – 2/17	Harris, M.G. (1994). Cholas, Mexican American Girls, and Gangs.
5	M – 2/22	Reading Response 4 Canvas: Blakely, G.R. (1967). Organized Crime in the United States <i>Inside the American Mob</i>
	W – 2/24	Canvas: Britz, M.T. (2008). A New Paradigm of Organized Crime in the United States: Criminal Syndicates, Cybergangs, and the Worldwide Web.
6	M – 3/1	Reading Response 5 Chapter 8: Urban Gangs and Violence
	W – 3/3	Cureton, S.R.(2009). Something Wicked This Way Comes <i>Crips and Bloods: Made in America</i>
7	M – 3/8	Zatz, M.S. & Portillos, E.L. (2000). Voices from the Barrio: Chicano/a gangs, families, and communities.
	W – 3/10	<i>The Gang Crackdown (Frontline S36 E5)</i>
	M – 3/15	Midterm Review

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
8	W – 3/17	Midterm