

San José State University
Justice Studies Department
JS 179, Human Rights Practicum & Seminar, Section 1, Fall 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s): Dr. Gema Cardona

Office Location: Via Zoom

Telephone: Email is the best way to reach me

Email: g_cardona@berkeley.edu

Office Hours: Fridays, 11am-1pm

Class Days/Time: Mondays, 3:00 – 5:45pm (in person)

Classroom: MH 523

Prerequisites: JS 25, any 100W.

GE/SJSU Studies Category: E

Course Format

This course will be held in person but will lean heavily on the use of our online Canvas portal.

Course materials, such as syllabus, readings, handouts, and assignment instructions can be found on our [Canvas portal](#). Every student is responsible for regularly checking the Canvas announcements from the professor and MySJSU on [Spartan App Portal](#) to learn of any updates.

Course Description

“Complete field experience in human rights advocacy/reporting/organizing while surveying recent human rights scholarship in seminar format.”

This course has two central components: a) a seminar to discuss contemporary controversies and human rights struggles; and b) a student-led community engagement project. In JS 179, students will engage in a weekly scholarly seminar to critically discuss relevant and recent scholarship in the field of human rights. Additionally, students will develop and complete Community Engagement (CE) work through a “Human Rights Action Project” involving a human rights issues and community organizations in the Bay Area.

To support students, complete the “Human Rights Action Project,” this course will provide students qualitative methodological training and experience in data collection and analysis for human rights investigations, oral

histories, and ethnographic studies. Guest speakers and human rights advocates and scholars from partnered organizations will provide students with opportunities to explore post-graduate careers related to human rights.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

The goals of this course are the following: 1) to give students an opportunity to explore applied careers in human rights advocacy, research, or law; 2) provide methodological training in ethnographic and qualitative research methods; 3) expose students to contemporary scholarship and advocacy campaigns addressing contemporary human rights issues in local global contexts; 4) prepare students for graduate level coursework, where students reflect on their experiences in relation to course readings and recent, relevant research.

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

1. Collect and analyze data to create an analysis of contemporary human rights advocacy/reporting/organizing.
2. Work with other students and an organizational supervisor to complete and assess a community engagement project and presentation.
3. Review, apply, and critique the most recent interdisciplinary scholarly literature on human rights.
4. Exhibit familiarity with local and human rights organizations, advocacy networks, and policy campaigns.

Required Texts

Textbooks

1. *I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*. (2010).
ISBN-10: 1844674185
ISBN-13: 978-1844674183
2. *Testimonio: Canadian Mining in the Aftermath of Genocides in Guatemala*. (2021). Edited by Nolin & Russell.
ISBN-10: 177113562X
ISBN-13: 978-1771135627

**The Kindle version is acceptable if unable to access the paperback version.

I will add one more book depending on the direction of our research projects or the needs of the class during the first half of the semester.

Supplemental readings assigned by topic will be posted on our Canvas website. The reading schedule is subject to change to facilitate class discussion, address any current events during the semester, and/or accommodate guest speakers.

Suggested and Related Readings and Resources for Further Reference and Research on Human Rights Documents and Reporting

- United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner
- U.S. Human Rights Network (USHRN)
- Human Rights Watch

- United Nations
- Ella Baker Center
- ACLU

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: Silke Higgins (silke.higgins@sjsu.edu) (408) 808-2118

Course Requirements and Assignments

A student's final grade is based on the completion of several assignments and activities, including in-class and out-of-class writing assignments, discussions, presentations, and online activities. The assessments and corresponding percentage that each assignment accounts for in the final grade are as follows:

1. Reading Responses (35%)
2. HR Current Events Discussion Posts (15%)
3. Book Chapter Presentation (10%)
4. Final Research Project (30%)
5. Participation in class discussion (10%)

Final Examination

There is no final exam for JS 179.

Readings

Students are expected to complete readings by the class session indicated on the course schedule. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings such that class time is not wasted, and we can engage with the material together. Be sure to keep up with current events and human rights news to discuss in class.

Course Assignment Descriptions

1. **Discussion Posts:** Students will be assigned reading materials about human rights issues to respond to in short Canvas discussion assignments. Students will be asked to read classmates' posts and reply to them. This will typically be due before we discuss a particular reading and serve as a warm-up to come prepared to engage in class.
2. **Reading Responses:** The course readings cover provocative and relevant scholarship in the field of human rights. Students will read a variety of materials and respond to them on Canvas in a discussion format. For each reading response, students will write a brief response to at least one student in the class. The reading responses are meant to be an extension of the initial discussion post *after* having discussed a particular reading in class.

3. **Book Chapter Presentations:** Students will read the assigned books and present on a chapter (for each assigned book) in class. Additionally, students will create a set of slides and discussion questions for their chapter. Rubric will be posted on Canvas.
4. **Final Research Project:** Students will work in groups to develop a presentation on the semester/unit Human Rights theme and arrange to present their research in class. Further instructions and guidelines will be provided in class and on Canvas.
5. **Classroom Activities, Discussion, & Participation:** JS 179 requires a great deal of classroom discussion and interaction between students, and class engagement is fundamental to course objectives. Discussions and classroom activities are designed to help students successfully achieve all learning objectives and reflect upon their experiences in the field.

Grading Information

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

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

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

SJSU Policies

[University Syllabus Policy S16-9](#)

Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information:

<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>

SJSU’s Credit Hour Requirement

“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 under the [University Policy S12-3](#).

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Students should review SJSU's Academic Integrity Policy.

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 Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Classroom Community Standards

1. This course depends on participation, discussion, and interaction. Students are expected to be on time to class out of respect for their colleagues and professor. Prepare for class to ensure you can contribute to discussion.
2. All classroom participants are expected to foster an environment that encourages respectful participation, rather than silencing others (be respectful to one another, do not insult others, elevate alternative views with an open mind). We will discuss ground rules and develop classroom standards at the beginning of the semester.
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. Students are responsible for any notes and materials missed in their absence.
5. Any late assignments will have 1 point taken off for every day (24 hours) that they are late. Late final project report/presentation or late chapter presentations will not be accepted.
6. If you are unable to attend any of the class sessions, please communicate with the professor and/or classmates (for presentations).
7. I usually respond to emails within 24 hours or sooner during weekdays. I do not check email over the weekend or on holidays.
8. It is each student's responsibility to check attachments and Canvas submissions before submitting assignments. If you experience issues with Canvas when submitting assignments, please email to troubleshoot prior to emailing the assignment.
9. Set Canvas settings to receive immediate notifications of announcements, assignments, etc.

Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S12-7) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity by reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page \(https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Materials

University [Policy S12-7](#), 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 them. 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 and/or distribute the material.”

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center 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.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website (<http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>). For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

Justice Studies Department 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 Jose 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.

Course Schedule

Note: The following course schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Visit the course website on Canvas for articles and reading reflection assignments. Check Canvas regularly for announcements and updates to the syllabus and course schedule.

JS 179 Human Rights Practicum and Seminar (Fall 2022)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	August 22 nd	<p><i>Introduction to class and syllabus</i></p> <p>In-Class Activity: What are human rights and identifying HR themes. Set up class chapter presentations.</p> <p>Follow the SJSU Human Rights Institute on Twitter: https://mobile.twitter.com/SJSUHumanRights</p> <p>Reading for next class:</p> <p>“Marx and Human Rights.” (1983). Kolakowski, Leszek. <i>The MIT Press</i>.</p> <p>Canvas Discussion #1: Due Friday, August 26th (the earliest) and Sunday, August 28th (the latest)</p>
2	August 29 th	<p><i>Human Rights & Capitalism</i></p> <p>In-class discussion of Marx reading and Canvas Discussion #1.</p> <p>In-Class: Watch “Confronting American Militarism: Peace and Security After the War on Terror” from the 2022 Annual Human Rights Lecture Series (Recording, here)</p> <p>Reading Response #1: Due Friday, September 2nd @10pm</p> <p>Readings for next class: None</p>
3	September 5 th	<p>NO CLASS; HOLIDAY</p> <p>Readings for next class: Ortiz, Alexis. “Missing Women: Mexican female teenagers are most likely to disappear.” (2020). (Access, here).</p> <p>Canvas Discussion #2: Due Friday, September 9th (the earliest) and Sunday, September 11th (the latest)</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
PART II: HUMAN RIGHTS CASE STUDIES		
4	September 12 th	<p><i>Human Trafficking & the Question of Gender</i></p> <p>In-Class Activity: Watch Netflix Movie, <i>Prayers for the Stolen</i> (2021)</p> <p>Reading Response #2: Due Friday, September 16th @ 10pm</p> <p>Readings for next class: “When Felons Were Human” by Rebecca McLennan (2011)</p> <p>Canvas Discussion #3: Due Friday, September 16th (the earliest) and Sunday, September 18th (the latest)</p>
5	September 19 th	<p><i>Prisons & Human Rights</i></p> <p>In-class discussion of McLennan readings & Canvas Discussion #2.</p> <p>Guest Speaker: TBD</p> <p>Reading Response #3: Due September 23rd @ 10pm</p> <p>Readings for next class: Nolin & Russell (2021) – Chapters 1 & 2</p>
6	September 26 th	<p><i>Testimonio</i></p> <p>Student Presentations for Chapters 1 & 2</p> <p>Readings for next class: Nolin & Russell (2021) – Chapters 3 & 4</p>
7	October 3 rd	<p><i>Testimonio</i></p> <p>Student Presentations for Chapters 3 & 4</p> <p>Readings for next class: None</p>
PART III: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH & HUMAN RIGHTS		
8	October 10 th	<p>NO CLASS; HOLIDAY (Indigenous People’s Day)</p> <p>Readings for next class: Nolin & Russell (2021) – Chapters 5 & 6 & Conclusion</p>
9	October 17 th	<p><i>Testimonio</i></p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<p>Student Presentations for Chapters 5, 6 & Conclusion</p> <p>Readings for next class: Menchú (2010) – Introduction & Pg. 1 – 30</p> <p>Canvas Discussion #4: Due Friday, October 21st (the earliest) and Sunday, October 23rd (the latest)</p>
10	October 24 th	<p><i>Qualitative Research & Beginning of Rigoberta Menchú</i></p> <p>Reading Response #4: Due September 28th @ 10pm</p> <p>Readings for next class: Menchú (2010) –Pg. 31 – 68</p>
11	October 31 st	<p><i>Rigoberta Menchú</i></p> <p>Readings for next class: Menchú (2010) –Pg. 69 – 120</p>
12	November 7 th	<p><i>Rigoberta Menchú</i></p> <p>Readings for next class: Menchú (2010) –Pg. 121 – 175</p>
13	November 14 th	<p><i>Rigoberta Menchú</i></p> <p>Readings for next class: Menchú (2010) –Pg. 176 – 213</p>
14	November 21 st	<p><i>Rigoberta Menchú</i></p> <p>Readings for next class: Menchú (2010) –Pg. 214 – 258</p>
15	November 28 th	<p><i>Rigoberta Menchú</i></p> <p>Readings for next class: Menchú (2010) –Pg. 259 – 289</p>
16	December 5 th	<i>Final Student Research Presentations</i>
17	December 12 th	<i>Finals Week</i>