

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS158, The Prison Community, Section 61, Winter 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Judith Randle, J.D., Ph.D.
Office Location:	Zoom: https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/6570524029
Email:	judith.randle@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	M-F 8:30am - 10:00am
Class Days/Time:	TBD - No meeting pattern
Classroom:	https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1412893
Prerequisite/Corequisite:	

Course Description

Analysis of formal and informal systems of organization and interaction among incarcerated people and staff. Effects of the social structure and external system on the organization of the prison community.

Course Format

This course is fully online and has no scheduled meetings. The student must have regular internet access to access the course materials and submit the course assignments. This includes a computer that has video and audio playback features (e.g., YouTube, Quicktime).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Identify the various penal systems throughout the United States.
2. Analyze the effects of the external social structure on the history of prisons and on the organization of the prison community.
3. Analyze formal and informal systems of organization and interaction among inmates and staff.
4. Identify and write about the critical issues facing the American prison system.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

Simon, J. (2014) *Mass Incarceration on Trial: A Remarkable Court Decision and the Future of Prisons in America*. The New Press. ISBN: 9871595587695

Sykes, G. (2007) *The Society of Captives*. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 9780691130644

Readings on CANVAS

Journal articles, news articles, and book excerpts are listed on the Course Schedule below and posted on the CANVAS website.

Videos and Websites on CANVAS

Required website material, web-based videos, and web-based audio files are listed on the Course Schedule below. Links are posted on the CANVAS website.

Module Videos

Each Module begins with an introductory video and may include supplemental videos, as listed on the Course Schedule below.

Library Liaison

Nyle.Monday@sjs.edu

<https://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination or Evaluation

Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment. This course requires a final essay.

Grading Information

Your grade is derived from work in six (6) categories:

Sykes Reading Journal: You will write answers to essay questions assigned to each chapter of *The Society of Captives*. 60 pts (CLO 3)

Simon Reading Journal: You will write answers to essay questions assigned to each chapter of *Mass Incarceration on Trial*. 60 pts (CLOs 3&4)

Discussion Board (18) On the course discussion board, you must post:

- < *Introductory Post (1)*: by Wednesday, Jan 6, introduce yourself on the discussion forum and provide a link to a current event about prisons that interest you 1x10 pts
- < *Professor Posts (4)*: for each module, a response to my original post related to the material (see course website for instructions) 4x10 pts each (CLOs 1-4)
- < *Response Posts (9)*: nine (see course website for instructions) 10x5 pts each (CLO 4)

Quizzes (4) Each module contains a multiple-choice quiz

- < *Module 1 Quiz* assesses your

- ◁ *Module 2 Quiz* assesses your knowledge of the internal social dynamics (roles, relationships, power struggles, etc.) that sociologists have identified within the prison community 15 pts (CLOs 2&3)
- ◁ *Module 3 Quiz* assesses your knowledge of the 1st, 5th, 8th, and 14th internal operations of prisons. 50 pts (CLOs 2-4)
- ◁ *Module 4 Quiz* assesses your knowledge of parole and re-entry processes, and promising alternative prison designs that reduce recidivism. 15 pts (CLOs 3&4)

Final Essay - The final essay is a 2000-word essay that reflects on the nature of incarceration as a response to crime. 125 pts (CLOs 3 & 4)

Point and Percentage Values (Approximate and Subject to Minor Changes)

<i>Work</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>Sykes Reading Journal</i>	60	14
<i>Simon Reading Journal</i>	60	14
<i>Discussion Board</i>	100	24
<i>Quiz 1</i>	35	8
<i>Quiz 2</i>	15	4
<i>Quiz 3</i>	35	8
<i>Quiz 4</i>	15	4
<i>Final Essay</i>	100	24

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	98.5 to 100%
<i>A</i>	92.5 to 98.4%
<i>A minus</i>	89.5 to 92.4%
<i>B plus</i>	86.5 to 89.4 %
<i>B</i>	82.5 to 86.4%
<i>B minus</i>	79.5 to 82.4%
<i>C plus</i>	75.5 to 79.4%
<i>C</i>	72.5 to 75.4%
<i>C minus</i>	69.5 to 72.4%
<i>D plus</i>	65.5 to 69.4%
<i>D</i>	62.5 to 65.4%
<i>D minus</i>	59.5 to 62.4%
<i>F</i>	0 to 59.4%

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic [Syllabus Information web page](#)

Module	<u>Topics and Course Material</u>	Module-Specific Assignments (Does not include Introductory Post* and Student Response Posts**)
	<p><u>Current Jail and Prison Populations</u> CANVAS Readings: < browse tables < era) browse tables CANVAS Websites: < browse website < < Initiative) CANVAS Video: < Actually <</p>	
<p>Module 2: The Prison Society</p>	<p><u>Watch: Module 2 Overview</u> <u>The Prison as a Social System</u> Lecture Video: < (20 mins) Sykes: Introduction & Ch. 1 CANVAS Reading: < <u>Custody & Power</u> Sykes: Chs. 2 & 3 <u>Deprivations</u> Sykes Ch. 4 CANVAS Reading: < <u>Masculinity and the Social Order in Male Prisons</u> Sykes Ch. 5 CANVAS Readings: < < -Jamal) <u>Crisis-Equilibrium</u> Sykes Ch. 6 CANVAS Video: < 50 mins) <</p>	

Module	<u>Topics and Course Material</u>	Module-Specific Assignments (Does not include Introductory Post* and Student Response Posts**)
Regulating (Extreme) Prison Conditions		

Module	<u>Topics and Course Material</u>	Module-Specific Assignments (Does not include Introductory Post* and Student Response Posts**)
Re-Entry, Rehabilitation, and Alternative Prison Designs	<	