
graduates work in a multitude of settings including probation, parole, corrections, law enforcement, crime labs, and nonprofit agencies, or they continue their education in law school or other graduate programs.

This degree program is housed in the Department of Justice Studies. More information is available at www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO 1. Understand and intelligently discuss the purpose and strengths of qualitative research.

CLO 2. Critically assess qualitative research in justice studies.

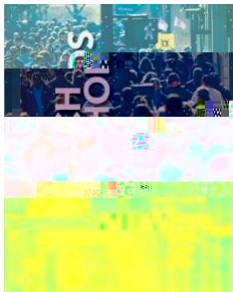
CLO 3. Conduct qualitative research in justice studies.

CLO 4. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

Required Texts/Readings

Required Textbook

Maxfield, M. G., & Babbie, E. (2017). *Research methods for criminal justice and criminology (8th Edition)*. Thomson/Wadsworth: Belmont, CA. ISBN-13: 9781337091824



Textbook can be purchased/rented through the University bookstore or online (e.g., Amazon or Vitalsource)

Recommended Texts

Tracy, S. J. (2019). *Qualitative Research Methods (2nd Edition)*. Wiley Global Research (STMS). ISBN-13: 9781119390787



American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th edition*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Required Readings Posted to Canvas

Additional reading may be assigned based on progression of the course.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Internet connection and Microsoft Office access is required for this course, specifically Word and PowerPoint.

Library Liaison

For help with library resources and library research (including the use of databases and online research materials—such as journal search engines), students are strongly encouraged to contact the Justice Studies Library Liaison: Nyle Craig Monday, MLK Librarian (408) 808-2041 or Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu

ACCESS Success Center

The Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in the Social Sciences (ACCESS) provides General Education advising for undergraduate students majoring or intending to major in any of the departments in the College of Social Sciences (CoSS). ACCESS Academic Advisors are committed to helping you develop a clear path to graduation and supporting your academic success.

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Friday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. You can schedule an appointment and find more information at sjsu.edu/access.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Weekly readings and assignments can be found in the syllabus, as well as on the Modules tab on Canvas. Each module will become available on Monday at 12:00am PST and will close by Sunday at 11:59pm PST of their respective week (see course schedule below); Please take special note of assignment due dates, particularly to weekly discussion board responses, which are due mid-week. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Students are expected to log onto Canvas 3-4 times per week, or if possible, log on daily, to check for updates and announcements. You are also expected to check your university email account regularly. There will be cut-off times that will close Canvas modules. Students who anticipate missing the cut-off times are responsible for making arrangements with the instructor prior to the cut-off times.

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.

Introduction through Google Slides

This assignment is meant for the class and the instructor, to get acquainted with you. We will all collaborate on one Google Slides Presentation to introduce ourselves and get to know one another. Further directions will be posted to Canvas. This assignment will be due before the end of the first week of class (see Course Schedule).

Discussion Boards and Class Participation

Throughout this course there will be discussion boards or other weekly required class participation activities, such as collaboration on media platforms. Class participation is required in discussions and activities. For discussion boards, you are to provide thoughtful and original discussions based on the weekly readings and course material in a manner that uses critical thinking skills and is respectful to other students. Discussion boards will be heavily graded on your use of reading material and the conversations you have with other

students. Each week, you must incorporate the assigned material; in other words, make reference to the textbook and supplemental readings where appropriate. When using evidence in your discussion posts, you must cite the source using APA format in-text, as well as cite at the end of your post. If you need assistance on APA format, visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

You are required to be an active participant in the class, which means that you are to prepare your own discussion board threads, read other students' discussion threads, and respond to other students' threads with substantive observations. This course will ask students to make a claim regarding the weekly discussion board posts, and support that claim with reason and evidence. The written work you submit will reflect your own thinking about information you obtain from the required readings, lectures, and other course-related experiences.

Students are required to first read all assigned readings and then respond to the module discussion board topic **by Wednesday at 11:59pm**. Original posts (responses to the question posed) should be approximately 1 page in length, in a Word document equivalent. Students will then respond to **TWO** other student's original posts, as well as any questions I may ask regarding their post **by Sunday at 11:59pm**, when the weekly topic will close. These posts should be approximately ½ page for each reply. Be sure to use references to reading material in all the posts you can, especially when agreeing with or refuting points made by your peer. Responses consisting of a lack of thought as in "I agree" or "great thought" will not count as a quality response.

If I pose a question to your post, it will be by Saturday, so be sure to check to see if I have posted on your discussion board anytime on Sunday; please keep in mind that if you do not see a post by me from that week, then I did not ask you a question and you are not required to respond. Please also regularly check your university email account, as class follow-up questions will also be asked through email. Required responses to other students must be on their original post, not on the question they pose to you. This idea here is to keep the conversation going; you will discuss with other students, as well as with the instructor.

Posts that exceed expectations (grade of an "A+") will be reserved for those who have integrated material thoughtfully and have shown a true interest in the topic for the week (e.g., responds to other students who have commented on their original posts and checks other conversations in the discussion board thread). Please keep in mind that a grade of an "A+" is defined as "exceptional quality work." Logging into Canvas later in the day on Sunday, will give you the best opportunity to close out any open conversations from the week. If you are unable to login on a particular Sunday, then please email me in advance.

Students are required to use grammar and sentence structure that is consistent with college level writing as well as demonstrate attentive and critical arguments. The use of APA format is required. Discussion board dates are listed in the schedule.

Weekly Discussion Board Schedule

Class with Dr. Medina

The image is a severely corrupted screenshot of a weekly discussion board schedule. It features a grid layout with various colored headers (purple, green, blue, pink) at the top. The main content area is mostly black with scattered, illegible text and colorful noise. Some faint words like "DB TOPIC", "FINISH", and "Watch/Expl" are visible. The bottom section of the image is also heavily distorted and illegible.

system. Components of the criminal justice system are individually fragmented (p. 7). Agencies within the process are only concerned about their needs, and not considering what changes among their agency will affect other components of the process.

Because I believe that the criminal justice system is a “process,” I think that police, courts, and correctional agencies are organizations that the criminal justice processes through. Peak (2016) describes an organization as “entities of two or more people who cooperate to achieve an objective” (p. 22). Each component within the criminal justice system has their own objectives in order to obtain the common goal of the system as a whole. Each component has their own series of administration built within their entities. The criminal justice process sends criminals through these organizations, police, courts, and corrections, who each have their own set agendas (objectives) for the criminals. Once the objectives are met by the organization, the criminal moves on to complete the next set of objectives of the next organization, until all organization’s objectives are met. Once all the objectives are met amongst the organizations, the common goal is met.

The Department of Government and Justice Studies from Appalachian State University gives a clear description of the criminal justice process. What Louthan doesn’t describe clearly in his description is the concept of filtering. Some criminals won’t advance to the next step in the criminal process because they are filtered, or screened out (Appalachian State University, 2016). Peak’s (2016) Figure 1.1, shows the different ways that criminals are filtered out during the process (p. 6). Criminals are unapprehended, no complaints are filed, the accusation is dismissed, they are acquitted, or they are given an unsupervised fine (p. 6). Criminals could also be filtered from the criminal justice process by what Louthan (1974) describes as compliance and attitudes towards other components (p. 33). For example, the courts have decided that when criminals are apprehended, they are given their Miranda rights (p. 33). Police have to comply with this rule in order to successfully move criminals through the rest of the process. If they have negative attitudes towards rules and policies, they are less likely to follow through.

Appalachian State University. (2016). The criminal justice process. Retrieved from <http://gjs.appstate.edu/media-coverage-crime-and-criminal-justice/criminal-justice-process>

Louthan, W.C. (1974). Relationships among police, court, and correctional agencies. (30-37).

Peak, K. (Ed.) (2016). Justice administration: Police, courts, and corrections management, 8th edition. Hoboken, New Jersey: Pearson.

Response to another student’s post:

I too thought that the criminal justice system acts like a process. Like how you framed the criminal justice system as a “process within a system.” The system does share a common goal, however, each entity has its own set of objectives to achieve that common goal. Each entity keeps the public safe by deterring crime in their own way. Police make arrests, courts sentences, and the correctional agencies rehabilitate. I was wondering what your thoughts were on a criminal justice network? Peak (2016), defines a criminal justice network as “a view that the justice system’s components cooperate and share similar goals, but operate independently and compete for funding” (p. 7). I thought this definition could be somewhat applied to the criminal justice system, as well. Funding is limited, thus, creating competition between police, courts, and corrections. I think that the police, courts, and corrections operate independently, but also work with one another.

I like the examples that you provided in your response. I think that the criminal justice system is making advancements towards mental health awareness and education. I have to had experience with law enforcement officers recognizing and being able to respond appropriately to those with mental health issues. However, there is always room for improvements. Mental health has become an increasing public awareness, that I think will take some time for the criminal justice system to implement new strategies effectively.

Peak, K. (Ed.) (2016). Justice administration: Police, courts, and corrections management, 8th edition. Hoboken, New Jersey: Pearson.

Please see the rubrics below for discussion board grading:

