

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS159-01 / Senior Seminar, Spring 2012

Instructor:	Dina M. Kameda, M.S., M.A.
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Email:	dkamedasjsu@aol.com (preferred and best method of contact)
Office Hours:	Tuesdays, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM Open virtual office hours (e-mail)
Class Days/Time:	Mondays, 5:30 PM – 8:15 PM
Classroom:	Boccardo Business Center 126
Prerequisites:	Completion of JS100W, JS105, Senior Standing, Department Consent

Faculty Web Page and E-mail

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and any ancillary materials will be posted on my faculty web site at: <http://www.justice-studies.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking your e-mail regarding announcements, reminders, and any additional course materials. All course materials are posted in Adobe PDF format; you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the documents. A link to the program's download site is available on the home page of the instructor's web site; there is not cost to download Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Instructor E-mail Policy

Please feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check several times per day); however, please adhere to the e-mail guidelines below:

1. Please include in the "subject line" the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS159, Your Name, research question). The instructor **will not** respond to "**no subject**" e-mails, or any e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.
2. Any e-mailed assignments must be sent in one of the following formats as a separate attachment: Microsoft Word (*.doc or *.docx), Microsoft Works (*.wps), or in rich text format (*.rtf). Please **do not** copy and paste any assignments into an e-mail, they will not be accepted. Always retain a copy of any e-mail with an assignment attached as proof of submission.

Course Description and Overview

This course will engage the student in the identification, discussion and analysis of selected problems in justice studies. A major policy paper on a selected topic is required. Throughout this course, students will have the opportunity to critically analyze contemporary criminal justice policies and practices.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

- LO1** Demonstrate substantive knowledge about the measurement of crime and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of major sources of crime data (including official statistics, victim surveys, and self report surveys)
- LO2** Demonstrate substantive knowledge about the extent and severity of formal and informal responses to various types of crime and offenders.
- LO3** Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the prevalence of various types of crime, and the characteristics of likely offenders and victims.
- LO4** Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the prevalence of various types of crime, and the characteristics of likely offenders and victims.
- LO5** Demonstrate an ability to integrate and apply different theoretical perspectives to explain a range of specific criminal offenses, and be able to compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of those theories.
- LO6** Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

Required Texts

Textbook (Available at the Spartan Bookstore; ISBN: 978-0495809876)

Walker, S. (2010). *Sense and nonsense about crime, drugs, and communities* (7th Ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Turnitin.com

Students will be required to register on <http://www.turnitin.com>, and submit all written assignments to turnitin.com prior to submission to the instructor, unless otherwise noted. Registration must be completed by **Saturday, 2/4/12**.

Class name: JS159-01 Spring 2012

Enrollment password: Spr2012

Class ID: 4701565

Library Liaison

Nyle Monday (Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu)

(408) 808-2041

<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/2122/index.htm>. Information about late drop is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Classroom Protocol

1. Students are expected to: attend all class meetings, arrive on time, stay for the duration of the class period, complete all readings and assignments in accordance with the dates on the course schedule.
2. Students are responsible for all missed notes, materials and announcements due to absence (i.e., do not e-mail the instructor asking about what you missed). You are encouraged to exchange contact information with someone in class just in case.
3. Review the **Student Expectations** page of the instructor's web site carefully (<http://www.justice-studies.com>) for further details regarding proper classroom etiquette.

Overview of Participation – What constitutes participation?

In order to participate, one must be in attendance. Attendance per se; however, is not considered to be participation, and cannot be factored into the course grade. In-class comments based on the identification of discussion topics and presentations which exemplify knowledge of the subject matter and the asking of probing questions are considered to be participation. Beyond the completion of assigned readings, sufficient time must be spent contemplating the material for the purpose of being prepared to participate in class discussions.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Summary of Assignments and Exams

Assignment/Exam	Due/Exam Date	Weight
Short Answer Essay Presentation	See schedule	20%
Topic Meeting	See schedule	20%
Video + Discussion Groups	April 16 th	15%
Policy Paper	April 30 th	30%
Paper Presentation	See schedule	15%
		<hr/>
		100%

Assignments

General formatting requirements for written assignments include a cover page, page numbering, 1" margins, double-spacing, and Times New Roman font. All assignments must be written in formal English, with college-level writing mechanics and APA-style formatting, inclusive of in-text citations and references. Each written assignment must be submitted to www.turnitin.com prior to submission to the instructor. Written assignments will be submitted via e-mail as an attachment in one of the following formats: MS Works (*.wps), MS Word (*.doc or *.docx), or Rich Text Format (*.rtf). Copied and pasted assignments, into the body of an e-mail, will not be accepted.

Policy Paper

A 16 to 18 page research paper analyzing a justice-related topic is required for this course. Students can choose their topic based on their own research interests, but the topic must be discussed with the instructor during Topic Meetings (see course schedule), and approved no later than Monday, March 12, 2012. No paper will be accepted without previous discussion and approval. Approval of a topic will be dependent on thorough preparation for your Topic Meeting (see details regarding Topic Meetings to follow).

Students are prohibited from writing on a topic that has been used for previous course, or currently being used for another course. Any attempt to violate this requirement will result in an automatic "F" for the paper, which ultimately will result in failing the course. Such an attempt would constitute a violation of the Academic Integrity policy.

This paper will consist of a review of scholarly literature on an approved topic. Students will be required to not only analyze and critique existing policies, but propose new or amended policies. The research reviewed must come from high quality justice-related journals, which establish and examine relationships between and among variables, concepts, theories, and policies. Based on the evidence reviewed, policy implications will be drawn.

The paper must be uploaded to www.turnitin.com 24 hours prior to submission to the instructor; students are expected to make any necessary corrections. It is to be submitted to the instructor via e-mail as an attachment in one of the following formats: MS Works (*.wps), MS Word (*.doc or *.docx), or Rich Text Format (*.rtf). A paper which is copied and pasted into the body of an e-mail will not be accepted.

Topic Meetings

Individual Topic Meetings will take place over the course of three weeks this semester (see course schedule). The schedule for Topic Meetings will be provided by 2/13/12. Topic meetings will last roughly 20 minutes. Students only need to come on their scheduled Topic Meeting date.

Preparation for Topic Meetings

For these meetings, you will need to be thoroughly prepared to discuss a plan of action for your policy paper. Failure to attend your scheduled Topic Meeting will result in a substantial loss of points, as Topic Meetings are vital to the preparation of your papers. Failure to be fully prepared for your Topic Meeting will also result in a substantial loss of points.

The following three criteria are required for the Topic Meetings:

1. A specific topic/delimited title (i.e., have a specific focus in mind)
2. A type-written outline for your paper (hard copy) which demonstrates the utility of your chosen journal articles, a clear conception of what policy/policies you intend to examine, and an APA-style reference list. You will be submitting this outline/reference list to the instructor at the time of your Topic Meeting.
3. Copies of (5) scholarly, empirical research articles that will be used for your paper. You may bring hard copies; have PDF electronic versions of the downloaded articles on your own computer; or e-mail PDF electronic versions of the articles to the instructor no less than 24 hours ahead of time. Please note, with regard to e-mailing copies of the articles, URL links will not be accepted. The instructor will not review contents of a flash drive unless it is plugged into your own computer.

Policy Paper Content Requirements

1. Students will review and critically analyze a minimum of (10) scholarly journal articles (5 of which must be empirical studies) on a chosen justice-related topic; however, students may exceed the minimum if desired or needed. The articles must have been published within the last four years (i.e., 2008 or later). In general, a high quality study will run approximately 15+ pages in length; in other words, do not use short summary studies. Review articles that cover several studies will only count as one source. Prior to writing your paper, all (5) of the empirical studies must be cleared by the instructor at the time of your Topic Meeting.
2. Once your topic is chosen and approved, you may not change your topic without instructor consent.
3. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any extent of plagiarism (intentional or unintentional) will result in a failing grade for this assignment. Students will be required to submit their policy paper to www.turnitin.com, and are expected to utilize the Originality Report generated from that submission to self-edit any instances of plagiarism prior to submitting to the instructor. This process will require students to submit their policy papers to www.turnitin.com a minimum of one day in advance of the due date (see course schedule). Once revisions have been made, students will be required to resubmit their papers to www.turnitin.com.
4. Writing style and presentation: The paper must be written in formal English (i.e., no contractions, abbreviations or slang). Proper punctuation, tense, spelling, grammar, syntax, and neatness are of importance; too many errors will lead to an automatic point deduction.
5. Proper APA-style formatting (6th Ed.) must be followed, with specific emphasis on in-text citations and references. While paraphrasing is allowed (i.e., rephrasing things into your own words), all paraphrases must be properly cited or they will be considered instances of plagiarism. The use of direct quotes is greatly discouraged, as direct quotes do not demonstrate your understanding of the material. A total of (3) direct quotes may be used (with proper in-text citations and references); however, each quote may not exceed (15) words.

6. It is important to understand that social science research findings either support or do not support relationships between and among variables; they never prove anything in absolute terms. The use of statements implying that research findings “proved” or “disproved” anything will not be allowed.
7. The paper should be organized according to the specified format/structure.

Policy Paper Structure Requirements

The main sections of the paper include an introduction, a literature review, policy implications, and references.

Introduction

This section includes a brief introduction of the topic, which may include historical information, relevance, concepts, definitions, overview of current policies, and the like. Students should provide a substantive explanation for why the topic is important, as well as a clear thesis.

Literature Review (This will be an integrated literature review.)

This section primarily describes research on the topic, and focuses on defining the major relationships between and among variables, concepts, theories, and policies. Provide an in depth analysis of your chosen topic, identified in the introduction, utilizing information garnered from scholarly sources, combined with your own original thoughts (i.e., critical analysis). Students will summarize, critique, and present pertinent conclusions (in brief); more substantive conclusions will be addressed in the Policy Implications section of the paper.

Policy Critique and Implications

Based on the research findings reviewed, the need for new and/or improved policies will be described. These policy changes and revisions must be based on a realistic assessment with respect to budget, time, resource allocation and constraints, and politics. This suggests that the policies should be aimed specifically at program development with respect to the research reviewed and the practical implications of their implementation.

References

References refer only to those sources which have been cited within your paper. Additionally, only primary sources are included, secondary sources are not. Your references must match with your in-text citations.

Policy Paper Grading

The policy paper will be graded based on the following major criteria:

1. Adherence to all stated requirements, both formatting and content
2. The overall quality of research presented, in conjunction with the level of analysis provided
3. The overall quality of the paper with respect to writing mechanics and style

Paper Presentation

Students will be required give a 20 minute formal presentation of their research papers. The schedule will be provided by 4/16/12. Before each presentation, presenters will distribute a 1-2 page outline of their presentation to students in the class. Presenters will provide the instructor with the outline plus a full list of references.

The presentation must include the following:

1. **Introduction:** Description of the specific topic, importance of the topic, and thesis
2. **Literature Review:** Relatively concise coverage of your literature review
3. **Policy Critique:** A critique of current policies, based upon the literature, in terms of the implications of their effectiveness/ineffectiveness, and suggestions about alternative policies. This critique should pull upon findings in the literature to support the presenter's point of view.

Paper Presentation Grading

The presentation will be graded based on the level of competency and flow, knowledge of the subject, and conclusions. It is highly recommended that students practice their presentations several times (preferably in front of someone who will provide constructive feedback). The presentations will be held to strict time limits. Failure to complete a presentation within the allotted time frame (i.e., 20 minutes), or too brief of a presentation, will result in a loss of points.

Short Answer Essay Presentations (SAEP)

Each student will be responsible for offering one in-class presentation of a response to a short answer essay question for a specific textbook chapter. Each student will only present once on the assigned readings. If necessary, some students will present on instructor chosen journal articles in lieu of a textbook chapter; this will be dependent on the number of students enrolled in the course. Should this become necessary, all students will be responsible for reading additional journal articles which will be made available by the instructor via e-mail in PDF format.

A schedule of presentations, along with SAEP questions, will be provided by 2/13/12; SAEPs will begin on 2/20/12. The presentation of an essay response will be roughly 5-7 minutes in length, with an additional 20-25 minutes for questions.

1. Students should begin with a reading of the relevant essay question, before providing their response.
2. Each essay response should incorporate substantive examples from the associated reading.
3. When presenting, students should be prepared to pose at least two questions to the class at the end to facilitate class discussion. While the instructor will moderate discourse, students are largely responsible for engaging in inquiry and discussion.
4. Criteria for journal articles, if necessary, will be furnished at a later date.

Textbook Short Answer Essay Presentation Grading

Each SEAP will receive a “grade” ranging from 0 – 20 points based on the fulfillment of requirements. Weekly presentations will account for 20% of the final course grade). Please note that make-up presentations will not be allowed, except under extreme circumstances which can be substantiated (documentation may be required).

Grading Policy and Late Submissions

Written assignments will primarily be graded on content; however, poor writing mechanics and errors in APA formatting will result in a moderate point deduction. Assistance with APA can be found at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

In order to demonstrate your comprehension of the course material, and knowledgeable application of theory, one must be able to write in a clear and effective manner. Always carefully proofread your assignments before submitting them. Late assignment submissions will not be accepted.

A grade of “C” (i.e., at least 73%) is required to pass this course.

Department of Justice Studies Course Grade Determination

Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade	Total Points	Grade
98.0 to 100	A plus	80.0 to 82.99	B minus	63 to 67.99	D
93.0 to 97.99	A	78 to 79.99	C plus	00.0 to 62.99	F
90.0 to 92.99	A minus	73.0 to 77.99	C		
88.0 to 89.99	B plus	70 .0 to 72.99	C minus		
83 to 87.99	B	68.00 to 69.99	D plus		

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University’s Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/students/academic_integrity.html. 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://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/students/student_conduct_code.html.

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.

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 the building must be evacuated, 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 DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

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.

SJSU Writing Center

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

JS159-01 / Senior Seminar, Spring 2012 Course Schedule

The following course schedule is subject to change; advance notice of any changes will be provided via e-mail as early as possible.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
1	Monday 1/30	Agenda/Topics: Course introduction; review of syllabus; discussion of expectations Deadline(s): All students must register on www.turnitin.com by Saturday, 2/4/12
2	Monday 2/6	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 1 lecture/discussion; Discuss potential topics, APA resources, appropriate sources. Reading for today: Ch. 1
3	Monday 2/13	Agenda/Topics: Ch. 2 and 3 lecture/discussion; Review schedules for Topic Meetings and SAEPs Reading for today: Ch. 2 and 3
4	Monday 2/20	Agenda/Topics: SAEPs for Ch. 4 and 5 Reading for today: Ch. 4 and 5
5	Monday 2/27	Agenda/Topics: Topic Meetings (week 1)
6	Monday 3/5	Agenda/Topics: Topic Meetings (week 2)
7	Monday 3/12	Agenda/Topics: Topic Meetings (week 3)
8	Monday 3/19	Agenda/Topics: SAEPs for Ch. 6 and 7 Reading for today: Ch. 6 and 7
9	Monday 3/26	No class – Spring Break
10	Monday 4/2	Agenda/Topics: SAEPs for Ch. 8 and 9 Reading for today: Ch. 8 and 9
11	Monday 4/9	Agenda/Topics: SAEPs for Ch. 10 and 11 Reading for today: Ch. 10 and 11

Week	Date	Agenda/Topics, Readings/Homework, Exams and Deadlines
12	Monday 4/16	Agenda/Topics: Video (TBA) + discussion groups/class discussion (bring paper to write on)
13	Monday 4/23	<p>Agenda/Topics: SAEPs for Ch. 12 and 13</p> <p>Reading for today: Ch. 12 and 13</p> <p>Homework 1: Prepare for presentations. Power Point or outline due no later than Sunday, 4/29/12 via e-mail regardless of your presentation date.</p> <p>Homework 2: Finish Policy Paper – Due on 4/30/12 via e-mail by 11:59 PM. No late papers will be accepted</p>
14	Monday 4/30	<p>Agenda/Topics: Policy paper presentations</p> <p>Due today: Policy Paper</p>
15	Monday 5/7	Agenda/Topics: SOTES; Policy paper presentations
16	Monday 5/14	Agenda/Topics: Policy paper presentations
	Monday 5/21	Final Exam Time: Students are required to keep 5:15 – 7:30 PM available until further notice.