

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS185C – Special Topics – Film & Media**  
**In Justice and the Law**  
**Section 1 Spring 2023**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Harold W. Peterson, JD
<b>Office Location:</b>	MacQuarrie Hall, Room 508
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Thursdays/Thursdays 10:30 am to 11:45 am
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Thursdays 3:00 pm to 5:45 pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	MQH Room 520
<b>JS Competency Area:</b>	C: Critical Inquiries

**Course Catalog Description**

JS 185 - Special Topics in Law and Justice

(3 units)

*Range of law and justice issues and topics may be addressed. Content varies by semester. Topics may include international law and globalization, the struggle for justice, human rights, law, inequality and injustice, and others. May be repeated for credit when content changes for a maximum of 9 units.*

**Prerequisite(s):** Upper division standing.

**Grading:** Letter Graded

**Instructor's Course Description**

1. **Historical Perspective:** The course will survey the historical components to specific films in the United States as well as a chronological review of classic films & media

associated with such issues.

2. **Critical Analysis:** The course will provide an analytical review of the production and direction of specific films and their relationship to law and justice in the United States. The course will review specific films and dramatic literature regarding the struggle for justice, human rights, law, inequality injustice, and others. In addition, the analysis will include an in-depth look at the reasons and justifications for the creation of film and dramatic literature in justice and the law in the United States today.
3. **Discussion:** The course will facilitate discussion of issues concerning films about crimes and the development of such films within the criminal justice system.

### **Course Goals and Course Learning Outcomes**

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

**CLO 1** – Recognize and identify the nature and purpose of specific films and dramatic literature in law and justice in the United States.

**CLO 2** - Understand and appreciate the structure and purpose behind filmmaking and creation of dramatic literature.

**CLO 3** – Write and present an academic review of a film or dramatic literature.

### **Course Requirements**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty- five 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 practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

#### **Textbook:**

None.

**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 (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 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.

**Classroom Protocol:** This is a time to open your minds to new ideas, to explore new concepts, so please take advantage of this opportunity. Further, please be respectful of others and show them common courtesy. Students may enrich the learning process by discussion. Respect and professionalism are the guiding principles of this class. Tardiness will not be tolerated, if you are late, do not disturb class—wait until break to enter the classroom.

**Electronic Devices:** Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, PDA’s or any other electronic device that “make noise”. No text messaging in class, please turn off these devices, as they are disruptive. Students may take hand written notes during class; however, students may not use computer and/or other recording devices without instructor’s permission.

**Assignments and Grading Policy**

**Written Assignments:** All writing assignments must adhere to the *10 Rules of Formal Writing* and the instruction and description found on the **Canvas** website. Written Assignments not conforming to these rules will receive a significant reduction in grade.

**Examination and Evaluation:** A student’s final evaluation shall consist of a midterm examination, a Short Film Review, 15 In-class Film Evaluations, and a Final Film Review Each assignment/examination shall consist of 100 points and is weighted as follows:

Grade Item	Weight
<b>15 Film Evaluations (CLO’s 1-3)</b>	40%
<b>First Midterm Examination (CLO’s 1-3)</b>	15%
<b>Short Film Review Assignment (CLO 3)</b>	15%
<b>Final Movie Review</b>	30%
<b>Total</b>	100%

Examinations consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions derived from the reading assignments and class lecture. Missed exams or assignments may only be made-up with proper documentation of illness, incapacity and/or prior and valid notification and reason for absence.

More details can be found from [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](#).

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)
- [University Policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf)

**Plus/Minus Grading:** This course will be using the plus/minus- system on final grades based on the following percentages:

93-100:	A	74-76:	C
90-92:	A-	70-73:	C-
87-89:	B+	67-69:	D+

84-86:	B	64-66:	D
80-83:	B-	60-63:	D-
77-79:	C+	0-59:	F

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

Students must submit all assignments online at the **Canvas** website.

### **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc.

<https://slisweb.sjsu.edu/current-students/registration-and-enrollment/adding-and-dropping-classes>

Students should be aware of the current deadlines for dropping and adding classes. <http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/docs/1314aycalendar.pdf>

### **Required University Policies Statement**

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](#)

#### **Academic Integrity:**

<https://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/conduct-processes/academic-integrity.php>

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 submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that the SJSU Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

**Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case of building evacuation, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the AEC (Accessible Education Center) to establish a record of their disability. For more

information call their office at 408-924-6000 (v) or 408-924-5990 (TTY).

**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. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

**Expectations of Students' Effort:** "Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five 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 practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus."

## **Student Resources**

**Library Liaison:** Nyle Monday *Assistant Librarian, University Library, San Jose State University*

Email: [nyle.monday@sjsu.edu](mailto:nyle.monday@sjsu.edu)

**Student Technology Resources:** Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and 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. 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 and monitors.

**Peer (Mentoring) Connections:** Peer Connections offers free mentoring and tutoring services to undergraduate SJSU students. <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu>

Peer Connections has four locations on the SJSU main campus:

- Student Services Center (SSC) 600, on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and San Fernando (inside the 10<sup>th</sup> Street parking garage building)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Main Library in room LL 67, just off of the elevator lobby on the lower level
- Academic Success Center in Clark Hall, on the first floor next to the Computer Lab
- The Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village B.

**SJSU Writing Center:** The SJSU Writing Center located in Room 126 in Clark Hall offers a variety of resources to help students become better writers, including one-on-one tutoring sessions and numerous writing workshops. All of the services are free for SJSU students. <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>

**CASA Student Success Center:** The Student Success Center provides advising for undergraduate students majoring or wanting to major in programs offered in Departments and Schools. All students who would like to be in 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. If you are looking for academic advice or even tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU, check out the Student Success Center. Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MQH) 533 - top floor of MacQuarrie Hall. Contact information: 408.924.2910. Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/>. The Student Success Center also provides study space and laptops for checkout.

Week	Day	Readings, Assignments & Deadlines
1	Thursday 1/26	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>The Paper Chase</i> <i>Introduction; Syllabus; Class Mechanics; The Nature of Justice and Law in film. (Art and the First Amendment)</i>
2	Thursday 2/2	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> <i>Film and the concept of Justice and the law</i>
3	Thursday 2/9	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>Just Mercy</i> <i>Film and Punishment.</i>
4	Thursday 2/16	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>The Color Purple</i> <i>Film and Culture</i>
5	Thursday 2/23	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>Boys Don't Cry</i> <i>Film and Crime Victims</i>
6	Thursday 3/2	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>The Accused</i> <i>Film and Prosecution</i>
7	Thursday 3/9	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>...And Justice for All</i> <i>Film and the Defense Attorney</i> <b>Open: Take-home Midterm Examination</b>
8	Thursday 3/16	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>The Verdict</i> <i>Film and Trial</i> <b>Due: Midterm Examination</b>
9	Thursday 3/23	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>A Few Good Men</i> <i>Film and Trial</i>
10	Thursday 3/30	<b>Spring Recess – No Class</b>
11	Thursday 4/6	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>Philadelphia</i> <i>Film and Inequality</i> <b>Due: First Movie Review (To Kill a Mockingbird)</b>
12	Thursday 4/13	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>Loving</i> <i>Film and Inequality</i>
13	Thursday 4/20	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>My Cousin Vinny</i> <i>Film and Humor</i>
14	Thursday 4/27	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>Black Klansman</i> <i>Film and Humor</i>
15	Thursday 5/4	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>On the Basis of Sex</i> <i>Film and Gender</i>
16	5/11	<b>Film &amp; Discussion:</b> <i>Anatomy of a Murder</i> <i>Film and Society</i>
	<b>Friday 5/19</b>	<b>Due: Final Movie Review (11:59PM)</b>