San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 189-80 Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems, Summer 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dina M. Kameda, M.S., M.A.
Office Location:	See Office Hours
Telephone:	(408) 832-9939 (cell phone – emergency only)
Email:	dina.kameda@sjsu.edu (**preferred/best method of contact**)
Office Hours:	Zoom: Mondays and Tuesdays 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/92896285008
Class Days/Time:	Online via Zoom
Classroom:	Online via Zoom: https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/93156024575
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 Format

The mode of instruction for this course is online. Reliable access to a computer and the internet will be required. All written assignments will be submitted via Canvas, and must be in Microsoft Word (*.doc or *.docx). If you do not currently own Microsoft Word, the software (both PC and Mac) is available for free to students: http://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/collaboration/software/instructions.php

Canvas Course Page and E-mail

Copies of course materials will be posted on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking your e-mail and Canvas regarding announcements, reminders, and any additional course materials. The majority of course materials will be posted in Adobe PDF format; if you choose to download them, you will need Adobe Reader to view the documents. There is no cost to download Adobe Reader (http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/students/index.html). Some course materials may need to be accessed via the internet (i.e., web sites).

E-mail Policy

Feel free to e-mail 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 e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.

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 with respect to 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 [CLO1-5]:

1. Demonstrate their ability to complete a formal research paper that (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 contributes 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 justice studies major.

Required Texts/Readings

Required Readings

All course readings are available on the Canvas course page.

Library Liaison

Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu
http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies

Course Requirements and Assignments

Out-of-Class Written 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 college-level 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.

Students are 100% responsible for uploading the correct file when submitting an assignment. Failure to upload the correct file will result in a zero for the assignment.

Current Event Submissions

Students will be required to submit current event analyses relevant to our justice system. Each Current Event assignment will consist of a 1 to 2-page write-up that includes a short summary of a current event article, policy analysis of the issue or issues addressed, and the URL for the article reviewed. Current Event submissions will collectively account for 10% of the final course grade. [CLO4-5]

Discussion Lead

Each student will be responsible for serving as the discussion lead on predetermined topics posted on Canvas. [CLO 2-5]

A schedule of discussions will be provided prior to the end of the first week of class, and will tentatively begin on **06/08/20**. Discussion leads are expected to offer substantive, original insights, and have questions ready to pose to the class to facilitate discussion. While the instructor will moderate discourse, students are largely responsible for engaging in inquiry and discussion.

Each discussion will receive a 'grade' ranging from 0 to 20 points based on the fulfillment of requirements. The Discussion Lead assignments will collectively account for 15% of the final course grade. Please note that make-ups will not be possible due to time constraints.

Most Important Topics (MIT)

For <u>each</u> assigned reading, students will upload a type-written description of what they perceive to be the three most important subtopics or insights from each reading. A minimum of one paragraph is required for <u>each</u> of the three subtopics or insights for assigned readings (i.e., a minimum of three paragraphs per MIT assignment). Each MIT assignment will receive a 'grade' ranging from 0 to 15 points (5 points possible for each subtopic or insight). MITs will collectively account for 10% of the final course grade. [CLO3-5]

Topic Materials for Policy Paper

The following criteria are <u>required</u> materials. You will be submitting all the materials on Canvas (see course schedule for date). Your policy paper will not be accepted unless you have successfully submitted your Topic Materials, and received instructor approval. Topic Materials will account for 20% of the final course grade. [CLO1, 3-5]

1. A specific topic/delimited title (i.e., have a specific focus in mind).
2. A properly formatted (APA style) annotated bibliography for your required sources.
3. A type-written outline for your paper which demonstrates the utility of your chosen journal articles, and a clear conception of what policy/policies you intend to examine.

Policy Paper

Each student will write an 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). <u>No paper will be accepted without previous communication and approval</u>. Approval of a topic will be dependent on thorough preparation of your Topic Materials (see details regarding Topic Materials to follow). 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 on an approved topic. Students will be required to not only 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. Based on the evidence reviewed, policy implications will be drawn.

A handout detailing the expectations, content, formatting, and submission requirements will be provided in a timely manner. The Policy Paper will account for 30% of the final course grade. [CLO 1, 3-5]

Policy Paper Presentation

Students will be required give a 15 to 20-minute formal presentation of their policy papers, followed by a brief discussion. [CLO 2]

The presentation must include the following:

1. **Introduction**: Description of the specific topic, importance of the topic, and thesis
2. **Literature Review**: Relatively concise coverage of your literature review
3. **Policy Critique and Implications**: A critique of current policies, based upon the literature, in terms of the implications of their effectiveness/ineffectiveness, and suggestions about alternative policies. This critique should pull upon findings in the literature to support the presenter's point of view.

Paper Presentation Grading

The presentation will be graded based on the level of competency and flow, knowledge of the subject, conclusions, and ability to respond to post-presentation inquiries. It is highly recommended that students practice their presentations several times (preferably in front of someone who will provide constructive feedback). The presentations will be held to strict time limits. Failure to complete a presentation within the allotted time frame (i.e., 15 to 20 minutes), or too brief of a presentation, will result in a loss of points. The Paper Presentation will account for 15% of the final course grade. [CLO 2]

Grading Policy

Assignment	Due Date	Weight
Current Events	See schedule	10%
Discussion Lead	See schedule	15%
MITs	See schedule	10%
Topic Materials	June 15th	20%
Policy Paper	July 2nd	30%
Paper Presentation	See schedule	15%
		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/

In order to demonstrate comprehension of the course material, one must be able to write in a clear and effective manner. Always carefully proofread your assignments before submitting them. Late submissions will not be accepted unless a valid, documented, and verifiable reason is provided.

A grade of "C" (i.e., at least 73%) is required to pass this course.

Department of Justice Studies Course Grade Determination

Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade
98.0 to 100	A plus	80.0 to 82.99	B minus	63 to 67.99	D
93.0 to 97.99	A	78 to 79.99	C plus	00.0 to 62.99	F
90.0 to 92.99	A minus	73.0 to 77.99	C		
88.0 to 89.99	B plus	70 .0 to 72.99	C minus		
83 to 87.99	B	68.00 to 69.99	D plus		

Department of 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.

Overview of Participation – What constitutes participation for an online course?

In order to participate in an online course, one must: (1) regularly access the Canvas page for the course; (2) pay close attention to the module prerequisites (i.e., what must be accomplished before accessing the next module) and module completion requirements; (3) be very mindful of due dates and times for all time-restricted components of the course; and (4) carefully read the syllabus, fully read all announcements made by the instructor via Canvas, read all directions for course components. Beyond the completion of assigned readings, sufficient time must be spent contemplating the material for the purpose of being prepared to participate in class discussions complete other assignments.

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/

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

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
1	06/01/20 through 06/05/20	Course introduction Overview of assignments and expectations Policy discussion Review of requirements for Topic Materials Detailed policy paper expectations **Reading:** Syllabus; Policy paper handout
2	06/08/20 through 06/12/20	**Discussion Leads**: Topic 1, Topic 2, Topic 3, and Topic 4 **MITs for Topics 1-4** upload to Canvas (see Canvas course page for due date and time) **Current Event #1** upload to Canvas (see Canvas course page for due date and time)
3	06/15/20 through 06/19/20	**Discussion Leads**: Topic 5, Topic 6, Topic 7, and Topic 8 **Topic Materials** due by 11:59 PM, Monday 06/15/20 (upload to Canvas) **MITs for Topics 5-8** upload to Canvas (see Canvas course page for due date and time) **Current Event #2** upload to Canvas (see Canvas course page for due date and time)
4	06/22/20 through 06/26/20	**Discussion Leads**: Topic 9, Topic 10, Topic 11, and Topic 12 **MITs for Topics 9-12** upload to Canvas (see Canvas course page for due date and time) **Current Event #3** upload to Canvas (see Canvas course page for due date and time)
5	06/29/20 through 07/02/20	**Current Event #4** upload to Canvas (see Canvas course page for due date and time) **Paper presentation PowerPoint** due by 11:59 PM, Tuesday 06/30/20 (upload to Canvas) **Policy Paper Presentations** (see Canvas course page for details) **Final Project - Policy Paper** due by 11:59 PM, Thursday 07/02/20 (upload to Canvas)