

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 101, Critical Issues and Ideas in Justice, Section 02**  
**Spring 2023**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor(s): Stephen J. Morewitz, Ph.D.  
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Office Hours: M, 3-4:00

Class Days/Time: MW, 1:30-2:45 PM

Classroom: MacQuarrie Hall 520

**Faculty Web Page**

<https://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/our-department/faculty-and-staff/morewitz-s/index.html>

**Course Description**

*3 unit(s)*

Interdisciplinary, historical and comparative examination of justice concepts and controversies, including the state's role in promoting justice and perpetuating injustice; legitimate versus illegitimate violence; human rights, stateless persons, and the international community; the relationship between social justice and criminal justice.

*Course is repeatable for up to 3 units.*

**Prerequisite(s):** Upper Division Standing; JS 10, JS 12, JS 25 or FS 11 or equivalent.

**Corequisite(s):** JS 100W; Justice Studies Minors, Legal Studies Minors: Any 100W.

**Grading:** Letter Graded

**Note(s):** Must achieve a grade of “C” or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

## Course Format

### In Person

### Course Materials on Canvas

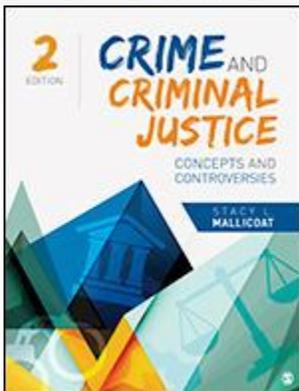
Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on Spartan App Portal <http://one.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas, please go to [https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student\\_resources/index.html](https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources/index.html)

### Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

### Required Reading

Book > Textbooks > Criminal Justice



Share

Crime and Criminal Justice

## Concepts and Controversies

### SECOND EDITION

- Stacy L. Mallicoat - California State University, Fullerton, USA

Available with:

Updated with new content and current controversies that facilitate critical thinking, debate, and application of the concepts, Mallicoat's **Crime and Criminal Justice, Second Edition**, provides accessible and concise coverage of all relevant aspects of the criminal justice system, as well as unique chapters on victims and criminal justice policy. Using an innovative format designed to increase student engagement and critical thinking, each chapter is followed by two Current Controversy debates that dive into a critical issue in criminal justice. These features challenge misconceptions by providing a balanced debate of both the pros and the cons of each issue and are followed by probing questions to help students think critically about timely topics. With contemporary examples that students can easily apply and a broad range of effective learning tools, this practical text helps students go beyond the surface toward a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system.

### Teaching Methods

The course will be devoted to lecturing, exercises, debates, role plays, student-generated multiple-choice test items, student lectures, video presentations, and student small group discussion in Zoom Breakout Rooms. Other teaching methods include enrichment materials and Q and A sessions.

### Course Requirements and Assignments

1. *Midterm (Multiple-choice and/or True/False Test Items) (25% of total grade) (Midterm on 3.6.23)*
2. *Day-in-the-Life Critical Issues Diary (Word.doc File Only) (25% of total grade) (Due: 5.10.23)*

Students in two-member teams will plan, design, and implement a Day-in the-Life Critical Issues Diary Project. Students will carry out the Day-in-the-Life Critical Issues Diary Project by selecting and applying a justice studies theory from the required and

recommended texts and peer-review justice studies journal articles and books. As part of their Day-in-the-Life Critical Issues Diary Project students will:

- a. Read the required and recommended texts, peer-review justice studies journal articles, and books (no newspapers, magazines, or websites) related to justice studies critical issues theories, concepts, and research methods and findings.
- b. Include a written list of your texts and other peer-review justice studies references using the APA format.
- c. Critically evaluate in writing the salient points of your readings.
- d. Prepare a Day-in-the-Life Critical Issues Diary about a justice studies theory using your observation of part of your regular day, e.g., working at home, waiting for a bus, studying in the library.
- e. Use your critical analysis of your peer-review justice studies articles and books to explain in writing the ways in which your Day-in-the-Life Critical Issues Diary illustrates a justice studies theory or concept.
- f. Give a 10-15 Minute Team Day-in-the-Life Critical Issues Diary Video Presentation using your Day-in-the-Life Critical Issues Diary observations and written summary of your analysis of the readings.
- g. Submit a 8-typed page Word.doc-file only that is divided into two sections, 3-page diary entry with a heading and a 5-page analysis with a heading and at least **six** peer-review justice studies references, double-space, title page, in-text citations, and the list of at least **six** peer-review justice studies references (including volume #s, issues #s, and page #s) using only the APA format). You should have a Turnitin Similarity Score of nine percent or lower. Otherwise, you receive a failing score.
- h. To receive a passing grade, each student must work a minimum number of hours on the Day-in-the-Life Diary and complete a separate Individual Student Project Work Hours Log (see Files in Canvas) to document her or his hours in preparing the Day-in-the-Life Critical Issues Diary.

### **3. Exercises and Two In-Class Quizzes (3.20.23 and 4.17.23) (25% of total grade)**

Students will work solo and in teams to complete other assignments, e.g., participating in debates, taking polls, preparing for tests, and developing key terms and definitions. Students will complete two in-class quizzes.

### **4. Final Exam during Final Exams Week (Multiple-Choice and/or True/False Test Items) (25% of total grade)**

“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 practicum. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

## **Grading Information**

### **Grading Policy**

According to the Departmental policy, all recorded grades are final. The faculty member will not change any grade after it is recorded unless the faculty member has made an error in calculation. Students will not be permitted to re-submit assignments for a better grade.

### ***Grading Rubric for In-Class Assignments***

In terms of grading in-class assignments, students must complete 100% of all solo and group in-class assignments by the end of the semester (last day of classes) to receive full credit. Otherwise, students will lose 10 points from their final grade. Students who complete 100% of the assignments will get the maximum allowable grade depending on the final grade distribution of the class.

### ***Grading Rubric for Day-in-the-Life Critical Issues Diary Reports***

Students will be graded based on the following rubric:

Relevance to justice studies critical issues (5 points)

Adequacy of the analysis of peer-review justice studies journal articles and books (20 points)

Adequacy of critically analyzing major critical issues-related theories and/or findings (20 points)

Creativity (5 points)

Critical Thinking Skills/Clarity/Logic/Adherence to Report Guidelines/APA Report Format, e.g., In-Text Citation Format and Reference List Format/Attention to Detail/Grammar/Six Peer-Review References (50 points)

### 1. Passing This Course:

Passing this course requires consistent good effort to turn in all materials, use correct grammar, and know the conventions of writing in justice studies. Sloppy papers, or consistently turning materials in late, usually result in lower overall points.

2. Late Assignment Penalty: All late major online assignments will lose 10 points for each class meeting that the assignment is late.

*Below is the SJSU Grade Distribution*

| <i>Grade</i>   | <i>Points</i>      | <i>Percentage</i> |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <i>A plus</i>  | <i>960 to 1000</i> | <i>96 to 100%</i> |
| <i>A</i>       | <i>930 to 959</i>  | <i>93 to 95%</i>  |
| <i>A minus</i> | <i>900 to 929</i>  | <i>90 to 92%</i>  |
| <i>B plus</i>  | <i>860 to 899</i>  | <i>86 to 89 %</i> |
| <i>B</i>       | <i>830 to 859</i>  | <i>83 to 85%</i>  |
| <i>B minus</i> | <i>800 to 829</i>  | <i>80 to 82%</i>  |
| <i>C plus</i>  | <i>760 to 799</i>  | <i>76 to 79%</i>  |
| <i>C</i>       | <i>730 to 759</i>  | <i>73 to 75%</i>  |
| <i>C minus</i> | <i>700 to 729</i>  | <i>70 to 72%</i>  |
| <i>D plus</i>  | <i>660 to 699</i>  | <i>66 to 69%</i>  |
| <i>D</i>       | <i>630 to 659</i>  | <i>63 to 65%</i>  |
| <i>D minus</i> | <i>600 to 629</i>  | <i>60 to 62%</i>  |

For additional information, see:

- *University Grading System Policy F18-5* (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf>)

Contacting Your Professor: Please use only the SJSU email system. I receive A LOT of email, so be sure to put in your SUBJECT line your course number and section number. That way I know why you are contacting me. Please sign your full name at the end of your email so that I know who you are! If you are absent from class, please do not ask me what you have missed. Please do not expect me to email you a copy of anything if I can post it on Canvas. I try to respond to email within 48 hours between Mondays and Fridays. Enjoy your weekends.

Hand-outs, Readings, and Other Learning Materials: These items are useful for your entire career at SJSU. I recommend bringing the materials and the lecture outlines to class, as I frequently explain and lecture from the materials. I post my hand-outs on Canvas.

Professor's Revisions to the Syllabus: I reserve the right to adjust assignments, material, and time schedule to fit the needs of the class. Students will be told about all changes in the syllabus.

### University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), 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 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources. For additional information, see:

- University Syllabus Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)
- University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)

### Course Schedule

| Module | Wk   | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines                |  |
|--------|------|---|--|
| 1      | 1.25 | Mallicoat, CH 1 Crime and Criminal Justice              |  |
| 2      | 1.30 | Mallicoat, CH 2 Concepts of Law and Justice             |  |
| 3      | 2.6  | Mallicoat, CH 3 Defining and Measuring Crime            |  |
| 4      | 2.13 | Mallicoat, CH 4 Explanations of Criminal Behavior       |  |
| 5      | 2.20 | Mallicoat, CH 5 Victims and the Criminal Justice System |  |
| 6      | 2.27 | Mallicoat, CH 6 Criminal Justice Policy                 |  |
| 7      | 3.6  | Mallicoat, CH 7 Policing Organizations and Practices    |  |
| 8      | 3.13 | Mallicoat, CH 8 Issues in Policing                      |  |

| <b>Module</b> | <b>Wk</b> | <b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>                      |  |
|---------------|-----------|--|--|
| 9             | 3.20      | Mallicoat, CH 9 Courts and Crime                                     |  |
| 10            | 3.27      | Spring Recess No Classes; Mallicoat, CH 10 Punishment and Sentencing |  |
| 11            | 4.3       | Mallicoat, CH 11 Prisons and Jails                                   |  |
| 12            | 4.10      | Mallicoat, CH 12 Community Corrections                               |  |
| 13            | 4.17      | Mallicoat, CH 13 Juvenile Justice                                    |  |
| 14            | 4.24      | Mallicoat, CH 14 Transnational Criminal Justice                      |  |
| 15            | 5.1       | Critical Issues Special Topics (TBA)                                 |  |
| 16            | 5.8       | Critical Issues Special Topics (TBA)                                 |  |
|               | 5.15      | Critical Issues Special Topics (TBA)                                 |  |