

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 158, The Prison Community, Sec 01, Fall 2019**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Judith Randle
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	R 10:30am - 11:45am
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	TR 1:30pm - 2:45pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	MQH
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Any 100W
<b>JS Competency Area:</b>	Local, Transnational, and Historical Analyses (D)

**Course CANVAS Page**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, lecture slides, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for checking daily with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

**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**

Analysis of formal and informal systems of organization and interaction among inmates and staff. Effects of the social structure and external system on the organization of the prison community.

Note: Must achieve a grade of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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

CLO 1: Identify the various penal systems throughout the United States.

CLO 2: Analyze the effects of the external social structure on the history of prisons and on the organization of the prison community.

CLO 3: Analyze formal and informal systems of organization and interaction among inmates and staff.

CLO 4: Identify and write about the critical issues facing the American prison system.

### **Required Texts/Readings**

#### **Textbooks**

Simon, J. (2014) Mass Incarceration on Trial: A Remarkable Court Decision and the Future of Prisons in America. The New Press. ISBN: 9871595587695

Sykes, G. (2007) The Society of Captives. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 9780691130644

#### **Journal Articles, News Articles, and Book Excerpts**

Journal articles, news articles and book excerpts are listed on the **Course Schedule** below and posted on the CANVAS website.

#### **Websites, Web-Based Videos, and Web-Based Audio Files**

*13th*: A documentary available on Netflix only. If you do not have a Netflix account, you must arrange to watch it using someone else's account or else sign up for a free trial.

*They Call Us Monsters*: A documentary available to rent on Amazon Prime, YouTube, iTunes, Google Play, Vudu, and Starz for under \$5.

Other free and publicly available website material, web-based videos, and web-based audio files are listed on the **Course Schedule** below. Links are posted on the CANVAS website. You must have a computer with appropriate software to support video and audio playback,.

#### **Library Liaison**

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

## Course Requirements and Assignments

Your grade is derived from work in five (5) categories:

*Homework Assignments (14)* -- Homework Assignments (HW) are designed to help enhance your learning of the week's topic by: reviewing key information, learning new details about a topic, practicing the application of a rule, and/or making connections among concepts and readings. Homework assignments are completed at home and are designed so that you can complete them without having attended lecture (with the exception of HW7 & HW14, which will contain questions related to the guest speaker). You must upload an electronic copy to CANVAS by 1:30pm on the assigned date. Late submissions will incur a 10% penalty for each day late; after 1:30pm on the due date counts as day one. Each homework is worth approximately 15 points. (CLOs 1 – 4)

*On-call Q&A (2)* – On two (2) dates in the semester you will be called upon in class to answer questions about the material covered that day. You will be given themes, terms or questions in advance to help prepare you for questions that you may be asked. Your on-call dates have been assigned in advance. I will accommodate reschedule requests received by **Aug 29**. If you do not attend lecture on the date shown, you cannot receive points for the Q&A, even in the event of illness or emergency. Each On-call Q&A day is worth 10 points. (CLOs 2 & 3)

*Quiz* – There is a multiple-choice quiz at the end of Unit 1 that is worth approximately 30 points. (CLOs 1 & 2)

*Lecture Image (1)* – On one (1) day in the semester you will present to the class an image that you believe captures the essence of one or more topics of discussion in the previous two lecture periods. In addition to your in-class statement to the class, you must also submit a one-paragraph written statement on CANVAS. Your date has been assigned in advance. I will accommodate reschedule requests received by **Feb 5**. If you do not attend lecture on the date shown, you cannot receive points for this assignment, even in the event of illness or emergency. Your lecture image day is worth 20 points. (CLOs 1 – 4)

*Facility Tours or Related Assignments (2 of 3)* -- Tours of three local incarceration facilities are scheduled for this semester. You are expected to make every effort to attend the tours because of their direct relevance to this course. To earn credit, students must attend two (2) tours or, if unable, complete a written assignment related to the toured facility. *Students may earn an additional 10 points by attending a third tour or completing a third written assignment.* The tour dates and times will be finalized during the first two weeks of the semester. Each tour or data set is worth 15 points. (CLOs 2 & 3)

- ❖ **TBD:** Santa Cruz County Jail, 9am – 12pm
- ❖ **TBD:** Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall: 9am-12pm
- ❖ **TBD:** San Quentin State Prison, 8am – 4pm

*Final Exam (1)* – The final exam is a multiple choice exam that covers units 3 & 4 and it worth approximately 40 points. Please contact me ASAP if you have school, work, or other obligations, or experience an emergency, and need to reschedule an exam. You will have to

provide proof of interference and you may take an alternative version of the exam given in class. The final exam is worth approximately 40 points. (CLOs 3 & 4)

*Final Essay (1)* -- At the end of the course you turn in an essay that reflects on the nature of incarceration as a response to crime. The final essay is worth 60 points. (CLOs 3 & 4)

Other Course Work:

*Class Exercises* -- Class Exercises are designed to help enhance your learning of the week's topic by reviewing key information, learning new details about a topic, practicing the application of a rule, and/or making connections among concepts and readings. They include activities such as listing facts or concepts and completing charts and tables. Class Exercises are distributed and completed in class on the scheduled lecture period. They are not graded but may be referenced during all quizzes and the final exam. (CLOs 1 – 4)

*Extra Credit:* Extra credit assignments may be offered during the semester. I will take into consideration students' proposals for extra credit assignments. *Students may earn an additional 10 points by attending a third tour or completing a third written assignment.*

### **Grading Information: Point and Percentage Values (Approximate and Subject to Minor Changes)**

Homework	200	(50%)
On-Call Q&A	20	(5%)
Lecture Image	20	(5%)
Tours/Data Sets	30	(8%)
Quiz 1	30	(8%)
Final Exam	40	(10%)
Final Essay	60	(15%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>(100%)</b>

### **Grading Scale (Percentages)**

A plus: (98 – 100)	B plus: (88 – 89)	C plus: (78 – 79)	C minus: (72 – 70)	D: (63 – 67)
A: (93 – 97)	B: (83 – 87)	C: (73 – 77)	D plus: (68 – 69)	D minus: (60 – 62)
A minus: (90 – 92)	B minus: (80 – 82)			F : (≤59)

### **Classroom Protocol**

*Attendance* -- If you are late, enter quietly in the back of the classroom. Please do not exit the classroom during a guest speaker's lecture.

*Materials* – Bring a pencil or pen and a notebook with which to complete in-class assignments and to take notes.

*Cell phones* -- Cell phones must be in silent mode and not accessed during the lecture period.

*Communication outside of class* -- Check your university email account at least once daily for messages related to the course. I encourage regular communication with me over email and in office hours to clarify and enrich your understanding of the course material. **To ensure confidentiality, I am required to communicate with you using only your university account.**

### **University Policies**

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

**Important University Dates:** <http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/2182/index.html>

## JS 158 / The Prison Community, Fall 2019, Course Schedule

\* Readings, websites, videos, audio clips, and Homework Assignments (HW) are to be completed *before class* on the assigned date.

\*\* The schedule is subject to change with fair notice by the Announcements section on the website and emails to your University account.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
<b>UNIT 1: PRISONS IN SOCIETY</b>		
1	R 8/22	<b><u>Introduction</u></b>
2	T 8/27	<b><u>The Leniency Revolution and the Birth of the Prison</u></b> CANVAS Reading: “The Body of the Condemned” (Foucault)
	R 8/29	<b><u>Rationalizing and Civilizing Processes; Instrumental Functions of Incarceration</u></b> CANVAS Reading: “Punishment and Sensibilities” pp. 141-152 (in Garland, “Sociological Perspectives on Punishment”) Due: HW1
3	T 9/3	<b><u>Expressive Functions of Incarceration</u></b> CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “Punishment and Social Solidarity” pp. 122-124 (in Garland, “Sociological Perspectives on Punishment”)</li> </ul> CANVAS Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Judge in Brock Turner Case Faces Recall</i> (3 mins)</li> <li>● <i>Leader of the Recall Judge Persky Campaign Reads Emotional Response</i> (1 min)</li> </ul>
	R 9/5	<b><u>The Severity Revolution and Mass Incarceration</u></b> MIOT: Ch. 1 CANVAS Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “Three Strikes and You’re Out! The Political Sentencing Game” (Benekos)</li> </ul> CANVAS Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Mass Incarceration, Visualized</i> (3 mins)</li> <li>● <i>California Moves Inmates Out of State</i> (2 mins)</li> <li>● <i>California’s 3 Strikes Law</i> (9 mins)</li> </ul> Due: HW2
4	T 9/10	<b><u>Oppressive Functions of Incarceration</u></b> CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “The Law of God and Man” pp. 50-54 (Friedman)</li> <li>● “The Political Economy of Punishment” pp. 127-132 (Garland)</li> <li>● “The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison” (Reiman)</li> </ul>
	R 9/12	<b><u>Oppressive Functions of Incarceration -- NO LECTURE</u></b> Documentary: <i>13th</i> Due: HW3
5	T 9/17	<b><u>Catch-up/Wrap-up</u></b>

5	R 9/19	<b>QUIZ</b>
<b>UNIT 2: PRISON SUBCULTURES</b>		
	T 9/24	<b><u>The Prison as a Social System</u></b> Sykes: Introduction & Ch. 1 Due: HW4
6	R 9/26	<b><u>Custody &amp; Power</u></b> Sykes: Chs. 2 & 3 Due: HW5
7	T 10/1	<b><u>Deprivations</u></b> Sykes Ch. 4 CANVAS Reading: “Caged and Celibate” (Abu-Jamal)
	R 10/3	<b><u>Masculinity and the Social Order in Male Prisons</u></b> Sykes Ch. 5 CANVAS Reading: “Rape and the Prison Code” (Kupers) Due: HW6
8	T 10/8	<b><u>Race and Gangs in Male Prisons</u></b> CANVAS Website: “How Gangs Took Over Prisons” (Wood) <i>Guest Speaker: Kyle Ward, Correctional Officer</i>
	R 10/10	<b>SANTA CRUZ COUNTY JAIL TOUR – NO LECTURE</b>
9	T 10/15	<b><u>Crisis-Equilibrium</u></b> Sykes Ch. 6 CANVAS Video: “The Stanford Prison Experiment” (36 mins) Due: HW7
	R 10/17	<b><u>The Social Order in Female Prisons</u></b> CANVAS Video: <i>Mothers of Bedford</i> (96 mins) HW8
<b>UNIT 3: REGULATING (EXTREME) PRISON CONDITIONS</b>		
10	T 10/22	<b><u>Prisoners’ Rights: Overview</u></b> CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “California Murder Convict Becomes First U.S. Inmate to Have State-Funded Sex Reassignment Surgery” (AP / L.A. Times)</li> <li>● “California’s Transgender Inmates Could Soon Be Allowed Bras, Cosmetics” (AP / CBSNews)</li> </ul>
	R 10/24	<b><u>Prisoners’ Rights in the Era of Mass Incarceration</u></b> MIOT: Intro CANVAS Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Overcrowded: The Messy Politics of California’s Prison Crisis</i> (10 mins)</li> <li>● <i>Life in Prison</i> (27 mins)</li> </ul> DUE: HW9
11	T 10/29	<b><u>Solitary Confinement &amp; Control Units</u></b> CANVAS Video: <i>Frontline: Solitary Nation</i> (53 mins) <i>Guest Speaker: Keramet Reiter</i>

	R 10/31	<b><u>Solitary Confinement &amp; Control Units: <i>Madrid v. Gomez</i></u></b> MIOT: Ch. 2 CANVAS Reading: “Psychiatric Effects of Long Term Solitary Confinement” (Grassian) Due: HW10
12	T 11/5	<b><u>Chronic Overcrowding &amp; Health Deterioration: <i>Coleman v. Wilson &amp; Plata v. Davis</i></u></b> MIOT: Chs. 3&4
	R 11/7	<b><u>Chronic Overcrowding &amp; Health Deterioration: <i>Coleman-Plata v. Schwarzenegger</i></u></b> MIOT: Ch. 5 - 7 Due: HW11
13	T 11/12	<b>SAN QUENTIN TOUR -- NO LECTURE</b>
13	R 11/14	<b><u>Incarcerating Juveniles</u></b> YouTube Video: “They Call Us Monsters” Due: HW12
<b>UNIT 4: DECARCERATION, REHABILITATION, AND RE-ENTRY</b>		
13	T 11/19	<b><u>Decarceration</u></b> CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Prop 47 Press Release” (Public Policy Institute of California)</li> </ul> CANVAS Website: “Public Safety Realignment” <b>ADDITIONAL READINGS ON IMPACT OF DECARCERATION EFFORTS</b>
14	R11/21	<b><u>Alternative Prison Designs</u></b> CANVAS Website: “Why Scandinavian Prisons are Superior” (Larson) CANVAS Video: “The Norden – Nordic Prisons” (27 mins) DUE: HW13
15	T 11/26	<b><u>JUVENILE HALL TOUR -- NO LECTURE</u></b>
	R 11/28	<b><u>THANKSGIVING DAY -- NO LECTURE</u></b>
16	T 12/3	<b><u>Rehabilitation &amp; Re-Entry</u></b> CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “New Law Puts Most of S.F. Off-Limits to Sex Parolees” (Matier)</li> <li>• “Jessica’s Law Sex Offender Buffer Zone Struck Down” (Egelko)</li> </ul> CANVAS Websites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Questions Regarding Sentencing, Incarceration, &amp; Parole of Offenders”</li> <li>• “Life Parole Process”</li> </ul> <i>Guest Speaker: Andre Serita</i>
	R 12/5	<b><u>Course Wrap-Up</u></b> Due: HW14
Final	R 12/16	<b>FINAL EXAM &amp; FINAL PAPER</b> Final Exam 12:15 – 2:30pm Final Paper Due