

Course Syllabus

JS132

Race, Gender, Inequality & the Law

**Spring 2022**

San José State University  
Justice Studies JS132

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, 1:30-2:45
Classroom:	In-Person- Awaiting Formal Announcement (1/12/22)
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 \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> [\(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#)"

### **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.

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

Your Choice of 3 books for 4<sup>th</sup> Required Book- Michelle Obama. *Becoming.* New York. Crown, 2018- Great read during election season about race dominant issues in all 3 sections of her book.

OR

Jennifer L. Eberhardt, PhD. *BIASED: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do.* New York. Viking, 2019

OR

Richard Rothstein, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History Of How Our Government Segregated America.* New York-London. Liveright Publishing Corporation

**Recommended Readings For Going Deeper, if you desire:**

**Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams. *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide For Trying Times*. New York. Celadon Books 2021**

**Marcello Hernandez Castillo. *Children Of The Land*. New York. Harper Collins**

**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

Spring 2022

Course Schedule

Course Syllabus

***From January 26 through February 11 all classes will be taught in a fully remote modality. I will send out Zoom meeting links for your calendar.***

Week 1 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

January 27- Remote

Week 1 Topics, Readings, Assignments,  
Deadlines

Barack Obama's Eulogy for Rep. John  
Lewis

Obama on This Guest Needs No  
Introduction - Host David Lettermen

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

## Week 2

### February 1 & 3- Remote

**Homework-** Submit to Canvas your  
response to the Dr. Harry Edwards May  
28, 2016 SJSU Commencement speech  
and

Eulogy President Obama on July 30,  
2020.

Week 2 See specific assignment on Canvas.

Read pages 1-71 Between the World  
and Me

Northern CA Innocence Project- Read  
Website Cases and Discuss

[www.innocenceproject.org](http://www.innocenceproject.org)- ([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#)) review website

Week 3- Remote

February 8 & 10- Virtual

View- NY Times Video Observations  
from Conversation on Race- Random  
responses (equity)-

Week 1 Topics, Readings, Assignments,  
Deadlines

**Group Work- Presentations Explained.  
Topics presented. Choices made. Rubric  
discussed.**

**Read- Between The World And Me**

Pgs 1-71

February 15 & 17. In-Person

February 15- Expert Speaker #1

Expert Speaker . Alexandria LeeNatali-  
Founder, Perseverance Prep in San  
Jose, Education Justice and Criminal  
Justice Reform.

Homework-Death Penalty and Wrongful  
Convictions

Begin to Read *Just Mercy* (now a movie)  
by Bryan Stevenson-

**February 17**

Expert Speaker #2- Aaron Aquas-Rao.  
Northern CA Innocence Project- Aaron  
Aquas-Rao-Intake Attorney with NCIP-  
Always requested to return for encore

February 22 & 24- In-Person- Great  
Week of Compelling Speakers

Current Issues (3)- Cite Source- Class,  
Race, Gender, Education, Crime

February 22- Expert Speaker #3

Week 1 Topics, Readings, Assignments,  
Deadlines

Expert Speaker #3-Leon Beauchman-  
President of the Alliance of Black  
Educators of Silicon Valley AT&T,  
MFCC, Black Educators Association,  
Former Scholar Athlete in Basketball in  
1969 at SJSU, Grew up in Mississippi

February 24-Expert Speaker #4

District Attorney of SCC Jeff Rosen a  
Nationally recognized leader in criminal.  
Justice reform, including jail population  
reduction, diversion programs for non-  
violent offenders, expungements for low  
level drug crimes etc.

Read- Just Mercy pgs. 3-91

March 1 & 3- In-Person

Video of Presiding Judge Kathryn  
Lucero's Justice Involved Students in

SCC Presentation to County Board of  
Education- 2019

March 3- Expert Speaker #5

Sophia Lozano Pallares- Innovate

Education Activist and Organizer

Empowering parents to revitalize  
democracy and civic education

M.A. in Ethics and Social Theory at Santa  
Clara University

Week 1 Topics, Readings, Assignments,  
Deadlines

Current Issues

March 8 & 10

March 8

Expert Speaker # 6

Assemblyman Evan Low was named national co-chair of the Andrew Yang for president campaign- Former Campbell councilmember and mayor

AAPI and the Current Climate with an eye to equity

March 10

Expert Speaker #7 Deputy Chief of Staff to CA Senator Dave Cortese: Tara Sreekrishman. Recently appointed Trustee to County Board of Education. Tara founded Silicon Valley's Youth Climate Action. October 7

Watch: The Mask You Live In -Part 1

Roundtable DISCUSSION #1 on

Homework- Research the term Hypermasculinity from a 360-degree perspective.

Begin to formulate your own beliefs around term and movement.

March 15 & 17

Week 1 Topics, Readings, Assignments,  
Deadlines

Gender and Di Salvo's Recent Issues-  
Archived Footage

Current Issues

The Mask You Live In- Part 2

Continue to Read: Between The World  
and Me

March 15 & 17

Current Issues

March 17- MIDTERM EXAM- ON  
CANVAS

March 22 & 24

Class and Economic Privilege in  
America/ Documentary: "Poor Kids"

[Poor Kids | FRONTLINE | PBS \(Links to an external site.\)](#) [\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/poor-kids](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/poor-kids)

*Read Between The World And Me pgs. 72-152*

*Read We Should All Be Feminists*

*Read Just Mercy-*

Week 1 Topics, Readings, Assignments,  
Deadlines

Spring Break- March 28-April 1

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 with one relative, friend, or colleague about what you have come to learn in JS 132 at the halfway point in the course. Write a 350-500 work essay on the experience and submit to Canvas. Counts for Class Participation

Current Issues

Complete Reading of Just Mercy

April 5 & 7

Roundtable DISCUSSION #2

April 5

Expert Speaker #8, Executive Director of Latinas Contra Cancer Darcie Green and former Trustee on Alum Rock and SCCOE School Boards. An activist and community organizer and one of the young women leaders to watch a few years ago. Her talk will be about the intersection of race and health in America and Silicon Valley.

*Date Proposed is April 7- TBD*

Week 1 Topics, Readings, Assignments,  
Deadlines

*Expert Speaker #9- Darrell Cortez,  
Founder of Shop With a Cop  
Foundation- Retired SJP, Graduate SJSU  
Administration of Justice  
Department- Everyone knows Darrell...*

April 12 & 14

Current Issues

Read: Begin Becoming by Michelle  
Obama or Choice of

Read Begin- Biased by Jennifer L.  
Eberhardt, PhD. Uncovering the Hidden  
Prejudice That Shapes What We See,  
Think, and Do-Brian Stevenson says  
"Groundbreaking"

Read: Begin. The Color of Law by  
Richard Rothstein

Roundtable Discussion #3

April 19 & 21

Current Issues-

Roundtable DISCUSSION #4

Current Issues

Week 1 Topics, Readings, Assignments,  
Deadlines

April 19

Expert Speaker #10- Robert Aviles- Deputy Sheriff on loan to Homeland Security. Come prepared with work/life questions. He prefers to answer student questions than prepare a PPT or presentation

We will review questions in class prior to Robert's Expert Talk.

April 26 & 28

Current Issues

Homelessness Race, Gender and Inequality- Professor Di Salvo etc.

"Rethinking United States Immigration Policy, Diversity, and the Politics of Exclusion" (pp. 253-277) Notes from a Nation of Nations by Di Salvo

Roundtable DISCUSSION #5

Current Issue

May 3 & 5

Week 1 Topics, Readings, Assignments,  
Deadlines

Current Issues

Complete all required book readings for  
Final Roundtable

**Final Discussed-Review for Final 20%  
of grade**

Final  
Exam-  
Date

Monday  
May 23  
at  
12:15-  
2:30

