
JS 159, Sec. 4: Senior Seminar – Spring 2010
Class Meeting Time and Room: Thursdays, 1:30 PM – 4:15 PM, MH 526

Instructor: Dina M. Kameda, M.S., M.A.
E-mail: dkamedasjsu@aol.com (**preferred**)
Cell Phone: (408) 832-9939 (Urgent only: 11 AM – 8 PM)
Office Hours (MH 527): Tuesdays, 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM and Wednesdays, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM
Course Materials: <http://www.justice-studies.com>
JS Department Web Site: <http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Course Description:

This course is based on the identification, discussion, and critical analysis of contemporary problems and controversies in the criminal justice field. Criminal justice policy, practice, and scholarship will be explored.

Mandatory Prerequisites:

- Completion of JS100W (with a C or better)
- Completion of JS105 (with a C- or better)
- Senior standing

Required Text:

Walker, S. (2006). *Sense and Nonsense about Crime and Drugs: A Policy Guide* (6th Ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
Note: Additional readings may be assigned (sent via e-mail in PDF format).

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives:

Throughout this course, students will have the opportunity to critically analyze contemporary criminal justice policies and practices. In addition to the analysis of the central text for this course, students will be encouraged and required to conduct outside scholarly research on a chosen topic, culminating in a policy paper. Ultimately, students will be expected to: (1) employ critical thinking and analysis, and (2) effectively communicate substantive conclusions in both written and oral formats based upon scholarly research.

Course Requirements:

- Completion of assigned readings on a weekly basis
- Weekly in-class presentations of assigned readings
- Active participation in class discussions on a weekly basis, in the form of substantive contributions
- Completion of a policy paper, which will be formally presented
- Registration on www.turnitin.com
- A minimum grade of a **C-** is required for graduation

Course Drop Policy:

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first two scheduled class meetings, and who fail to inform the instructor, prior to the second class meeting, of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. However, please note that instructors are not required to drop a student from their course.

It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. Friday, February 5, 2010 is the drop deadline. If you decide that you wish to drop the course, please be sure to do so prior to the drop deadline. Students who remain on the class roster, but discontinue coming to class, will receive either a "Withdrawal Unauthorized – WU" or an "F" for the course depending on the circumstances and timing of departure.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests or quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded.

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Students who violate the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing the course and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for disciplinary action, which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University.

Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. Cheating in JS 100W may include, among other things, plagiarism. Adhere to the SJSU code prohibiting plagiarism. **Plagiarized work in JS 159 will receive no credit and may not be resubmitted.** Plagiarism may also result in disciplinary action by the Department or the University. It is your responsibility to read and understand SJSU's policy on academic integrity. The policy on academic integrity can be found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

Campus policy in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act:

According to Presidential Directive 97-03 students with a disability are required to register with the Disability Resource Center (924-6000) in order to establish a record of their disability. Please meet with me to confirm that you have done this if you need course adaptation or accommodations because of a disability. If you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please see me during office hours.

Classroom Protocol/Expectations:

1. Students are expected to attend all class meetings.
2. Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments in accordance with dates on the course schedule.
3. Foster an environment that encourages participation, rather than silencing other students (be respectful and considerate of others).
4. Students are responsible for all notes, materials, and announcements missed due to absence (i.e., do not e-mail the instructor asking about what you missed). It is encouraged and beneficial to make a friend or two in class early on.
5. Students are expected to contribute to and participate in class discussions.
6. Review the **Student Expectations** page of the instructor's web site carefully. For this course, the use of laptops/net books, and "smart phones" is prohibited, unless medically necessary (documentation required). This is a course based on discussion, not lecture. Extensive note taking will not be required.
7. Open up, take some risks, and let your voice be heard!

Instructor E-mail Policy:

Feel free to e-mail the instructor any time (I check often); however, please adhere to the e-mail guidelines below:

- (1) Please include in the "subject line" the course number and section, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS159 Section 4, Dina Kameda, presentation 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.
- (3) **ALWAYS RETAIN A COPY OF ANY E-MAIL WITH AN ASSIGNMENT ATTACHED AS PROOF OF SUBMISSION!**

Determination of Course Grade:

Your course grade will be based on a policy paper, paper presentation, in-class presentations of assigned readings/participation in class discussions, and the submission of critiques of discussion topics.

Course Grade Evaluation: Total points possible = 100 (100%)

- Policy Paper: 50 points (50%)
- Paper Presentation: 20 points (20%)
- Weekly Chapter Presentations: 15 points (15%)
- Critiques of Discussion Topics: 15 points (15%)

Note: During paper presentation weeks, students not presenting are expected to attend class and provide constructive/substantive comments and questions. Post-presentation participation will result in additional participation points; alternatively, “skipping” presentations may result in the loss of overall participation points.

Incompletes:

Incompletes are rarely given, and only assigned when extreme circumstances can be substantiated. Failure to complete the Policy Paper due to time management issues will not serve as justification for an incomplete.

Policy Paper Overview:

A 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 office hours (i.e., **Topic Meetings** – see course schedule), and approved by **March 11, 2010**. No paper will be accepted without previous discussion and approval.

Individual **Topic Meetings** will take place over the course of (3) weeks this semester (see course schedule). Students will sign up for Topic Meetings early this semester; each meeting will last roughly 15-20 minutes. During these (3) weeks of meetings, there is no class. Students who do not have a Topic Meeting scheduled for a particular week do not need to come. For these meetings, you need to be prepared to discuss a plan of action for your policy paper. The following are required for the Topic Meetings: a delimited title, a paper outline, and copies of (3) empirical research articles that will be used for the policy paper.

The paper will consist of a review of empirical literature on the chosen topic, from which new or improved policies will be developed. The empirical research reviewed must come from high quality justice-related journals, which establish and examine relationships between and among independent and dependent variables. Based on the empirical evidence reviewed, policy implications will be drawn.

Formatting Requirements:

1. Length: 3,000-3,500 words (12-14 pages, not including the cover page, references, or appendices)
2. Margins: 1” (top, bottom, left, and right)
3. Line spacing: Strictly double-spaced (no additional space before or after each line)
4. Accepted fonts: Times New Roman, Garamond, or Calibri (12 pt. only)
5. Accepted file types: MS Word (*.doc or *.docx), MS Works (*.wps), or Rich Text Format (*.rtf)

Content Requirements:

1. In this paper students will review and critically analyze a minimum of (3) empirical scholarly research articles on a chosen justice-related topic, approved by the instructor. The minimum number of required scholarly sources is five for the paper as a whole. The (3) empirical studies must have been published within the last ten years (i.e., 2000 or later). In general, a high quality study will run approximately 10-15 pages in length; in other words, do not use short studies. Prior to writing your paper, all (3) of the empirical studies must be cleared by the instructor, you will be expected to bring these with you to your Topic Meeting. On the due date for the paper, all (3) empirical studies, in hard copy form, must be turned in.

2. The topic **cannot** be one on which you have already written a previous paper. 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 will result in a failing grade for this assignment. Students will be required to submit their policy papers 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 paper submission. This process will require students to submit their policy papers to www.turnitin.com at least one day in advance of the due date (see the course schedule).
4. Writing style and presentation: The paper must be written in **formal** English (i.e., do not use contractions; abbreviations; or slang). Proper punctuation, tenses, spelling, grammar, syntax, and neatness are of importance; too many errors will lead to a mandatory one grade point deduction.
5. Proper APA format and style (6th Ed.) must be adhered to, with specific emphasis on in-text citations, and references. While paraphrasing is allowed (i.e., putting things into your own words), all paraphrases must be properly cited or they will be considered plagiarism (see point #3). 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, the quotes may not exceed (15) words each.
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. Policy papers should be organized according to the specified format/structure (see **Policy Paper Structure**): Introduction, Literature Review, Policy Implications, and References.

Policy Paper Structure

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.

Literature Review:

This section primarily describes research on the topic, and focuses on defining the major relationships between and among variables (e.g., independent and dependent variables). For each empirical study, the following should be included:

1. Introduce the study by the author(s), publication date, and the purpose of the study.
2. Describe the research methodology for the study with respect to:
 - a. *Sample* (number of subjects and how they were recruited)
 - b. *Variables measured* (independent, dependent, and control variables)
 - c. *Findings* (statistically significant relationships between and among variables)
 - d. *Limitations* (variables not controlled for, procedural errors, sampling issues, generalizability issues, and so on)

Note: The more comprehensive the description of the above methodologies, in conjunction with demonstrating your understanding of the quality of the methodologies, the better. This does not mean simply regurgitating every little detail from the articles. A proper analysis of a research methodology requires a discerning eye, which can judiciously but thoroughly, extrapolate the most pertinent information and critically analyze it.

Policy 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 developments 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
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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.

Paper Presentation:

Students will be required give a **15-20 minute formal** presentation on their research papers. Before each presentation, presenters will distribute a 1-page outline of their presentation + references to the class. The presentation must include the following:

1. *Introduction*: Description of the general topic
2. *Analysis*: Review of the methodology and findings for 3 empirical research studies
3. *Policy Critique*: A critique of current polices, based upon the literature, in terms of the implications of their effectiveness/ineffectiveness, and suggestions about alternative policies.

Paper Presentation Grading:

The presentation will be graded based on the level of competency and flow, knowledge of the subject, and relevant answer(s) to directed questions. 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., 15-20 minutes) will result in a loss of points.

Weekly Chapter Presentations:

For each week of assigned readings (see course schedule), students will offer in-class presentations of (1) chapter or (2) short answer essay questions based on one of the chapters (determined by the instructor). A schedule of presentations will be determined during the first class meeting. The presentations will be 15 minutes in length, and consist of the following:

For full chapters:

1. Description of the chapter's main topic
2. Explanation of its relevance
3. Critique of the topic from the perspective of policy effectiveness/ineffectiveness and alternative policy solutions

For assigned chapter short answer essays:

1. Each short answer essay response will be presented separately.
2. Responses should describe the main ideas, supported by examples.

Weekly Chapter Presentation Grading:

Each presentation will receive a “grade” ranging from 0 – 15 points based on the fulfillment of requirements.

Please note: Make-up presentations will not be allowed, except under extreme circumstances which can be substantiated (documentation may be required).

Critiques of Discussion Topics (CDTs):

As part of overall participation, students are required to submit Critiques of Discussion Topics for the assigned readings. For each chapter, students must identify (2) substantive topics (i.e., topics you believe to be the most crucial and insightful). The purpose of the critiques is to provide students with a basis for commentary on the assigned readings. Students may be called upon at random to provide supplemental commentary following *Weekly Chapter Presentations*.

- Provide one cover page for weekly CDTs; staple all CDTs together with the cover page.
- The length of each CDT should be 2/3 to 3/4 of a page, but no more than 1 full page per topic.
- For purpose of clarity, please use a separate page for each topic (i.e., two pages per chapter)
- Missing (2) or more chapter CDTs will result in a failing grade for this part of the course.

CDTs will be collected at the end of each class meeting (in person only), and will consist of four parts:

- Topic Identification:** Briefly describe the topic, utilizing key words and phrases
- Importance:** In a few sentences, state why you believe the topic is important in terms of impact or practice
- Support:** Provide support for the topic’s importance through the use of empirical data (utilizing at least one original source of research found in *Walker*). This section should be no more than 1 standard paragraph (3-5 sentences).
- Reference:** Provide a reference citation for the source utilized by *Walker* in accordance with the 6th Edition of the APA style formatting (Note: Some of *Walker’s* sources are incomplete, cite as much information as you have available).

Critiques of Discussion Topics Grading: Discussion topic points will be assigned on a zero, one, two, or three-point basis per weekly assigned readings (maximum of 3 points x 5 weeks of assigned readings = 15 possible points). The determination of points will be predicated on the depth of knowledge exemplified.

- Zero points: No credit (no topics or absent from class)
- One point: At least one substantive topic per chapter, but did not meet requirement
- Two points: Two topics per chapter, but lacking substance and/or support
- Three points: Two substantive topics per chapter, with relevant support

POINT TRACKING

<u>PRESENTATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
In-class presentation of assigned reading (15 points possible)	_____	_____
Discussion Topics: Ch. 1 – 3 (3 points possible)	February 4th	_____
Discussion Topics: Ch. 4 – 6 (3 points possible)	February 11th	_____
Discussion Topics: Ch. 7 – 9 (3 points possible)	February 18th	_____
Discussion Topics: Ch. 10 – 12 (3 points possible)	March 18th	_____
Discussion Topics: Ch. 13 – 14 (3 points possible)	March 25th	_____
Paper Presentation (20 points possible)	_____	_____
Policy Paper (50 points possible)	April 29th	_____

Total Points for the Course: _____

	Tentative Class Schedule	Items Due/Needed	Homework assignment(s)	Due Date
Week 1				
Jan. 28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed overview of the course (review greensheet in class) Set schedule for Chapter Presentations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Download: Greensheet 	01.28.10
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory registration on www.turnitin.com Be sure to register using a valid e-mail address that you will check regularly. There will be a (15) point penalty for failing to register on time. 	01.30.10
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walker: Ch. 1, 2, and 3 	02.04.10
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDTs: Ch. 1, 2, and 3 (typed and printed w/ cover page) 	02.04.10
Week 2				
Feb. 4th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Presentations: Ch. 2, and 3 Chapter Short Answer Essay Presentations: Ch. 2 and 3 Collect CDTs: Ch. 1, 2, and 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect CDTs: Ch. 1, 2, and 3 (typed with cover page) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walker: Ch. 4, 5, and 6 	02.11.10
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDTs: Ch. 4, 5, and 6 (typed and printed w/ cover page) 	02.11.10
Week 3				
Feb. 11th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Presentations: Ch. 4, 5, and 6 Chapter Short Answer Essay Presentations: Ch. 5 and 6 Collect CDTs: Ch. 4, 5, and 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect CDTs: Ch. 4, 5, and 6 (typed with cover page) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walker: Ch. 7, 8, and 9 	02.18.10
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDTs: Ch. 7, 8, and 9 (typed and printed w/ cover page) 	02.18.10
Week 4				
Feb. 18th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Presentations: Ch. 7, 8, 9, and 11 Chapter Short Answer Essay Presentations: Ch. 7 and 8 Collect CDTs: Ch. 7, 8, and 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect CDTs: Ch. 7, 8, and 9 (typed with cover page) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Topic Meetings prepare: delimited title, outline, and bring (3) empirical research articles 	
Week 5				
Feb. 25th	TOPIC MEETINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delimited title, outline, and (3) empirical research articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Topic Meetings prepare: delimited title, outline, and bring (3) empirical research articles 	
Week 6				
Mar. 4th	TOPIC MEETINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delimited title, outline, and (3) empirical research articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Topic Meetings prepare: delimited title, outline, and bring (3) empirical research articles 	
Week 7				
Mar. 11th	TOPIC MEETINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delimited title, outline, and (3) empirical research articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walker: Ch. 10, 11, and 12 	03.18.10
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDTs: Ch. 10, 11, and 12 (typed and printed w/ cover page) 	03.18.10
Week 8				
Mar. 18th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Presentations: Ch. 10 and 12 Chapter Short Answer Essay Presentations: Ch. 10, 11A, 11B and 12 Collect CDTs: Ch. 10, 11, and 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect CDTs: Ch. 10, 11, and 12 (typed with cover page) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walker: Ch. 13 and 14 	03.25.10
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDTs: Ch. 13 and 14 (typed and printed w/ cover page) 	03.25.10

	Tentative Class Schedule	Items Due/Needed	Homework assignment(s)	Due Date
Week 1				
Mar. 25th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Presentations: Ch. 13 and 14 Chapter Short Answer Essay Presentations: Ch. 13A, 13B and 14 Collect CDTs: Ch. 13 and 14 Sign up for Policy Paper Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect CDTs: Ch. 13 and 14 (typed with cover page) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on you Policy Papers! 	04.29.10
Week 10				
Apr. 1st	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS THIS WEEK		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenters: Practice your presentations and prepare your presentation outlines + references to handout Work on you Policy Papers! 	04.29.10
Week 11				
Apr. 8th	INDIVIDUAL PAPER REVIEW/RESEARCH DAY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenters: Practice your presentations and prepare your presentation outlines + references to handout Work on you Policy Papers! 	04.29.10
Week 12				
Apr. 15th	POLICY PAPER PRESENTATIONS (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For presenters: copies of presentation outline/refs. for the class + instructor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenters: Practice your presentations and prepare your presentation outlines + references to handout Work on you Policy Papers! 	04.29.10
Week 13				
Apr. 22nd	POLICY PAPER PRESENTATIONS (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For presenters: copies of presentation outline/refs. for the class + instructor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenters: Practice your presentations and prepare your presentation outlines + references to handout Finish your Policy Papers! 	04.29.10
Week 14				
Apr. 29th	POLICY PAPER PRESENTATIONS (7) POLICY PAPERS DUE VIA E-MAIL BY MIDNIGHT TONIGHT!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For presenters: copies of presentation outline/refs. for the class + instructor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenters: Practice your presentations and prepare your presentation outlines + references to handout 	
Week 15				
May 6th	MANDATED FURLOUGH DAY - NO CONTACT WITH THE INSTRUCTOR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenters: Practice your presentations and prepare your presentation outlines + references to handout 	
Week 16				
May 13th	POLICY PAPER PRESENTATIONS (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For presenters: copies of presentation outline/refs. for the class + instructor 		