

San José State University
College of Social Sciences / Department of Justice Studies
JS 128-01, Punishment, Culture, and Society, Spring 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Natalie Birthelmer
Office Location:	HB 125
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Email:	natalie.birthelmer@sjsu.edu
Office Hours	Tuesday 9:30-11:30am, email for Zoom appointment
Class Days/Time:	M/W 10:30AM-11:45AM
Classroom:	Canvas / Zoom
Prerequisites:	Upper Division Standing

Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses

This course adopts a synchronous online delivery format, with a M/W meeting pattern. **You must have access to a webcam during scheduled class times.** Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone. SJSU has a free [equipment loan program](#) available for students. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during tests. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible or at the latest one week before the test date to determine an alternative. See [Learn Anywhere website](#) for current Wi-Fi options on campus. All course work will take place on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. See [University Policy F13-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) on [Spartan App Portal](#) <http://one.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Critical analysis of the cultural, political and economic dimensions of penal politics in contemporary American society, with particular reference to the relationships between criminal justice and social justice. Emphasis on issues of racial, economic, and gender inequality.

Pre/Co-requisite: Any 100w

Note: Must achieve a grade of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Confidently discuss the cultural, political and economic dimensions of penal politics in contemporary American society. (CLO1)
2. Recognize race, class, and gender disparities in contemporary American penal politics. (CLO2)
3. Write papers examining the cultural, political, and economic dimensions of national and international penal politics through a social justice lens. (CLO3)
4. Make critical assessments of and draw logical conclusions about the relationship between criminal justice and social justice. (CLO4)
5. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level. (CLO5)

Required Texts

Cullen, F.T., Jonson, C.L., & Stohr, M.K. (2013). *The American Prison: Imagining a Different Future* (1st Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. (ISBN: 9781452241364)

Bosworth, M.F. (2009). *Explaining U.S. Imprisonment*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. (ISBN: 9781412924863)

Other Readings

Additional readings will be posted on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>.

Consider investing in an APA style guide, there are many different formats including a pocket size one, that are very affordable (e.g. ISBN: 9781433805608)

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Late work will not be accepted. Missing, late, or plagiarized work will receive a grade of zero points.
2. Assignment will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed.
3. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed. If you have issues uploading to Canvas, it is your responsibility to contact the IT department and resolve the issue. I will not accept technical issues as an excuse for late or missing assignments.
4. Assignments must include proper APA citation. Students must reference their journal articles in APA-style formatting. Students should refer to an APA style guide or the Online Writing Lab (OWL) from Purdue University at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/> if unclear about APA guidelines on in-text citations and reference pages.
5. To ensure compliance with academic integrity policies, all work in this class must be turned in through Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service with which San José State University contracts. Students are responsible for ensuring their work is accepted and evaluated by Turnitin.com. Inability to do so will lead to an incomplete grade for affected assignments.

Participation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

This class should be engaging for everyone, and therefore relies on student participation. All students will be expected to have read all assigned readings and completed any assignments before class, to be able to successfully participate in class discussions. Come to class ready to engage, debate, and discuss! Your participation grade will not be based on simply being present in the classroom but on meaningful participation.

Research Paper (CLO3)

In teams of two (2) you will choose a topic related to punishment as a reflection of culture and society. You will write a research paper on this topic together (you can choose to split up the tasks or pages, but your paper has to be cohesive, which means you have to read, critique, and FIX each other's portions of the paper).

A handout detailing the expectations, content, formatting, and submission requirements will be provided on Canvas.

Students must reference any sources in APA-style formatting. Students should refer to an APA style guide or the Online Writing Lab (OWL) from Purdue University at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/> if unclear about APA guidelines.

Presentation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

You will present your research to the class as a team using a power point or other multi-media format. Your presentation will include an introduction, as well as the 4 prompts I provided for the literature review. You must ensure that the class is actively engaged with your presentation by providing open ended discussion questions following the presentation of your topic. Make sure to use media clips to keep your presentation interesting. Your discussion of the material should be thoughtful and analytical, and invite participation by all students. You will receive both individual and group grades. Further instructions and expectations will be discussed.

Midterm Examination or Evaluation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

The midterm will cover weeks 1-6. It will be open notes, and include multiple choice, short, and long answer questions.

Final Examination or Evaluation (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

The final exam will cover weeks 7-15. It will be open notes, and include multiple choice, short, and long answer questions. The final exam will be taken at the time of the scheduled in-class final on Canvas.

Technical difficulties during exams

- Internet connection issues:

Canvas autosaves responses a few times per minute as long as there is an internet connection.

If your internet connection is lost, Canvas will warn you but allow you to continue working on your exam. A brief loss of internet connection is unlikely to cause you to lose your work.

However, a longer loss of connectivity or weak/unstable connection may jeopardize your exam.

- Other technical difficulties:

Immediately email the instructor a current copy of the state of your exam and explain the problem you are facing. Your instructor may not be able to respond immediately or provide technical support. However, the copy of your exam and email will provide a record of the situation. Additionally, you must contact IT services immediately and include a case number in your email to the instructor.

- Contact the SJSU technical support for Canvas:

Technical Support for Canvas

Email: ecampus@sjsu.edu

Phone: (408) 924-2337

<https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/support/>

“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.”

Grading Information

Department of Justice Studies Course Grade Determination

Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade
98.0 to 100	A plus	84.0 to 87.99	B	71.0 to 72.99	C minus
94.0 to 97.99	A	81.0 to 83.99	B minus	68.0 to 70.99	D plus
91.0 to 93.99	A minus	78.0 to 80.99	C plus	64.0 to 67.99	D
88.0 to 90.99	B plus	74.0 to 77.99	C	61.0 to 63.99	D minus

Determination of Grades

Presentation	100 pts / 20%
Research Paper	100 pts / 20%
Participation	100 pts / 20%
Midterm	100 pts / 20%
Final	100 pts / 20%
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Total	500 pts / 100%

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to:

1. Come to class prepared and participate
2. Complete all readings and assignments as scheduled on the syllabus
3. Check canvas and mysjsu regularly and be aware of any changes in the class schedule
4. Be respectful to their classmates in discussions and debates
5. Turn off their cell phones while class is in session

Late work will not be accepted. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise directed. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. If you have issues uploading to Canvas, it is your responsibility to contact the IT department and resolve the issue. I will not accept technical issues as an excuse for late or missing assignments.

General questions (format, deadlines, etc.) should be posted on the course Q&A Board on Canvas.

Zoom Classroom Etiquette

1. Mute Your Microphone: To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
2. Be Mindful of Background Noise and Distractions: Find a quiet place to attend class, to the greatest extent possible.
3. Avoid video setups where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc.
4. Avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.
5. Limit Your Distractions/Avoid Multitasking: You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).

6. Use Appropriate Virtual Backgrounds: If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning.

University Policies

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 and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

Academic Integrity / Plagiarism

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 \[pdf\]](#) requires 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. Visit the [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](#) website for more information.

- **Plagiarism:** San José State University defines plagiarism as the act of representing the work of another as one's own without giving appropriate credit, regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism includes:
 - 1.2.1 Knowingly or unknowingly incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts of, or the specific substance of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work;
 - 1.2.2 Representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawing, sculptures, or similar works as one's own.
- **Sanctions:** There shall be two major classifications of sanctions that may be imposed for violations of this policy: Academic and Administrative. Academic sanctions are actions related to the coursework or grades determined by the faculty member. Administrative sanctions are actions that address a student's status on campus and are determined by the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development. Academic sanctions and Administrative sanctions may be imposed simultaneously.

To ensure compliance with academic integrity policies, all work in this class must be turned in through Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service with which San José State University contracts. Students are responsible for ensuring their work is accepted and evaluated by Turnitin.com. Inability to do so will lead to an incomplete grade for affected assignments. In case plagiarism is detected once, the plagiarized assignment will receive a failing grade. If plagiarism is detected multiple times, students will receive a failing grade for the course.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately by emailing me or by making an appointment with me as soon as possible. [Presidential Directive 97-03](#) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](#), <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 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.”

- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

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.

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The following schedule is subject to change; advance notice of any changes will be posted as early as possible on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	W – 1/27	Introduction & Review of Syllabus
2	M – 2/1	Bosworth: Introduction Canvas: Brown, M. (2009) Penal spectatorship and the cultural work of punishment. Canvas: Former prisons as hotels
	W – 2/3	Canvas: Welch, M. (2019). Theoretical Penology
1. History of Punishment		
3	M – 2/8	Bosworth: Chapter 4. An Era of Uncertainty: Riots, Reform, and Repression
	W – 2/10	Bosworth: Chapter 5. The Punitive Turn: Laying the Foundations for Mass Imprisonment Canvas: Porter, E. (2014). In the U.S., Punishment Comes Before the Crimes. <i>13th</i>
4	M – 2/15	Bosworth: Chapter 6. A Culture of Control. Freakonomics, Episode 384
	W – 2/17	Bosworth: Chapter 7. Challenging the Culture of Control?
5	M – 2/22	Reference page due <i>Separated at the Border</i>
	W – 2/24	Bosworth: Chapter 8. The New Detention: Securing the Border. Discussion <i>Separated at the Border</i>
6	M – 3/1	Midterm Review
	W – 3/3	Midterm
2. Current Issues in Punishment		
7	M – 3/8	Introduction & Thesis due Cullen: Chapter 6. The Racially Just Prison.
	W – 3/10	Canvas: Unnever, J.D. & Cullen, F.T. (2007). The racial divide in support for the death penalty: Does White racism matter? Canvas: Death Penalty Fact Sheet
8	M – 3/15	Cullen: Chapter 5. The Feminist Prison
	W – 3/17	Jbara, A.E. (2012). The Price They Pay: Protecting the Mother-Child Relationship Through the Use of Prison Nurseries and Residential Parenting Programs.
9	M – 3/22	Peer Review Submissions due Cullen: Chapter 4. The Virtuous Prison.
	W – 3/24	Peer Review Feedback due <i>Last Days of Solitary</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
10	M – 3/29	<i>Spring Break</i>
	W – 3/31	<i>Spring Break</i>
3. Changing Punishment		
11	M – 4/5	Canvas: Hoidal, A. (2018). Normality behind the walls: Examples from Halden Prison <i>Breaking the Cycle</i>
	W – 4/7	Cullen: Chapter 7. The Safe Prison. Discussion of <i>Breaking the Cycle</i>
12	M – 4/12	Research Paper due Cullen: Chapter 2. The Restorative Prison
	W – 4/14	Canvas: Subramanian, R. & Shames, A. (2013). Sentencing and Prison Practices in Germany and the Netherlands: Implications for the United States.
13	M – 4/19	Cullen: Chapter 11. The Small Prison
	W – 4/21	Canvas: Gray, A. (2018). This Brazilian prison gives inmates the keys to their cells.
14	M – 4/26	Cullen: Chapter 10. The Green Prison
	W – 4/28	Cullen: Chapter 13. Lessons Learned: From Penal Harm to Penal Help
15	M – 5/3	Canvas: Davis, A.Y. & Rodriguez, D. (2000). The challenge of prison abolition.
	W – 5/5	Presentations
16	M – 5/10	Presentations
	W – 5/12	Presentations
17	M – 5/17	Final Review
Final	T – 5/25	On Canvas