





**Textbooks:**

Ismaili, Karim (2017). *U.S. Criminal Justice Policy*, (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA ISBN: 978-1-284-02025

*All other readings are available on the Canvas website*

**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 meaningfully 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.

**Instructor's Note on Communication**

A university degree is a significant undertaking and requires a high level of commitment,





to violate this requirement will result in an automatic “F” for the paper, which ultimately will result in failing the course. Such an attempt would constitute a violation of the Academic Integrity policy.

This paper will consist of a review of scholarly literature on an approved topic. Students will be required to analyze and critique existing policies, but propose new or amended policies. The research reviewed must come from high-quality justice-related journals, which establish and examine relationships between and among variables, concepts, theories, and policies.

**Policy Paper Content Requirements:**

1. Students will review and critically analyze a minimum of (10) scholarly journal articles (5 of which must be empirical studies) on a chosen justice-related topic. Student must reference articles published within the last five (5) years. Review articles that cover several studies will only count as one source.
2. Once a student has chosen and the instructor has approved a topic, they may NOT change it without instructor consent.
3. The instructor will NOT tolerate plagiarism. Any extent of plagiarism (intentional or unintentional) will result in a failing grade for this assignment. All assignment submitted to Canvas are subject to a plagiarism analysis.
4. Writing style and presentation: The paper must be written in formal English (i.e., no contractions, abbreviations or slang). Proper punctuation, tense, spelling, grammar, syntax, and neatness are of importance; too many errors will lead to an automatic point deduction.

**Policy Paper Structure Requirements:** The primary sections of the paper include an *introduction*, a *literature review*, *policy implications*, and *references*.

*Introduction* ¶ This section includes a brief introduction of the topic, which may include historical information, relevance, concepts, definitions, overview of current policies, and the like. Students should provide a substantive explanation for why the topic is important, as well as a clear thesis.

*Literature Review* (This will be an integrative literature review) – Th9.18 305.85 Tm0 g0 G(w)-6( )-41(o



**Grading:** This course will be using the plus/minus system on final grades based on the following percentages:

93 -100:	A	74-76:	C
90-92:	A-	70-73:	C-
87-89:	B+	67-69:	D+
84-86:	B	64-66:	D
80-83:	B-	60-63:	D-
77-79:	C+	0-59:	F

Please note, a “C” or higher is required to receive credit for this course toward a Justice Studies or Forensic Science Major.

Students must submit all assignments online at the **Canvas** website and submit a paper copy in class







## Course Schedule

Week	Day	Readings, Assignments & Deadlines
1	Thursday 1/27	<b>Reading:</b> <i>None</i> <b>Lecture &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>Introduction; Syllabus; Class Mechanics; The Nature of Policy</i>
2	Tuesday 2/1	<b>Reading:</b> <i>Ismaili:</i> <b>Lecture &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>What is critical thinking?</i>
	Thursday 2/3	_____ - " (Part 1)
3	Tuesday 2/8	_____ - " (Part 2)
	Thursday 2/10	<b>Reading:</b> _____ :

	Thursday 3/3	<u>Reading:</u>  <u>Lecture &amp; Discussion:</u>
7	Tuesday 3/8	<u>Reading:</u> <i>in class</i> <u>Lecture &amp; Discussion:</u> <i>Debate speeches</i>
	Thursday 3/10	<u>Reading:</u> <i>in class</i> <u>Lecture &amp; Discussion:</u> <i>Debate speeches (continued)</i>
8	Tuesday 3/15	<u>Reading:</u> <i>none</i> <u>Lecture &amp; Discussion:</u> <i>Film - TBA</i> Due: <i>Critical Thinking Essay #2</i>
	Thursday 3/17	<u>Reading:</u> <i>none</i> <u>Lecture &amp; Discussion:</u> <i>Film - TBA</i>
9	Tuesday 3/22	<u>Reading:</u> <i>none</i> <u>Lecture &amp; Discussion:</u>

15	Tuesday 5/3	<i>Policy Paper Presentations</i>
	Thursday 5/5	<i>Policy Paper Presentations</i>
16	Tuesday 5/10	<i>Policy Paper Presentations</i>
	Thursday 5/12	<i>Policy Paper Presentations</i>