

**San José State University**  
**College of Health and Human Sciences/Department of Justice Studies JS 156,**  
**Gangs, Criminal Syndicates, and Justice, Section 80, Fall, 2022**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor: Megan Schlegel

Office Location: MacQuarrie Hall

Telephone: 512-956-5803 (Personal number)

Email: [megan.schlegel@sjsu.edu](mailto:megan.schlegel@sjsu.edu)

Office Hours: Friday 12-2pm or by appointment; Office hours will be conducted via Google hangouts using your sjsu.edu address

Class Days/Time: No set meeting times; online only

Classroom: Canvas (online only course); <https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1271214>

**Course Format**

**Online Courses**

This course is conducted solely online, including lectures, exams, office hours appointments and assignments. In order to complete this course, students must have access to a computer that is connected to the internet.

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

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

**Course Description**

Gangs, Criminal Syndicates and Justice provides a socio/historical examination of the emergence, evolution, persistence, activities and social structure of gangs and mobs, the effects of social factors, e.g., politics, law, technology and the economy, and consequences for communities and social institutions.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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

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

*CLO 1: Identify the development and current situation of gangs in American society.*

*CLO 2: Identify and write about the theoretical and socioeconomic explanations of gangs, gang membership, and gang activity.*

*CLO 3: Identify and write about policies addressing gang prevention and treatment.*

## Required Texts/Readings (Required)

### Textbook

Sanders, Bill (2016). *Gangs: An Introduction* (1st edition). Oxford University Press ISBN 978-0-19-994859-8

### Other Readings

Additional readings may be used and will be available on Canvas.

### Library Liaison (Optional)

Silke Higgins, [silke.higgins@sjsu.edu](mailto:silke.higgins@sjsu.edu), (408) 808-2118; <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

## Course Requirements and Assignments

“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.”

### Final Examination or Evaluation

The final examination will take place online (through Canvas). It will be cumulative. You will have 4 full days to complete it, starting on Thursday December 8th at 8am and ending at 11:59pm on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Grading Information, Determination of Grades

*Online Discussions:* Another way to get information, insight, and feedback in this course is by participating in discussions in the course website’s Discussions section. On the website, students are encouraged to post in the preset appropriate topic area for each question or comment that they have. If an appropriate topic is not available, they are encouraged to create a new one.

In addition, students are encouraged to answer other students’ questions, or to add to the questions in previous students’ posts. The instructor monitors the Discussions section and provides guidance over the course of the semester. Discussions sometimes prompt the creation of new documents that better explain course material to students.

**Posting to the discussion board should be the first step taken by students when they have questions about course matters.** This will be the most effective way for students to get answers about the course as the instructor will monitor the discussions and provide guidance over the course of the semester.

The instructor also has virtual office hours, but students should first attempt to get answers via discussion. **The value of the discussion platform is so immense that students will be graded on their participation, respect and coherency of arguments for 10% of your final grade.**

### *Opinion Essays:*

There will be 3 separate opinion essays assigned in this course. These are an opportunity for you to showcase what you’ve learned, present an argument, and dive a bit deeper into a few subjects. The prompts will be available on Canvas and the essays should be concise (likely not more than 2 pages, often 1 will suffice),

### Final Projects:

**Students may work in groups of three to five people on the project.** Group members are required to send a pledge of equitable contribution, and consent to take the assigned grade. **Substantiated complaints against a group member for violating the pledge will result in a grade reduction for the violator.** Each group member will receive a grade based on each product turned in. That grade is final, except for those deemed violators; their grade will be reduced.

Exams: There will be two exams. **Each will contribute 25% of the final grade.** These will be completed online. *The second exam may not be taken early for any reason.*

Final Grade: The final course grade will be based on weighted contributions for each section of grades: Projects, Online discussions, and Exams. The final scale adds to 100 points. **There will be NO other opportunities for extra credit, per Departmental policy.** The course grade is not curved, so it is theoretically possible for everyone to earn an A.

**The instructor will not assign ‘I’ grades except in the most extreme emergencies or grave unforeseen circumstances, and 75% of the graded material must have been turned in. Exams and papers may only be turned in late when there is a documented University or medical excuse. Otherwise, late papers WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** If students encounter a technological problem while submitting papers or taking quizzes or exams, they should contact the instructor immediately via email or some other channel of communication. While I cannot fix technical issues (contact Academic Technology), I can make adjustments to work around them.

### The grading scale is:

A+ 100 - 97 A 96 - 93 A- 92 - 90

B+ 89 - 87 B 86 - 83 B- 82 - 80

C+ 79 - 77 C 76 - 73

Not acceptable in JS: C- 72 - 70

D+ 69 - 67 D 66 - 63 D- 62 - 60

F 59 and below

### Grades are based on:

Online discussion 10 points

Final Project 20 points

Opinion essays 20 points

Midterm Exam 25 points

Final Exam 25 points

**TOTAL 100 points**

### **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) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

### **CONDUCT**

Students are expected to behave in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. The university's Academic Integrity Policy requires students to be honest in all academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. A few students get

into trouble because they are unaware of what constitutes academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, interference (e.g., stealing another student's work), violating course rules, and facilitating academic dishonesty. Academic misconduct could result in failure for an assignment (typically a grade of zero) or for the course or even in expulsion from the university. The academic integrity policy can be found at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct>. My punishments will be in accordance with university policies—I will not tolerate academic misconduct.

Students are also expected to respect the right of their fellow students to learn. In all course activities, students must maintain a respectful demeanor toward fellow students regardless of personal assessments of them.

*Failure to act according to the standards set forth here will have consequences. For example, students may be dismissed from the course, and a complaint made to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development.*

## DISABILITIES

I believe strongly in the right of everyone to have equal access to learning. If you have a specific disability that may be addressed with academic accommodations, please notify me as soon as possible. I will work with you to ensure that you have a positive learning experience. You should inform me of necessary course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with AEC to establish a record of their disability. This office is located in Administration Building, Room 110. I am inclined, however, to address other needs that may not be verifiable disabilities. Therefore, if you are not registered with AEC, you should still discuss your issues to see if I may help. Many disabilities require extended time for exams; my policy is to *always allow extended time for all students on all exams—this is why exams have ample time.*

*Student Technology Resources:* Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Union. Computers are also available for checkout in the CASA Student Success Center and in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. It is my understanding that all of the computers listed above have SPSS installed on them. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens, monitors, and AV adapters for Mac computers.

*CASA Student Success Center:* The Student Success Center in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) provides advising for undergraduate students majoring or wanting to major in programs offered in CASA Departments and Schools. All CASA students and students who would like to be in CASA 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. Looking for academic advice or maybe just some tips about how to navigate around SJSU? Check out the CASA Student Success Center! It's also a great place to study, and students can check out laptops.

Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MH) 533 – top floor of MacQuarrie Hall. Contact information: [408.924.2910](tel:408.924.2910).  
Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/>.

*SJSU Writing Center:* The SJSU Writing Center is available to help students improve their writing. It 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 7 SJSU colleges. The 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. The

Writing Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>.

*Peer Connections:* The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) and the Peer Mentor Program have merged to become Peer Connections. Peer Connections is the new campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring. Our staff is here to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. Students are encouraged to take advantage of our services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, campus resource referrals, and to speak with a peer who has been trained to assist other students going through the college experience.

Services: In addition to offering appointments for small group and individual tutoring (same day appointments are often available) for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other college success related topics. A computer lab is also available for student use in Room 600 of the Student Services Center (SSC).

Locations: They are located in SSC 600 (the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Garage on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and San Fernando St.), at the 1<sup>st</sup> floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. The peer connections website is located at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu>.

### *Accommodation to students' religious holidays*

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed.

*Dropping and Adding:* Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, and so forth. Students should also be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes. Policies for adding classes are available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-1800.html>. Policies for dropping classes are found at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-1809.html>, and information about late drops is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/>. Finally, deadlines for adding and dropping classes are listed on the registration calendar available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/>.

## Course Number / Title, Semester, Course Schedule

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/19-8/20	Introductions; Syllabus
2	8/22-8/26	<b>Text:</b> Chapter 1; <b>PPT:</b> #1 <b>Online responses for discussion board</b>

3	8/29-9/2	Text: Chapter 2; PPT: #2 Online responses for discussion board
4	9/6-9/9	Text: Chapter 3; PPT: #3 Online responses for discussion board
5	9/12-9/16	Text: Chapter 4; PPT: #4 Online responses for discussion board
6	9/19-9/23	Text: Chapter 5; PPT: #5 Online responses for discussion board Opinion Essay #1 DUE on 9/23 at 11:59pm
7	9/26-9/30	Text: Chapter 6; PPT: #6 Online responses for discussion board
8	10/3-10/7	No readings – Please use this time to meet with your groups for the Final Project and to study for the mid-term; Meetings with Professor for Final Projects (to be scheduled by students if needed)
9	10/10-10/14	<b>Midterm Exam***</b>
10	10/17-10/21	Text: Chapter 7; PPT: #7 Online responses for discussion board Opinion Essay #2 DUE on 10/21 at 11:59pm
11	10/24-10/28	Text: Chapter 8; PPT: #8 Online responses for discussion board
12	10/31-11/4	Text: Chapter 9; PPT: #9 Online responses for discussion board
13	11/7-11/10	Text: Chapter 10; PPT: #10 Online responses for discussion board
14	11/14-11/18	Meetings with Professor for Final Projects (to be scheduled by students if needed; optional); please use this week to finalize your projects with your peers Opinion Essay #3 DUE on 11/18 at 11:59pm
15	11/21-11/25	THANKSGIVING BREAK – No Classes – Enjoy a well deserved break!!!
16	11/28-12/2	Final Exam Prep Final Project Due on 12/2 at 11:59pm
Final Exam	12/8-12/14	<b>Final Exam; available on Canvas</b>

\*Notes about the course schedule: I reserve the right to change the due dates listed above, but only in a manner that benefits students (e.g., due dates can only be pushed back, never moved forward). This is because I want to make sure everyone is understanding the material and is able to move forward with the class.

\*\*\*Notes about exams – The exams in this course are cumulative, meaning all of the material learned prior to the midterm is fair game for the exam. All material learned throughout the semester is fair game for the final. You will have 4 full days to complete an exam (the first exam will open on a Monday at 8am and close on Thursday at 11:59pm; the final exam will open on a Thursday at 8am and close on Sunday at 11:59pm). If you need any accommodations, please speak to me ASAP.