

San José State University
College of Social Science/Department of Justice Studies
JS189, Senior Seminar Contemporary Problems, Section 2, Spring 2023

Instructor:

This course will engage the student in the identification, discussion and analysis of selected problems in justice studies. A major policy paper on a selected topic is required. Throughout this course, students will have the opportunity to critically analyze contemporary criminal justice policies and practices.

Prerequisites

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 Goals and Course Learning Outcomes

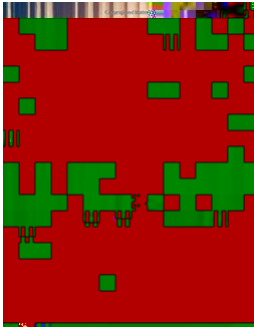
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- CLO1** Demonstrate substantive knowledge about the measurement of crime and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of major sources of crime data (including official statistics, victim surveys, and self report surveys)
- CLO2** Demonstrate substantive knowledge about the extent and severity of formal and informal responses to various types of crime and offenders.
- CLO3** Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the prevalence of various types of crime, and the characteristics of likely offenders and victims.
- CLO4** Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the prevalence of various types of crime, and the characteristics of likely offenders and victims.
- CLO5** Demonstrate an ability to integrate and apply different theoretical perspectives to explain a range of specific criminal offenses, and, compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of those theories.
- CLO6** Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

Course Requirements

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty- five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per

Textbooks:



Ismaili, Karim (2017). *U.S. Criminal Justice Policy*, (2nd 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, time management, organization, and initiative. Thus, it is in your best interest to stay on top of the readings and keep in touch with the instructor. *The best way to keep in touch is in-person during office hours, or at another time by appointment.* If you cannot meet with me in person, please email me. Emails will be responded to during business hours (Monday through Friday only). **When you send me an email please put “JS189” and your full name in the subject line. The instructor will not respond to emails where the student is not identified in either the subject line or the body of the email.** Please include a phone number in all email communication. Please note: all communication regarding assignment and exam grades must be conducted in person and *not* via email.

Class Participation/Presentation Evaluations: To participate, one must attend class. Attendance alone however, is NOT class participation and does not factor into the course grade. In-class comments and policy presentation evaluation, which summarize, assess and reflect on the discussion topics **or** presentations, which exemplify knowledge of the subject matter **or** questions, which identify and probe the relevant course issues, are class

participation. Beyond the completion of assigned readings, students must spend sufficient time contemplating the material for the sole purpose of class participation.

This is a time to open your minds to new ideas, to explore new concepts, so please take advantage of this opportunity. Further, please be respectful of others and show them common courtesy. Students may enrich the learning process by discussion. Respect and professionalism are the guiding principles of this class.

Classroom Etiquette/Protocol: This is a time to open your minds to new ideas, to explore new concepts, so please take advantage of this opportunity. Further, please be respectful of others and show them common courtesy. Students may enrich the learning process by discussion. Respect and professionalism are the guiding principles of this class. Tardiness will not be tolerated. I understand that many of you work, but I also understand that you have enrolled in school aware of the demands of that commitment. Please arrange with your employer/child care/other to arrive in time for class to begin promptly at 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays

electronic device. The use of anything that beeps or vibrates during class is disruptive and will not be tolerated. If you use a telephone (even silently, e.g. texting), you will be asked to leave the classroom. Students are responsible for all missed notes, materials, and announcements due to absence (i.e. do not email the instructor asking about what you missed). You are encouraged to exchange contact information with someone in class just in case. *The use of computers during class is not permitted.*

Assignments and Grading Policy

Written Assignments: All writing assignments must adhere to the *10 Rules of Formal Writing* and the instruction and description found on the **Canvas** website. Written Assignments not conforming to these rules will receive a significant reduction in grade. General formatting requirements for written assignments include a cover page, page -spacing, and Times New Roman 12pt. font. Students must draft assignments in formal English, with college-level writing mechanics and APA-style formatting, inclusive of in-text citations and references. Student will submit all written assignments to **Canvas** website and turn in a paper copy in class.

To receive a grade for this course, **all** course requirements must be met and **every** assignment must be completed. Failure to complete any one assignment may result in a failing grade for the course.

Deadlines are firm. Late papers will not be accepted for full credit (without extenuating personal circumstances due to your own or family health; or other university recognized excuse. In such cases, appropriate documentation must be shown to the instructor). Late papers will lose 5% for every calendar day that they are late.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated on **any** piece of assessment, under any circumstances. Students found to be guilty of plagiarism will receive an F for that assignment and may be ludes, but is not limited to misquoting (such as omitting page numbers or quotation marks) and handing in work that is not your own and that is not correctly cited.

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-

methodology must involve detailed and thoughtful work, the outcome of which can be a significant contribution to a body of knowledge and, consequently, to practice and research.

Students will summarize, critique, and present pertinent conclusions (in brief); more substantive conclusions will be addressed in the Policy Implications section of the paper.

Policy Critique and Implications – Based on the research findings reviewed, must discuss the creation and implication new and/or improved policies. Students must summarize,

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
Studies or Forensic Science Major.

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

Required University Policies Statement

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Academic Integrity:

<https://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/conduct-processes/academic-integrity.php>

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development.
The University will not tolerate instances of academic dishonesty. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work o

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SJSU Writing Center: The SJSU

Reading TEAM 13; Chapter 14 -

