



## E-mail Policy

Feel free to email 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., JS189, Your Name, subject). The instructor will not respond to "no subject" e-mails, or any email where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the email.
2. E-mailed inquiries should be relatively short in nature. Students should make an appointment to meet with me to discuss more extensive inquiries. Students will be referred to the course syllabus for questions that are addressed by simply reading the syllabus.

## Course Description

Identification, discussion and analysis of selected problems in justice studies. A major term paper on a selected topic is required.

Prerequisite: Senior standing in final semester; Justice Studies or Forensic Science major; JS 100W and JS 114 with a "C or better"; Department Consent

Note: A grade of "C" or better is required for Justice Studies majors.

## Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate their ability to complete a formal research paper (a) synthesizes relevant scholarly sources; (b) reflects professional formatting and writing standards (APA format); (c) addresses relevant policy needs (such as necessary reforms) to solving tangible social problems; (d) somehow contribute to our collective understanding of concepts and approaches to "justice," however defined (social justice, criminal justice, community justice, and so forth).
2. Demonstrate their ability to present scholarly work to an audience of their peers.
3. Demonstrate a working understanding of "evidence-based" approaches to social problems and public policy. As a culminating skill set in our program, students should demonstrate their ability to apply social scientific (and otherwise rational) forms of reasoning, argumentation, research, and support in forming any particular worldview or position in the pursuit of "justice" and addressing social problems in our communities/societies.
4. Demonstrate their ability to undertake a critical analysis of a contemporary problems relevant to justice studies.
5. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level that appropriately reflects the cumulating experience of their

## Course Requirements and Assignments

General formatting requirements for written assignments include a cover page, page numbering, 1" margins, strict double-spacing, and Times New Roman 12pt. font. All assignments must be written in formal English, with collegelevel writing mechanics and APA style formatting, inclusive of in-text citations and references. Out-of-class written assignments must be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Each student will write a 18 to 20-page policy paper (not including the cover page or references) analyzing a justice-related topic as a requirement for this course. Students can choose their topic based on their own research interests, but the topic must be communicated with the instructor through the submission of Topic Materials (see course schedule). No paper will be accepted without previous communication approval. Approval of a topic will be dependent on thorough preparation of your Topic Materials. The purpose of the paper is not just to specifically test knowledge, but to also force critical thinking about an aspect of a chosen topic.

Students are prohibited from writing on a topic that has been used for previous course, or currently being used for another course. Any attempt 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 include a review of scholarly literature.

## Grading Policy

| Assignment         | Due Date              | Weight |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Participation      |                       | 10%    |
| Current Events     | See schedule          | 10%    |
| VoiceThreads       | See schedule          | 20%    |
| Topic Materials    | June 18 <sup>th</sup> | 15%    |
| Paper Presentation | June 30 <sup>th</sup> | 15%    |
| Policy Paper       | July 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 30%    |
|                    |                       | <hr/>  |
|                    |                       | 100%   |

## Grading Policy and Late Submissions

Written assignments will primarily be graded on content; however, poor writing mechanics and APA formatting will result in a moderate point deduction. Assistance with APA can be found at:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

## University Policies

University Policies: Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. You may find all syllabus-related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP's Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

# JS18901 Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems, Summer 2022

The following course schedule is subject to change; advance notice of any changes will be provided via an announcement on Canvas early as possible.

Table 1 Course Schedule

| Week | Date                      | Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines  |
|------|---------------------------|--|
| 1    | 06/01/22 through 06/03/22 | <p>Review the following videos</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Course introduction video and overview assignments and expectations</li> <li>2) Policy discussion</li> <li>3) Review of requirements for Topic Materials</li> <li>4) Detailed policy paper expectations</li> </ol> <p>Reading: Syllabus Policy paper handout</p> <p>Paper Topic Submission: Due by 11:59 PM, Friday, 06/03/22</p>   |
| 2    | 06/06/22 through 06/10/22 | <p>Topic 1: Affirmative Action</p> <p>Topic 2: Voting Rights and the Future of Democracy</p> <p>Readings: Posted readings for Topic 1 and 2</p> <p>VoiceThread #1 (Topics 1 and 2) Post your response to the prompt by 11:59 PM, 06/08/22; Post a reply to two of your peer's posts by 11:59 PM, 06/10/22</p> <p>Current Event #1 upload to Canvas due by 11:59 PM, Friday, 06/10/22</p>   |
| 3    | 06/13/22 through 06/17/22 | <p>Topic 3: Extremism, Radicalization, and Political Ideology</p> <p>Topic 4: Critical Race Theory and Education</p> <p>Readings: Posted readings for Topic 3 and 4</p> <p>VoiceThread #2 (Topics 3 and 4) Post your response to the prompt by 11:59 PM, 06/15/22; Post a reply to two of your peer's posts by 11:59 PM, 06/17/22</p> <p>Current Event #2 upload to Canvas due by 11:59 PM, Friday, 06/17/22</p> <p>Topic Materials due by 11:59 PM, Saturday, 06/18/22 (upload to Canvas)</p> |
| 4    | 06/20/22 through 06/24/22 | <p>Topic 5: Model Minority Myth, Anti-Asian Hate, and the Pandemic</p> <p>Topic 6: Abortion Rights</p> <p>Readings: Posted readings for Topic 5 and 6</p> <p>VoiceThread #3 (Topics 5 and 6) Post your response to the prompt by 11:59 PM, 06/22/22; Post a reply to two of your peer's posts by 11:59 PM, 06/24/22</p> <p>Current Event #3 upload to Canvas due by 11:59 PM, Friday, 06/24/22</p>   |
| 5    | 06/27/22 through 07/01/22 | <p>Narrated Paper Presentation PowerPoint Video: Due by 11:59 PM, Thursday 06/30/22 (students will post)</p>   |