

San José State University  
College of Social Sciences/ Justice Studies Department  
Justice Studies 103 Courts and Society Fall 2022

Instructor: Margaret (Peggy) Stevenson  
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Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00 – 10:15 AM and by arrangement  
Class Days/Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30 – 11:45 AM  
Class location: MacQuarrie Hall 523  
Prerequisites: Upper Division standing  
Competency area: A – Theories

### Course Description JS 103

The catalog description: Structure and functions of the court system. Emphasizes attorneys' and judges' roles and the court process. Examination of federal and state legislative, executive and judicial branch actions, including Supreme Court decisions in civil and criminal cases.

### Course Goals and Course Learning Outcomes

This class covers the structure and functions of the court system. It focuses on the ways in which courts influence society -- and vice versa -- in the context of civil and criminal cases. The course involves lectures, guest speakers, class participation, court observations and general reflection on justice issues.

I will post a PDF version of the course reader on Canvas for those who have free printing or wish to arrange their own printing. I strongly recommend buying a hard copy so you can take notes during class.

Course website:

Course materials including the syllabus, readings, class notes, resources and other materials are found on the course website on Canvas. Log in at one.sjsu.edu using your nine digit SJSU student ID number. Your password is the same one you use for your SJSU One account. All your courses will appear once you log in, click on JS 103 for this course.

The course is organized into Modules." Click on each Module for the readings for the specific unit.

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to attend and participate in all classes, complete all reading and writing assignments (text and website), and take assigned quizzes and exam. See the Tentative Course Calendar, following, for more detail and due dates. If you have to miss a class, please ask a classmate or check the website if you are missing information.

Check the course website at least once a week for updates. Make sure you are receiving updates from Canvas via email. (If you are not, check the email you have listed on your SJSU One account and adjust to make sure you get notifications of announcements, schedule changes, guest speakers, etc.)

Assignments and Grading Policy

Grading is based on a point system, as outlined in the following table.

Activity	CLO	# per semester	pts for each		

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a B, 70 – 79 percent likely will get a C, 60 – 69 percent likely will get a D and those below 60 percent likely will get an F. However, at the end of the class, I will adjust grades, depending on how the class does as a whole. Additionally, upon occasion I adjust grades upward for consistent, meaningful classroom participation to acknowledge the added value to

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## Tentative Course Calendar and Assignments

Background documents regarding the course and reading assignments are posted on the course website. Look at the Modules to find files sorted into course units. Among documents posted, for example, are descriptions of the writing assignments, finding courts to observe, quizzes and other material. Please familiarize yourself with the website and \_\_\_\_\_

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