

San José State University
College of Social Sciences /Justice Studies Department
Justice Studies 103, Courts and Society, Spring 2021

All class sessions are via Zoom class ID 872 3004 5275 passcode: 101604

The following schedule is subject to change. Adjustments will be sent via Announcements on Canvas.

Cls #	Date	Topic	Reading assignment / Website	Written assignmt due
Week / date		* = non-class time, optional	Assignments due via email by 11:59 PM to Margaret.stevenson@sjsu.edu	
1	1.28	Introductions Description of course Overview of the legal system	Description of course <u>module</u> (skim for reference except read Syllabus carefully) Overview of the Legal System module Skim Constitution	
2	2.2	Overview of the legal system (cont'd) Criminal law and procedure	Criminal law module Follow the links to the District Attorney's office's brochure (if problem, check your pop-up blocker)	
2	2.4	Criminal law and procedure (cont'd) Prosecutorial discretion – small group exercise	Watch Adam Foss TED talk: <i>A Prosecutor's Vision for a Better Justice System</i>	
3	2.9	Prosecutorial discretion – small group exercise (cont'd) Criminal law and prosecutorial discretion		
3	2.11	Guest speaker Sam Hwang, attorney		
4	2.16	Civil legal aid and impact litigation	Civil law module	
4	2.18	Civil law and procedure		
5	2.23	Civil law and procedure		
5	2.25	Attorney ethics	Attorney ethics module	News report 1 due 2.28
6	3.2	Jurisdiction	Jurisdiction module	
6	3.4	Speaker (invited) Indian law – an example of how jurisdiction works		

7	3.9	ADR, plea or settlement Civil ADR – small group exercise	ADR module	
7	3.11	Review / prep for quiz	Review “Overview of the Legal System” powerpoint from first week	
*			Take Quiz 1 online between 3.13 8 AM and 3.14 11 PM	
8	3.16	Trial	Trial module (note: there is a lot of reading for this unit)	
8	3.18	Trial		Court observation 1 due 3.21
9	3.23	Judge (invited)	You are welcome to invite friends to this session	
9	3.25	Judge (invited)	You are welcome to invite friends to this session	
*	3.30 - 4.1	SPRING BREAK		
10	4.6	Sentencing	Sentencing module (note: there is a lot of reading for this unit)	
10	4.8	Sentencing Small group exercise		News report 2 due 4.11
11	4.13	Guest speaker: Brian Buckelew, DA (invited) re sentencing, DA discretion		
11	4.15	Quiz 1 review & Quiz 2 prep		
*			Take Quiz 2 online between 4.17 8 AM and 4.18 11 PM	
12	4.20	Judges	Judges and Judging module (note: there is a lot of reading for this unit)	
12	4.22	Judges	Appeals module	Watch Appeals Zoom recording on Pages
13	4.27	US Supreme Court	US Supreme Court module	Watch
13	4.29	US Supreme Court	How USSC promotes new rights: advocacy and the Constitution	

14	5.4	US Supreme Court Courts & Constitutional rights	Courts and Constitutional Rights module	Court observation 2 due 5.2
14	5.6	Courts & Constitutional rights		
15	5.11	Guest speaker Tanya Broder: Immigration and the Balance of Power Senior Attorney, National Immigration Law Center	Review Jurisdiction module (week 4) Balance of Power module	
15	5.13	Balance of power Course review - final exam prep		
	Fri 5.21	FINAL EXAM	Online	