

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS12-01, Introduction to Legal Studies, Fall 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Greg Woods, J.D.
Office Location:	MacQuarrie Hall 508
Telephone:	(408) 924-1840
Email:	greg.woods@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Wednesdays, 8:00 - 9:00 AM, 1:30 - 3:30 PM, and by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	Mondays & Wednesdays 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Classroom:	MacQuarrie Hall 520

Justice Studies Department 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.

Course Description

The course presents historical and modern perspectives of the theories and structures of law, and provides an overview of the economic and sociological challenges to law making. This course also examines the nexus between law, social change, and dispute resolution. 3 Units.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

- 1. Demonstrate a general understanding of the fundamental influences society has on the law.*
- 2. Demonstrate knowledge of legislative, administrative and judicial law making, as well as a general understanding of the law making processes.*
- 3. Develop an understanding of methods for analyzing the legal and social controls and dispute resolution.*
- 4. Understand the various aspects of the legal profession and methods for legal research.*
- 5. Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.*

Required Textbook

M. Lippman (2018). *Law and Society* (2nd edition). Sage Publications. ISBN-13: 978-1-5063-6227-4

Recommended

Jordan, Terry (2010). *The U.S. Constitution And Fascinating Facts About It* (7th edition). Oak Hill Publishing ISBN 978-1-891743-00-9

Students may purchase texts in the bookstore and online.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu, (408) 808-2118
<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Course Requirements and Assignments

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 practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Weekly Assignments

Students will be assigned weekly reading and writing assignments in class and as reflected below. Weekly Assignments are due during every other **Wednesday** class session, or as instructed, and will consist of a one-to-two paged double spaced typed analysis in 12-point font. (CLO 1, 2 & 3)

Quizzes

Students will complete a total of seven quizzes throughout the semester to be administered at the conclusion of each Wednesday class session in response to subject matter from class lecture. (CLO 1, 2 & 3)

Final Examination

Students will complete a cumulative final examination using key terms and concepts from readings and class discussion consisting of short and essay based questions. (CLO 1, 2 & 3)

Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.

Participation

Students will be assigned to work in groups and are expected to participate in an informed, professional and respectful manner. Participation credit will be rewarded in response to student preparedness and politeness in class. (CLO 2 & 3)

Grading Policy

Final grades will be evaluated as follows:

Weekly Assignments (7)	30%
Quizzes (7)	30%
Final Examination	30%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale

A = 90 to 100

B = 80 to 89

C = 70 to 79

D = 60 to 69

F = 59 and below.

Please Note: Extra credit will not be awarded, late assignments will not be accepted, and no assignment may be submitted via email.

Students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades. **Students are encouraged to review their progress in person no later than Week Eight (Wednesday, October 9th) and periodically throughout the semester** during office hours, and by appointment.

Classroom Protocol

Attendance/Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are encouraged. Students who are routinely inattentive, discourteous or who choose not to contribute to in-class discussion and activities, will be noted and may result with up to 10% (one letter grade) deducted from the final grade.

Late Assignments/Missed Quizzes

Late assignments will not be accepted, no assignment may be submitted via email, and missed quizzes cannot be retaken for credit.

Cell Phones/Texting

All cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away during class sessions. Routine phone calls, texting or other online activity during class is discouraged, will be noted and may result with up to 10% (one letter grade) deducted from the final grade.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

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Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	August 21	Introductions/Course overview; Syllabus, Class, Assignment, Quiz & Final Examination formats; Historical Foundations of Justice; Legal, Criminal & Social Justice; State & Federal Constitutions; Structure & Sources of Authority of the Legal System in the United States; In-class exercise.
2	August 26 & 28	Dark Figure of Crime; Relationships between Law Enforcement, Courts & Correctional Systems; Distinguishing Crimes & Torts; The Study of Criminology, & Criminal Justice; Reporting & Measuring Criminal Behavior; Uniform Crime Report, National Crime Victim Survey & Law Enforcement Education Program; Read Chapter 1: An Introduction To Law and Society (pgs 1-42); Review Terminology (p 42); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #1: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-6 (p 42); Quiz #1.
3	September 4 (Labor Day Holiday 9/2)	Return/Review Quiz #1; Natural Law; Legislative Solutions to Society's Problems; Constitutional Fidelity & Access to Justice; Judicial Review; Redressing Grievances & Burdens of Proof; Grand & Trial Juries; Bifurcated Trials; Duties of Prosecution, Defense & Judiciary; Legal Ethics & Professional Responsibility; The Golden Rule & Doing the Right Thing; Hobbs, Locke & Social Contract Theory; Read Chapter 2: Theories of Law and Justice (pgs 43-67); Review Terminology (p 66); Prepare and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-11 (p 67); In-class exercise.
4	September 9 & 11	Socialization, Subcultures & Stratification; Insanity, Obscenity, Prurient Behavior, Drugs & Evolving Community Standards; Sobriety Checkpoints & Gun Control; Read Chapter 3: The Structure and Function of Courts, Legislatures, and Administrative Agencies (pgs 69-131); Review Terminology (p 132); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #2: Responses to Questions 1-11 (p 132 + Week 3 #'s); Quiz #2.
5	September 16 & 18	Return/Review Quiz #2; Conflict, Consensus & Labeling; Rational Choice, Routine Activity & Differential Association; Penal Codes & Proportionate Criminal Liability; Read Chapter 4: The Legal Profession (pgs 133-176); Review Terminology (p 177); Prepare and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-8 (pgs 176-177); In-class exercise.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	September 23 & 25	Retributive & Restorative Models of Justice; Balancing Individual & Community Demands; Expectations of Equal Protection, Procedural & Substantive Due Process; Black Lives Matter & Officer Involved Shootings; Read Chapter 5: Access to Justice and Legal Ethics (pgs 178-208); Review Terminology (p 208); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #3: Chapter Review Questions: 1-7 (p 208 + Week 5 #'s); Quiz #3.
7	September 30 & October 2	Return/Review Quiz #3; Retributive & Restorative Models of Justice; Balancing Individual & Community Demands; Expectations of Equal Protection, Procedural & Substantive Due Process; Black Lives Matter & Officer Involved Shootings; Read Chapter 6: Dispute Resolution (pgs 209-242); Review Terminology (p 242); Prepare and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment: Chapter Review Questions: 1-8 (p 242); In-class exercise.
8	October 7 & 9	Parens Patriae, Delinquency & Approaches to Juvenile Justice; School Bullying & Status Offenses; Recidivism, Incarceration Rates & Alternatives to Incarceration; Parole, Probation & Expungement; Jails, Prisons, Home Detention & Diversion Programs; Read Chapter 7: Criminal Courts (pgs 243-273); Review Terminology (p 273); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #4: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-7 (p 273 + Week 7 #'s); Quiz #4.
9	October 14 & 16	Return/Review Quiz #4; Habeas Corpus & Key Constitutional Rights of the 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th & 14th Amendments; Reasonable Suspicion & Probable Cause; Stop & Frisk; Search & Seizure; Valid Warrants; Custodial Interrogation; Effective Assistance of Counsel & Plea Agreements; Exclusionary Rule & Fruit of the Poisonous Tree Doctrine; Read Chapter 8: Juries (pgs 274-311); Review Terminology (p 312); Prepare and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment: Chapter Review Questions: 1-12 (pgs 311-312); In-class exercise.
10	October 21 & 23	Malum In Se & Malum Prohibitum; Person, Property & Inchoate Crimes; Concurrences of Act & Intent; Actual & Legal Causation; Implied & Expressed Malice; Infractions, Misdemeanors & Inherently Dangerous Felonies, Felony Murder Rule; Read Chapter 9: Law and Social Control (pgs 313-379); Review Terminology (p 380); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #5: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-7 (p 380 + Week 9 #'s); Quiz #5.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	October 28 & 30	Return/Review Quiz #5; Retribution, Deterrence, Incapacitation & Rehabilitation; Mandatory Minimum Sentencing; Proportionality; Corporal & Capital Punishment; Unusually Cruel Punishment; Restitution & Restoration; Read Chapter 10: The Impact of Law on Society (pgs 381-439); Review Terminology (p 440); Prepare and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-11 (p 439); In-class exercise.
12	November 4 & 6	Community Engagement; Escalation & Deescalations of Force; Alternatives to Lethal Force; Broken Windows, Predictive Policing, Crime Mapping, Body Cameras & Crisis Intervention Training; Read Chapter 11: Law and Racial and Ethnic Equality (pgs 441-501); Review Terminology (p 502); Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #6: Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-6 (p 502 + Week 12 #'s); Quiz #6.
13	November 13 (Veterans Day Holiday 11/11)	Return/Review Assignment/Quiz #6; Assign Take Home Quiz #7 (Due 11/27); In-class exercise.
14	November 18 & 20	Judicial Review; Redressing Grievances & Burdens of Proof; Grand & Trial Juries; Bifurcated Trials; Duties of Prosecution, Defense & Judiciary; Concurrent & Consecutive Sentencing; Appeals & Writs of Certiorari; The Innocence Project; Read Chapter 12: Privacy and Surveillance (pgs 503-541); Review Terminology (pg 542); Prepare and be ready to discuss Responses to Chapter Review Questions: 1-10 (p 542); In-class exercise.
15	November 25 & 27	Recidivism, Incarceration Rates & Alternatives to Incarceration; Parole, Probation & Expungement; Jails, Prisons, Home Detention & Diversion Programs; Solitary Confinement, Prison Reform, Prop 47 & Realignment; Prepare, Submit and be ready to discuss Weekly Assignment #7: Responses to Week 14 #'s + Take Home Quiz #7; In-class exercise.
16	December 2, 4 & 9	Return/Review Quiz #7; Trends, Challenges, & Future of Justice in the United States; In-class exercise; Review for Final Examination (12/9); Final Thoughts.
Final Exam	Friday, December 13	MacQuarrie Hall 520 7:15 AM - 9:30 AM