

Course Syllabus

JS132

Race, Gender, Inequality & the Law

Fall 2022

San José State University
Justice Studies JS132

Sweeney Hall Room 346

College of Social Sciences

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Joseph S. Di Salvo
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays or Thursdays before/after class or by appointment (See instructor's note)
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00-1:15
Classroom:	In-Person
Prerequisites:	Completion of, or co-requisite of 100W

Course Description

History of legal issues and individual and institutional discrimination of women, ethnic/cultural and religious minorities, gays, lesbians, transgender and the disabled in education, employment, criminal justice and the family. Solutions sets for structured

inequality in the U.S. will be presented (by authors, readings, expert speakers, professor and students) and discussed.

Class, Race, Gender and Crime in the U.S. will be the focus of this in-person class along with presentations, discussions, video montages and EXPERT presenters. American inequality significantly affects the quality of life for most of us. *This instructor's passion during his career has been the quality of public education from birth to college/career. Due to his credentials and the elected public office he holds as a Trustee of the Santa Clara County Board of Education, education's role as the "great equalizer" will be an integrated focus of this semester class.* In addition, race, class and gender in the criminal justice system will be analyzed from a variety of perspectives.

GE Area: S Prerequisites: Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.

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 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.

Instructor's Note for JS 132

A university degree is a significant accomplishment and requires a high level of commitment, time management, organization, and initiative. It is in your best interest to attend this class regularly and on-time. Attendance and class participation will make up an important portion of your grade due to required papers, Canvas responses, presentations, and exams. Your regular attendance will be transparent in your answers, arguments, and personal reflections. **This instructor will make himself available to answer any questions, concerns or obstacles to your success in this class at anytime. Do not hesitate to contact him and schedule time for an appointment, if the need arises.**

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

A 94-100 A- 90-93 B+ 87-89 B 84-86 B- 80-83 C+ 77-79 C- 70-73 D+ 67-69 D 64-66 D- 60-63 F 0-59

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)”

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability (e.g. additional time on the quizzes), please contact me as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the SJSU Accessible Education Center (AEC) to establish a record of their disability. You will need to email me a copy of your AEC form so that I can provide you with the appropriate accommodations.

Academic Integrity

Students should know that the University's Code of Student Conduct which can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/docs/Student%20Conduct%20Code%202013.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 website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

- **PLEASE NOTE: Justice Studies Majors have only two opportunities to pass JS 132 with a C or better. Any student with a final grade that is C- or lower on the first attempt will be placed on administrative probation with a registration hold.** Any repeating student with a final grade that is C- or lower will be disqualified from the Justice Studies degree program. It is a distinct bonus for us to have an eclectic mix of majors, even though this class is required for Justice Studies majors.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. 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. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Peer Connections

The Peer Connections is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center and Clark Hall, first floor, Academic Success Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. Website: <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/>

SJSU Writing Center –

When we meet again in-person the SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>

Student Success Center

The Student Success Center provides advising for undergraduate students majoring or wanting to major in programs offered in School of Social Science Departments and Schools. All students who would like to be SofSS are invited to stop by the Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MH) 533 - top floor of MacQuarrie Hall. Contact information: 408.924.2910. Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/>.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

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

GELO1: To describe how identities (i.e. gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, and/or age) are shaped by cultural and societal influences in contexts of equality and inequality.

GELO2: To describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S.

GELO3: To provide an overview of race, gender, and class issues in the criminal justice system.

GELO4: To describe social actions which have led to greater equality and social justice in the U.S. (i.e. religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age).

GELO5: Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

GELO6: Students will recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups within the U.S.

Class Protocol and Agenda For Each Session

1. Class orientation and agenda- Professor Di Salvo
2. Random selection of two students per class beginning (FIRST HALF OF SEMESTER). Could be augmented by expert speaker and other timing. Topics include Class, Race, Gender, Intersectionality, Crime, Legal issues contained within the topic- Each randomly selected student must come prepared to share something from a personal current experience since last class (becoming observers and social scientists), social media, print media, broadcast media (radio or TV), Internet etc.

Student presenters will be selected at random. Beginning of class current issues in race, class, gender, crime, policing (good or not) will become 25 points toward class participation grade.

3. Class Topic- Political, social, economic backdrop of topic- 360-degree perspective- More
4. Discussion of Readings and expert speakers- From texts, assigned essays etc.
5. Group Assignments- 2-3 per group assignment (presenting alone on a topic is discouraged, however can work with special permission)- Assignment protocol 25% of grade will be discussed in February 2022.
6. Report Out- From group discussions
7. Expert Speakers and Reflections- Canvas response summary and personal reflections due 72 hours OR SUNDAY after speaker presents. Guests will include local political and community leaders, City and County leaders, law enforcement professionals, educators etc.
8. Over the last six years of my work in teaching JS 132 Roundtable discussions have become a critical part of our learning together about the sensitive issues we must address as global citizens of this world. The syllabus will list days of our class roundtables. Personal reflections on each roundtable will be required of each student. This is an atypical class protocol. Professor will use videos, speakers, and class discussions, including Roundtables, to address class learning goals. PPT's as usual will be used by most speakers, but usually not the professor.

Class Grading

Group Presentation- 25% - Grade- Self-Assessment Rubric Discussed in August 2021.

Class Participation- 35% of Grade- Showing up and participating in discussions are a critical ingredient to your success in this class. The speakers and information will be rich and provocative to further your understanding of justice in our 21st century global environment. Reflections will track your participation throughout the

semester. Random student selection and Class Current Issue in Justice required for all students.

Midterm- (minimum of 1500 words) Questions will be open notes and book. Readings, Speakers, Class discussions, Group Presentations- 75 minutes in class to Canvas. Choice of questions will provided most times. 20%

Final Exam- Summary of semester experiences- (1500 word exam requirement.) Study questions will be determined by week before semester's end. 20%

TBD- Personal Evaluations, Class critique and Self-assessment- 1 paragraph on why you deserve the grade you list and how you would improve the class experience.

Alternative to Midterm- Publishing a Letter-To-The-Editor in your local paper, San Jose Mercury News, Spartan Daily, Your city or town paper e.g. Santa Cruz Good Times, Santa Cruz Sentinel etc.

Summary of Grading for JS 132- Di Salvo

25% -Group Presentation

35% -Class Active Participation (Speaker Reflections, Random Assignment at beginning of class, Roundtable Reflections, Interaction with speakers and student presentations. All submissions on Canvas.

20% -Midterm- In Class- Submit on Canvas

20% - Final Exam- In Class-Submit on Canvas

Required Readings. The following are required reading:

1. Brian Stevenson. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. New York. Spiegel & Grau, 2014 Bryan Stevenson's amazing work has just been released as a first run movie 2020.
2. Adichie, Chamamanda Ngozi. *We Should All Be Feminists or see YouTube(Kindle Edition) 2014*
3. Ta-Nehisi Coates. *Between The World And Me*. New York. Spiegel & Grau, 2015
4. Richard Rothstein, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History Of How Our Government Segregated America*. New York-London. Liveright Publishing Corporation. 2017

Extra Credit Read- Michelle Obama. *Becoming*. New York. Crown, 2018- Great read during election season about race dominant issues in all 3 sections of her book.

For those that have time for more reading...

Tom Gjelten. *A Nation of Nations: A Great American Immigration Story*. New York. Simon & Schuster

Irin Carmon & Shana Knizhnik. *Notorious RBG- The Life And Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*. DEY ST. 2015

Kamala Harris. *The Truths We Hold: An American Journey*. New York. Penguin Press. 2019

JS 132

Fall 2022

Course Schedule

Course Syllabus

August 23

Week 1

August 25

Topics, Readings, Assignments,
Deadlines

Introduction- Course Outline,
Review of Syllabus, Course
Requirements, & Grading

First Group- Ice Breaker Question-
Report Out

Video on SJSU Commencement
Speech by Dr. Harry Edwards

Week 2

August 30

September 1

**Expert Speaker #1- Aaron Aquas
Rao - Norther CA Innocence
Project Intake Lawyer @ Santa
Clara University**

Barack Obama's Eulogy for Rep.
John Lewis

Week 1

August 23

August 25

Topics, Readings, Assignments,
Deadlines

Obama on This Guest Needs No
Introduction - Host David
Lettermen

Reflection due on SJSU History of
Race and Speed City and Obama's
Eulogy for John Lewis on July 30,
2020. YouTube

Week 3

September 6

**Expert Speaker #2- Sofia Lozano
Pallares- Community Organizer**

Innovate Public Schools

September 8

NY Times Video Observations from
Conversations on Race-

Group Work- Presentation choices
explained. Topics Presented.
Choices made. Rubric discussed.

Week 4

September 13

**Expert Speaker #3 Nationally
Recognized SCC District
Attorney Jeff Rosen**

September 15

Roundtable #1 on Readings,
Current Happenings in world,
Country, County

Week 5

Week 1

August 23

August 25

Topics, Readings, Assignments,
Deadlines

September 20

September 22

Video to County Board of
Education Former Presiding Judge
of Juvenile Court

Judge Kathryn Lucero

Week 6

September 27

**Expert Speaker #4- Leon
Beauchman- President- SCC
Association of Black Educators,
Spoken Word
Performer, Associate Family
Therapist, Scholarship to play
basketball at SJSU in 1969,
Friend**

September 29

Readings etc.

Week 7

October 4

Roundtable #2

October 6

The Mask You Live In- Part 1

Video

Week 8

October 11

Week 1

August 23

August 25

Topics, Readings, Assignments,
Deadlines

**Expert Speaker #5- Ann Ravel,
Former President Obama
appointed Ms. Ravel to Chair
2015 of Federal Election
Commission (Unanimously
confirmation by U.S. Senate, ran
for State Assembly in CA as
Democratic candidate against
Senator Dave Cortese 11/2020**

October 13

Hypermasculinity- 360 degree
perspective

Week 9

October 18

Preparation for Midterm on
Thursday October 20

Midterm- Essay with Open Book
and Open Source- Timed in 75
minutes- Some choice of questions
to answer- Readings and speakers to
this point are key. InterConnections
to readings and speakers to key
GELO 1-6 is worthy of increased
scores.

October 20-

**MIDTERM EXAM- If a letter to
editor is published on one of our
topics in advocacy for increased
justice and the more perfect union
you are absolved from taking
midterm and receive a perfect score
in CANVAS>**

Week 1

August 23

August 25

Topics, Readings, Assignments,
Deadlines

Week 10

October 25

Expert Speaker # 6-Deputy Chief of staff to CA Senator Dave Cortese, Tara Sreekrishnan. Appointed to County Board of Education, now running unopposed for her seat in 11/22. Tara founded Silicon Valley's Youth Climate Action and is hugely responsible for SCC receiving \$ from state of CA 2022-23 budget for action in SCC.

October 27

Expert Speaker # 7- Robert Aviles- Sheriff- SCC- Variety of Roles with Department including on loan to US Homeland Security Office- No formal presentation, but an opportunity to ask any law enforcement questions from academy to pay to execution of position, to deescalation techniques, to evictions to incarceration. In essence any question that furthers our study to areas of the GELO 1-6,

Week 11

November 1

Election Day Information related to Justice, Race, Gender, Inequality etc. Presented by Di Salvo- VOTE

November 3

Week 1

August 23

August 25

Topics, Readings, Assignments,
Deadlines

**Expert Speaker #8- Darrell
Cortez, Retired SJPd, former
graduate of SJSU Administration
of Justice Program, Founder of
Shop With a Cop Foundation-**

Week 12

November 8-

Expert Speaker #9- Darcie Green,
Executive Director of Latinas
Contra Cancer and former elected
Trustee in Alum Rock and SCC
Board of Education. An activist,
mother, community organizer, and
one the young women leaders to
watch a few years ago. Her expert
talk will be about the intersection of
race and health in America and
Silicon Valley.

November 10-

Di Salvo- Key findings from the
November 8, 2022 Election. Issues
to address with advocacy.

How did anti-abortion laws in red
states play out in the panoply of
vexing issues for women's equality.
Where to from here.

Week 13

November 15

3 student group presentations

November 17

Week 1

August 23

August 25

Topics, Readings, Assignments,
Deadlines

3 student group presentations

Week 14

November 22

3 student presentations

November 24- Thanksgiving
Holiday-

Homework- Make a list in a reflective paper on what issues about race, class, gender, education, equality etc. that you have come to understand with more clarity or less clarity. Have a 30 minute conversation this week of Thanksgiving with one or more relatives, friends, colleagues about what you have come to learn in JS 132 at this point in the course. Write a 500 word essay on the experience of the conversation. Tell me the person(s) you talked with and the tenor of the conversation in colorful terms. Submit on Canvas by Sunday, November 27.

Week 15

November 29-

Roundtable #3

December 1

Student Group Presentations

Week 16

Week 1

August 23

August 25

Topics, Readings, Assignments,
Deadlines

December 6- Last day of
instruction-

Final Review- Questions explained

Final-

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Sun Aug 28, 2022	Assignment First Assignment- Reflections on First Day of Class, Obama and Edwards	due by 11:59
Sun Sep 4, 2022	Assignment Second Week Reflection	due by 11:59
Sun Sep 11, 2022	Assignment Reflection #3. NY Times Conversation on Race	due by 11:59
Sun Sep 18, 2022	Assignment Reflection #3	due by 11:59
Mon Sep 19, 2022	Assignment Group Assignment Topics- Fall 2022	due by 11:59