

San José State University
CHHS Justice Studies
JS 101-03, Critical Issues and Ideas in Justice, Spring 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Laurence Pedroni, M.S.
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Office Hours:	Mondays - 11:00 – 12:30 Or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	Online on Canvas
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing; JS 10, 12, 25 or FS 11; Co-requisite: JS 100w

Course Format

Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses

JS 101 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](http://sjsu.instructure.com) 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](http://one.sjsu.edu) on [Spartan App Portal](http://one.sjsu.edu) <http://one.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

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 (multiple times per week is recommended) 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://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>). Some course materials may need to be accessed via the internet (i.e., web sites).

Course Description

This course will cover an interdisciplinary, historical and comparative examination of justice concepts and controversies, including the state's role in promoting justice and perpetuating injustice; legitimate versus illegitimate violence; human rights, stateless persons, and the international community; the relationship between social justice and criminal justice.

Note: A grade of "C" or better is required for Justice Studies majors.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Critically examine social justice issues and develop a broader understanding of social justice and the relationship between social justice and social policy.
2. Reflect upon the relationship between race, class, gender, nationality and social justice.
3. Write reports, assignments, and papers with professional and academic aptitude demonstrating a familiarity of class materials.
4. Read academic materials with proficiency.
5. Contribute to class discussion in thoughtful, critical, and collaborative ways.
6. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

All readings will be posted on Canvas as PDFs or available via the internet.

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) 808-2041.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignments

1) Quizzes (6)	15% of Final Grade
2) Canvas Discussions (6)	15% of Final Grade
3) Policy Paper	15% of Final Grade
4) Midterm Exam	20% of Final Grade
5) Film Review	10% of Final Grade
6) Final Exam	25% of Final Grade

- 1) **Quizzes** – Six quizzes will be administered online via Canvas and will be available for specific windows of time. Once a student begins a quiz, a limited amount of time will be given to complete it.
- 2) **Canvas Discussions** – Six discussion questions will be posted on Canvas at various points during the semester (See the schedule for exact dates). Students are expected to respond to the question in 3-5 thoughtful sentences showing knowledge and application of the material covered in lecture. Students are also expected to reply to two other students in a thoughtful, substantive comments.

Students must show an understanding of the material covered in lecture and homework in their original posts and responses.

Discussion boards will be open for **one week**. They will open Monday, the week that the reading is due and close Sunday at 11:59. Students **must** post their response to the prompt by Thursday 11:59 (any

responses to the original prompt posted after this deadline will receive a zero). This is to give students a chance to respond to each other.

- 3) **Midterm Exam** - Students will complete a midterm exam. The midterm format will include multiple choice and True/False questions, fill-in-the-blank, and short essays applying the human rights framework to different social and policy issues. The midterm will be available on Canvas on starting at **noon on March 8th and must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on March 7th.**
- 4) **Policy Paper** – Each student will write a paper examining a specific topic area relevant to the course. Students are allowed to choose their own topics, but must submit them to the instructor by **February 12th**, for final approval. 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. This paper should be no less than 3 pages (not including the references). A handout detailing the expectations, content, formatting, and submission requirements will be provided in a timely manner.

Students are prohibited from writing on a topic that has been used for a 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.

Students are expected to pull from scholarly, news (both local and national), advocacy, and governmental sources.

- 5) **Film Review** - Students will view human rights documentaries and write a 2-page (single-spaced, 12 point font) assessment of the film, describing the human rights issue(s) it addresses, advocacy strategies, and the actions of government(s) in response to the human rights issue.
- 6) **Final Exam** – The final exam will require students to recall information, theory, discourse, and their application discussed in lecture or the readings and analyze said information. The final exam will be comprehensive and will include both true/false, multiple choice, and essay questions.

The final exam will be available online on **Friday, May 20th from 5:15-7:30PM**. Check to make sure that this final time does not conflict with other online classes that you are taking.

“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.”

Grading Information

This course will be using the +/- system on final grades based on the following percentages:

- A plus = 100 to 97 percent
- A = 96.9 to 94 percent
- A minus = 93.9 to 90 percent
- B plus = 89.9 to 87 percent
- B = 86.9 to 84 percent
- B minus = 83.9 to 80 percent
- C plus = 79.9 to 77 percent
- C = 76.9 to 74 percent
- C minus = 73.9 to 70 percent

D plus = 66 to 69.9 percent
D = 63 to 65.9 percent
D minus = 60 to 62.9 percent
F = 59.9 percent or lower

A “C” or higher is required to receive credit for this course toward a Justice Studies or Forensic Science Major.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>”.

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.

University Credit Hour Requirement

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>
“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 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Students should review SJSU’s **Academic Integrity** policy:
www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/docs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your 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 of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. Students must complete all assignments unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have previously submitted for credit, or plan to submit for another class, please note that the SJSU Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Reminder: Provide attribution / citations for all quotes. Do not copy or re-use the work of others. Copying other people's answers or discussion responses is plagiarism. Do not submit assignments that you are submitting for credit in other classes – this is self-plagiarism. If you have questions about correct citations or plagiarism, review the modules on the Canvas site and/or contact the professor.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

“Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's written/emailed permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

Class Protocol

1. This course depends on student participation, discussion, and interaction. Prepare for class to ensure you can contribute to discussion and debate.
2. All class participants are expected to foster an environment that encourages rigorous academic discussion and respectful participation, rather than silencing others (be respectful to one another, do not insult or intimidate others, evaluate alternative views with an open mind, check and provide facts to support analysis).
3. Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments by the dates indicated on the syllabus. Be sure to check the course Canvas website regularly for updates.
4. Readings about human rights abuses, injustice, discrimination, and violence can be challenging intellectually, personally, and emotionally. All students are encouraged to reflect on the course materials mindfully and engage in self-care; contact the professor if you are struggling with a particular topic or reading. If you or a friend is in need of emotional or mental health support, please visit SJSU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) www.sjsu.edu/counseling service. Phone: (408) 924-5910. Location: Student Wellness Center, Room 300.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections' free tutoring and mentoring is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. Peer Connections tutors are trained to provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group and individual tutoring are available. Peer Connections mentors are trained

to provide support and resources in navigating the college experience. This support includes assistance in learning strategies and techniques on how to be a successful student. Peer Connections has a learning commons, desktop computers, and success workshops on a wide variety of topics. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current workshops, please visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

JS 101 Critical Issues and Ideas in Justice, Fall, Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/27	Lecture: Introduction
2	2/1	Lecture: Ontological assumptions of crime Readings: The Meaning of ‘Theory’ – Gabriel Abend Political Ontology – Colin Hay Homework: Discussion #1
3	2/8	Lecture: Hegemony Readings: Gramsci's Relevance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity - Stuart Hall Homework: Discussion #2
4	2/15	Lecture: News Media and Power Readings: Media Routines and Political Crisis - Todd Gitlin Fake News: An Origin Story Foreign Affairs: Unrest continues for a seventh day in former British colony Homework: Quiz #1
5	2/22	Lecture: Violence - Legitimate vs. Illegitimate Readings: Violence, American Style - Jennet Kirkpatrick. Homework: Discussion #3
6	3/1	Lecture: What does Race mean? Readings: The Wages of Whiteness White by Law Homework: Discussion #4
7	3/8	Midterm Exam

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
8	3/15	<p>Lecture: Policing</p> <p>Readings: Chapt 1-3 Rise of the Warrior Cop – Radley Balko</p> <p>Homework: Discussion #4</p>
9	3/22	<p>Lecture: Theoretical Understandings of the Prison</p> <p>Reading: "Panopticism" from "Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison"</p> <p>Homework: Quiz #2</p>
10	3/29-4/2	<p>Spring Break!</p>
11	4/5	<p>Lecture: Theoretical Understandings of the Prison Cont'd</p> <p>Reading: The new 'peculiar institution': <i>On the prison as surrogate ghetto</i></p> <p>Homework: Discussion #6</p>
12	4/12	<p>Lecture: Historical Responses to Pandemics – HIV/AIDS</p> <p>Reading: Embracing AIDS: History, Identity, and Post-AIDS Discourse - Butler</p> <p>Homework: Quiz#3</p>
13	4/19	<p>Lecture: White Supremacy - Theories of WS</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>The Prehistory of the White Worker – David Roediger</p> <p>Ethnographies of the Far Right – Katherine Blee</p> <p>Homework: Film Review Due</p>
17	5/17	<p>Lecture: Indigenous Rights</p> <p>Readings: We are a people in the world: Native Americans and Human Rights - Barbara Gurr</p> <p>Homework: Quiz #4</p>
14	4/26	<p>Lecture: Environmental Sociology</p> <p>Readings: An Environmental Sociology for the 21st century</p> <p>Toward a Critical Environmental Sociology</p> <p>Homework: Discussion #7</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
15	5/3	<p>Lecture: Environmental Crisis – Effects of Climate Change on Society</p> <p>Readings: Beyond state/non-state divides: Global cities and the governing of climate change – Bulkeley & Schroeder</p> <p>Climate Change and Human Rights - Columbia Law School</p> <p>Homework: Policy Paper due</p>
16	5/10	<p>Lecture: Environmental Crisis – What do Struggles for the Climate Look Like?</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Homework: Discussion # 8</p>
17	5/17	TBD
Final Exam	5/20	ONLINE 5:15 – 7:30 PM