

**San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 103, Courts & Society, Section 61,
Winter 2022 (Online)**

Instructor:	Harold W. Peterson
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Office Hours:	(online by appointment only)
Class Days/Time/Location:	Online

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as the syllabus, assignments, exams, grades, and important announcements can be found on the course Canvas page, accessed at:

<https://idp01.sjsu.edu/idp/Authn/UserPassword>

You are responsible for any information posted on Canvas. It is recommended that you log in regularly and check for Announcements.

Course Description

As an introduction to American criminal courts, their history, purpose and process, this course will survey the federal and state courts, their general constitutional structure and function with an emphasis on procedures, including criminal investigations, arrest, arraignment, grand jury, indictment, pretrial, trial, conviction, acquittal, sentencing ent, grand jury, ind

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 Just

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.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Course Content Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, the student will understand:

CLO1 the history, purpose and process of the American criminal justice system.

CLO2 the federal and state courts, their general constitutional structure and function with an emphasis on procedures, including criminal investigations,

Assignments and Grading Policy

Chapter Prompts – For each chapter, the instructor will post questions for students to respond. Generally, the questions require a response that shows that the student understands the course material. Responses for the short essay prompts must be no longer than 150 words. Please dedicate time to this course. **DO NOT FALL BEHIND.**

The purposes of the prompts are:

- 1) To have students think critical regarding issues.

