

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 25, Introduction to Human Rights and Justice**

Winter 2021

*The schedule is subject to change with fair notice.*

*Students will be notified of changes to the schedule or assigned readings via announcements in Canvas/email.*

**Course and Contact Information**

**Instructor:** Roni Abusaad, Ph.D.  
**Email:** Via Canvas preferred, alternately: [roni.abusaad@sjsu.edu](mailto:roni.abusaad@sjsu.edu)  
**Office hours** By appointment - contact me to set up  
**Class Days/Time:** Online

### **Course Format - Technology Intensive, Online Course**

This is an online-only course. There are no class meetings. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. All work is completed online on the Canvas website. Students must be able to connect regularly to the internet to complete the course requirements. Your computer must have video and audio playback features to access assigned videos and audiofiles from outside websites (e.g., YouTube, NPR). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on Spartan App Portal <http://one.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

### **GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

(GELO1) Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.

(GELO2) Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them.

(GELO3) Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

(GELO4) Students will be able to apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels.

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

The goals of this course are to (1) give students a basic understanding of the events, actors and ideas that gave rise to the concept of human rights; (2) give students a basic understanding of international human rights law and a general familiarity with common human rights instruments; (3) give students the opportunity to grapple with the complicated relationship in theory and practice between human rights and social justice. As part of this last goal, students will become relatively familiar with several contemporary human rights campaigns.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

(CLO1) Recall a general history of human rights including the significant events, actors, and ideas that gave rise to the concept of human rights.

(CLO2) Demonstrate a general familiarity with major human rights instruments and how these instruments work with regard to international (treaty) law.

(CLO3) Demonstrate a familiarity with several current human rights campaigns (domestic and international), reporting agencies (Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, etc.), and policy debates.

### **Preparing for success**

especially important to look at the requirements detailed in the rubric, which clearly outline the grading criteria. Reviewing in advance allows for time to navigate any technical difficulties or to reach out to me with clarification and questions.

### **Library Liaison**

For help with library resources and library research (including the use of databases and online research materials—such as journal search engines), students are strongly encouraged to contact the Justice Studies Library Liaison: Nyle Monday - Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu, (408)808-2118.

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

Timely completion of all assignments including; online discussions, reflections, quizzes, midterm, final and any assigned activity. For instructions and rubrics, see Canvas.

### **Mid Term and Final Exams**

There will be a midterm and final exam in this course to cover all course material and topics discussed and assigned. Both exams will be relatively straight forward, in a multiple-choice format, with both retention and application questions designed to evaluate students' substantive grasp of course material. Each of these exams will be worth **25%** of the final course grade (GELO 1-4; CLO 1-3).

### **Grading Information**

Grades will be calculated from a weighted point system. There are no “curves” applied to grades in this course.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage of Final Grade</u>
Quizzes	10%
Reflections	25%
Class Participation (Assigned activities and participation on discussion threads)	15%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam (not cumulative)	25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Grading Scale**

Exams and final grades will be calculated as a percentage on a typical “10 point scale”:

98-100%	A+
94-97	A
90-93	A-
88-89	B+
84-87	B
80-83	B-
78-79	C+
74-77	C
70-73	C-
68-69	D+
64-67	D







	<i>Intersectionality and Solidarity</i>		
<p><b>Going Deeper:</b></p> <p><i>Choose one of these modules to go deeper into a topic of interest to you. As you work through the module, take notes aligned with the questions in the assignment prompt and write up your final responses and submit via the form on the assignment in Canvas.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trump’s Travel Ban</li> <li>Human Trafficking</li> <li>Environmental Rights</li> <li>Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity</li> <li>Human Rights and Juveniles in the Criminal Justice System</li> <li>Racial Discrimination in the Criminal Justice System</li> </ul>			1/21
	<i>Review for final exam</i>	<b>Closing Reflection</b>	
	<b>Final Exam (Summative - Will cover material from the entire course, but especially focusing on modules after the midterm)</b>		1/22