

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS12-01, Introduction to Legal Studies, Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Greg Woods, J.D.
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Office Hours:	Thursdays, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, via Zoom, and Wednesdays, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM, in person on campus by email appointment; Invitations/Zoom links through Canvas under Announcements.
Class Days/Time:	Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall 520

Course Description

The course presents historical and modern perspectives of the theories and structures of law, and provides an overview of the economic and sociological challenges to law making. This course also examines the nexus between law, social change, and dispute resolution. 3 Units.

Course Format

Our class is offered on campus and in-person. Students are encouraged to review questions and subject matter during class, regularly scheduled Office Hours on Zoom and in-person, and/or via email.

Justice Studies Department 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.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. *Demonstrate a general understanding of the fundamental influences society has on the law.*
2. *Demonstrate knowledge of legislative, administrative and judicial law making, as well as a general understanding of the law making processes.*
3. *Develop an understanding of methods for analyzing the legal and social controls and dispute resolution.*

4. *Understand the various aspects of the legal profession and methods for legal research.*
5. *Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.*

Required Textbook

M. Lippman (2020). *Law and Society* (3rd edition). Sage Publications. ISBN-13: 978-1-5443-9258-5

Recommended

Jordan, Terry (2010). *The U.S. Constitution And Fascinating Facts About It* (7th edition). Oak Hill Publishing ISBN 978-1-891743-00-9

Students may purchase texts in the bookstore and online.

Other Readings

Additional course materials will be found on Canvas under Files and Modules.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Internet, computer, microphone & camera.

Library Liaison

Nyle Monday, Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu, (408) 808-2041

<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Course Requirements and Assignments

Our class is offered on campus and in-person. Students are encouraged to review questions and subject matter in class, during regularly scheduled Office Hours on Zoom, and/or via email. Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Weekly Assignments

Students will be assigned **seven** weekly reading and writing assignments in class and as reflected below. Weekly Assignments are due during every other **Wednesday** class session, or as instructed, and will consist of a three-to-five paged double spaced typed analysis in 12-point font. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)

Quizzes

Students will complete a total of **seven** quizzes throughout the semester to be administered at the conclusion of every other **Wednesday** class session, or as instructed, in response to subject matter from class lecture. (CLO 1, 2, 3 & 5)

Final Examination

Students will complete a cumulative final examination using key terms and concepts from readings and class discussion consisting of short and essay based questions. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)

Participation

Students are invited to participate during class in an informed, professional and respectful manner, check in during office hours at least once throughout the semester, and consistently submit quality work in a timely manner. Participation credit will be rewarded in response to student presence, preparedness and politeness during class sessions. (CLO 1, 2 & 5)

Grading Policy

Final grades will be evaluated as follows:

Weekly Assignments (7)	30%
Quizzes (7)	30%
Final Examination	30%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale

A = 90 to 100

B = 80 to 89

C = 70 to 79

D = 60 to 69

F = 59 and below.

Please Note: Extra credit will not be awarded, late assignments and quizzes will not be accepted for credit without prior agreement.

Students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades. **Students are encouraged to review their progress by no later than Week Eight (Thursday, October 14th) and periodically throughout the semester,** during office hours, via email and/or in-person appointment.

Classroom Protocol

Attendance/Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are encouraged. Students who are routinely inattentive, discourteous or who choose not to contribute to in-class discussion and activities, will be noted and may result with up to 10% (one letter grade) deducted from the final grade.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted for credit without prior agreement.

Phones/Texting

All phones and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away during class sessions. Routine phone calls, texting or other online activity during class is discouraged, will be noted and may result with up to 10% (one letter grade) deducted from the final grade.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Additional Information

All sources of information to support written assertions must be cited in the American Psychological Association (APA) Format. PLEASE NOTE: Detection of plagiarism will result with NO CREDIT

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Course Schedule

Week 1	August 23 & 25	Syllabus, Class, Assignment, Quiz & Final Examination formats; Historical Foundations of Justice; Legal, Criminal & Social Justice; State & Federal Constitutions; Structure & Sources of Authority of the Legal System in the United States; Assign Weekly Assignment #1
Week 2	August 30 & September 1	Assignment #1 & Quiz #1 (DUE 9/1) ; Dark Figure of Crime; Relationships between Law Enforcement, Courts & Correctional Systems; Distinguishing Crimes & Torts; The Study of Criminology, & Criminal Justice; Reporting & Measuring Criminal Behavior; Uniform Crime Report, National Crime Victim Survey & Law Enforcement Education Program; Read Chapter 1: An Introduction To Law and Society (pgs 1-41) ; Review Terminology (p 40) ; Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #1: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-8 (p 40) and Quiz #1
Week 3	September 6 & 8	Review Assignment #1/Quiz #1; Natural Law; Legislative Solutions to Society's Problems; Constitutional Fidelity & Access to Justice; Judicial Review; Redressing Grievances & Burdens of Proof; Grand & Trial Juries; Bifurcated Trials; Duties of Prosecution, Defense & Judiciary; Legal Ethics & Professional Responsibility; The Golden Rule & Doing the Right Thing; Hobbs, Locke & Social Contract Theory; Read Chapter 2: Theories of Law and Justice (pgs 42-64) ; Review Terminology (p 64)
Week 4	September 13 & 15	Assignment #2 & Quiz #2 (DUE 9/15) ; Socialization, Subcultures & Stratification; Insanity, Obscenity, Prurient Behavior, Drugs & Evolving Community Standards; Sobriety Checkpoints & Gun Control; Read Chapter 3: The Structure and Function of Courts, Legislatures, and Administrative Agencies (pgs 65-134) ; Review Terminology (p 134) ; Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #2: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-12 (p 64), 1-11 (p 133) and Quiz #2
Week 5	September 20 & 22	Review Assignment #2/Quiz #2; Conflict, Consensus & Labeling; Rational Choice, Routine Activity & Differential Association; Penal Codes & Proportionate Criminal Liability; Lawyer jokes; Read Chapter 4: The Legal Profession (pgs 135-182) ; Review Terminology (p 182)
Week 6	September 27 & 29	Assignment #3 & Quiz #3 (DUE 9/29) ; Retributive & Restorative Models of Justice; Balancing Individual & Community Demands; Expectations of Equal Protection, Procedural & Substantive Due Process; Black Lives Matter & Officer Involved Shootings; Read Chapter 5: Access to Justice and Legal Ethics (pgs 183-214) ; Review Terminology (p 214) ; Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #3: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-8 (pgs 182), 1-7 (p 214) and Quiz #3

Week 7	October 4 & 6	Review Assignment #3/Quiz #3; Parens Patriae, Delinquency & Approaches to Juvenile Justice; School Bullying & Status Offenses; Recidivism; Read Chapter 6: Dispute Resolution (pgs 215-246); Review Terminology (p 246)
Week 8	October 11 & 13	Assignment #4 & Quiz #4 (DUE 10/13); Incarceration Rates & Alternatives to Incarceration; Parole, Probation & Expungement; Jails, Prisons, Home Detention & Diversion Programs; Read Chapter 7: Criminal Courts (pgs 247-278); Review Terminology (p 277); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #4: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-8 (p 245), 1-7 (p 277) and Quiz #4
Week 9	October 18 & 20	Review Assignment #4/Quiz #4; Habeas Corpus & Key Constitutional Rights of the 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th & 14th Amendments; Reasonable Suspicion & Probable Cause; Stop & Frisk; Search & Seizure; Valid Warrants; Custodial Interrogation; Effective Assistance of Counsel & Plea Agreements; Exclusionary Rule & Fruit of the Poisonous Tree Doctrine
Week 10	October 25 & 27	Assignment #5 & Quiz #5 (DUE 10/27); Malum In Se & Malum Prohibitum; Person, Property & Inchoate Crimes; Concurrences of Act & Intent; Actual & Legal Causation; Implied & Expressed Malice; Read Chapter 8: Juries (pgs 279-318); Review Terminology (p 318); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #5: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-12 (pgs 318) and Quiz #5
Week 11	November 1 & 3	Review Assignment #5/Quiz #5; Legislative Solutions and Social Control continued; Infractions, Misdemeanors & Inherently Dangerous Felonies, Felony Murder Rule; Read Chapter 9: Law and Social Control (pgs 319-390); Review Terminology (p 390)
Week 12	November 8 & 10 (November 11, Veterans Day Holiday!)	Assignment #6 & Quiz #6 (DUE 11/10); Retribution, Deterrence, Incapacitation & Rehabilitation; Mandatory Minimum Sentencing; Proportionality; Corporal & Capital Punishment; Unusually Cruel Punishment; Restitution & Restoration; Read Chapter 10: The Impact of Law on Society (pgs 391-453); Review Terminology (p 453); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #6: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-8 (p 390) , 1-11 (p 453) and Quiz #6
Week 13	November 15 & 17	Review Assignment #6/Quiz #6; Equal Protection; Community Engagement; Escalation & Deescalations of Force; Alternatives to Lethal Force; Broken Windows, Predictive Policing, Crime Mapping, Body Cameras & Crisis Intervention Training; Read Chapter 11: Law and Racial and Ethnic Equality (pgs 454-524); Review Terminology (p 524)

Week 14	November 22 (No class November 24 Non- Instructional Holiday; Happy Thanksgiving!)	Midterm Review; Read Chapter 12: Privacy and Surveillance (pgs 525-568); Review Terminology (pg 542)
Week 15	November 29 & December 1	Assignment #7 & Quiz #7 (DUE 12/1); Judicial Review; Redressing Grievances & Burdens of Proof; Grand & Trial Juries; Bifurcated Trials; Duties of Prosecution, Defense & Judiciary; Concurrent & Consecutive Sentencing; Appeals & Writs of Certiorari; The Innocence Project; Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #7: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-6 (p 524), 1-10 (p 568) and Quiz #7
Week 16	December 6	Review Assignment #7/Quiz #7; Review for Final Examination; Final Thoughts.
Final Examination	December 9	MacQuarrie Hall 520 7:15 AM - 9:30 AM