

San José State University
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Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Aubria Jefferson
Office Location: Zoom
Telephone: Please contact me via email or attend my office hours
Email: aubria.jefferson@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Thursdays 10am-12pm on Zoom <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/3795385558> this time does not work for you I am amenable to setting a meeting time specifically for you :)
Class Days/Time: Tuesdays, 4:30pm-7:15pm.
Classroom: MacQuarrie Hall 233
Zoom (livestream in due to COVID-19 related reasons): <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/3795385558>
Prerequisites: Graduate standing; or instructor permission.

Course Description

Qualitative research methods used in Justice Studies. Includes relationship of empirical evidence to theory, ethics in conducting empirical research, methodological design, interviewing techniques, field methods, participant observation, and content analysis.

Course Format

This course is a graduate seminar in qualitative research methods. In a graduate seminar, students meet UHJXODUOD QGR GLLVSRXVW DQ DUHD RI UHVHDUFK XQGHU WKH JXL this course is to guide your conversations, steer your thinking in intellectually sound directions, and to evaluate your work. The professor will not carry the conversation. Instead, the role of a seminar is to make students expert in an area of study. As a scholar, you should approach this course with the mentality that the group has the burden of educating itself. Since participation is a key element in this class, I recommend not taking this course if you anticipate being unable to contribute to class discussions.

Students will be assigned to lead the discussion for the week (discussion leader). These students are to conduct additional research on any issue related to the topic of the week (e.g., ethics in research, content analysis, semi-structured interviews, etc.) and present it to the class in a short and organized manner. For example, a student may read an article, book chapter, or official report, and discuss its relevance to the topic that week. In addition, students are expected to create a set of discussion questions that underscore critical themes or issues associated with the reading (5 questions will suffice) and are intended to facilitate the class discussion.

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Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C. N. (2017). *Qualitative inquiry & research design: Choosing among five approaches* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, Inc.

Cobbina, J. E. (2019). *Qualitative research: A practical guide to data collection, analysis, and interpretation*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will include:

F. Final Examination or Evaluation

The culminating activity for this class will be a final examination.

Classroom Protocol

Technology Requirements

Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built microphone. SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students (<https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index>). Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during class. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible to determine an alternative. See Learn Anywhere website for different Wi-Fi options on campus.

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>

Use of Camera in Class (if we use Zoom)

It is required to turn on your camera during class discussion/lecture. However, if you have technical issues, please inform me. Technological impediments should not be a barrier to your success in this class. Nevertheless, you are required to participate in class discussions. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Zoom Classroom Etiquette

- ” Mute Your Microphone: To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- ” ~~BE QUIET~~ % H 0 L Q G I X O R I % D B N G U R X W G L D R W D R T Q X L H W S O D F H W R 3 D W W H
extent possible.
 - o Avoid video setups where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc.
 - o Avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.
- ” Position Your Camera Properly (if using): Be sure your webcam is in a stable position and focused at eye level.
- ” Limit Your Distractions/Avoid Multitasking: You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).
- ” Use Appropriate Virtual Backgrounds: If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning.

Recording Zoom Classes

This course or portions of this course (i.e., lectures, discussions, student presentations) may be recorded for instructional or educational purposes. The recordings will only be shared with students enrolled in the class through Canvas. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the semester. If, however, you would prefer to remain anonymous during these recordings, then please speak with the instructor about

possible accommodations (e.g., temporarily turning off identifying information from the Zoom session, including student name and picture, prior to recording).

Students are not allowed to record without instructor permission

Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S127) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

Justice Studies Reading and Writing Philosophy

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act fully and responsibly in interrelated areas of their lives: personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.



University Policies




Per [University Policy S16](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consequences for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Additional Information

APA format is required for all written assignments.

Course Schedule. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus in order to improve this course. Please check Canvas, your email, and class sessions for potential updates.

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