

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 201 Seminar in Justice and Social Theory, Section 01, Fall 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dina M. Kameda, M.S., M.A.
Office Location:	MacQuarrie Hall 508
Telephone:	(408) 832-9939 (cell phone – emergency only)
Email:	dina.kameda@sjsu.edu (best method of contact)
Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM or by appointment via Zoom (see Canvas course page)
Class Days/Time:	Thursdays, 4:30 PM - 7:15 PM
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall 526
Units/GWAR:	3 units This course satisfies graduate-level GWAR in this master's program.

Course Format

The mode of instruction for this course is in-person. Reliable access to a computer and the internet will be required. All written assignments will be submitted via Canvas, and must be in Microsoft Word (*.doc or *.docx). If you do not currently own Microsoft Word, the software (both PC and Mac) is available for free to students: <http://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/collaboration/software/instructions.php>

Canvas Course Page and E-mail

Course materials will be posted on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking your e-mail and Canvas regarding announcements, reminders, and any additional course materials. The majority of course materials will be posted in Adobe PDF format; if you choose to download them, you will need Adobe Reader to view the documents. There is no cost to download Adobe Reader (<http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/students/index.html>). Some course materials may need to be accessed via the internet (i.e., web sites).

E-mail Policy

Feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check several times per day); however, please adhere to the e-mail guidelines below:

1. Please include in the “subject line” the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS201, Your Name, subject). The instructor **will not** respond to “no subject” e-mails, or any e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.
2. E-mailed inquiries should be relatively short in nature. Students should utilize office hours to discuss more extensive inquiries. Students will be referred (l)-2 (i)-2 (ne)4 (: 4 (: 4 (: 4 (:i)-2 (: 4 (y2 (l)-2 (l)-2 (a)bu2 (

Course Description

Examines classic and contemporary theories of justice, including legal, social, economic and criminal justice and their application to current social issues. This course satisfies graduate-level GWAR in this master's program. JS-201 is a 3-unit course.

Please note: required courses in the graduate program (JS-201; JS-202; JS-203; JS-204; JS-207) must be completed with a grade point average of 3.0 ("B") or better.

Course Overview

This seminar provides a critical reconstruction of some recent transformations of punishment and social control in the United States. Since the mid-1970s, a long cycle of "domestic wars" (i.e., war on drugs, war on crime, war on welfare) has reshaped North-American society, turning the United States into one of the world's most punitive countries. Furthermore, this "punitive turn"—exemplified by mass-incarceration, draconian drug-laws, the resurgence of the death penalty, harsh anti-immigration laws, and increasingly punitive welfare policies—has contributed to deepen social inequalities along the lines of race, class, nationality, and gender. The seminar will analyze these developments from a broad range of scholarly perspectives and methodological approaches within the field of punishment & society studies. Throughout the seminar students will be exposed to theoretical critiques of the US penal field, as well as to ethnographic and documentary narratives of the "underworlds" targeted by the new punitiveness.

Course Objectives

The main objective of this seminar is to help students develop a scholarly grounded critical understanding of the inner contradictions of punitive penal policies in the United States. In order to achieve this objective, students will be encouraged to observe the consequences of the American punitive turn particularly from the point of view of the communities and social groups most affected by the penal state. This is an interactive seminar based on intensive reading and discussion. Although the instructor will introduce and illustrate the main issues and topics in order to facilitate the debate, the success of this learning experience is heavily dependent on the students' active participation to the seminar. Therefore, all participants should come to class having done the assigned readings—a necessary condition for a productive and meaningful participation.

Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to [SLO 1-5]:

1. Identify, distinguish, and analyze the various types of theories introduced in class. [RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: IN-CLASS EXAM]
2. Demonstrate the ability to apply theory to contemporary social issues. [RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: JUSTICE AND SOCIAL POLICY VIDEO PRESENTATION]
3. Critically contribute to class discussion with curiosity, interest, and a desire to understand more about theories of justice and their impact on society. [RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: IN-CLASS PRESENTATION]
4. Complete a research paper that applies theoretical concepts, analyzes current literature that relates to the topic, applies APA 6th ed. citation formats, and offers directions for future research based on a comprehensive understanding of the research topic. [RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT: POLICY PAPER]
5. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level. [RELEVANT ASSIGNMENTS: IN-CLASS EXAM/POLICY PAPER/IN-CLASS PRESENTATION]

Classroom Protocol

Attendance:



Paper Preparation Materials (PPM)

The following are required materials you will be g4j24.47 02[-11 (ed)]TJEMC /P ÆM8 -1.36 450.001 Tw 0 Tr 9.96 0 0



Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
10	10/27/22	<p>Reading: Comfort, <i>Papa's House</i></p> <p>Reading: Comfort, <i>Punishment Beyond the Legal Offender</i></p> <p>[2 in-class presentations]</p>
11	11/03/22	<p>Reading: Hirschfield, <i>Preparing for Prison?</i></p> <p>Reading: Simmons, <i>Profiting from Punishment</i></p> <p>DOCUMENTARY: Story, <i>The Prison in Twelve Landscapes</i> (USA 2016, 87 min.)</p> <p>Due Friday, 11/04/22: Paper Preparation Materials (upload as Word document to Canvas by 11:59 PM)</p>
12	11/10/22	<p>Reading: Lynch, <i>The Disposition of the Dead</i></p>