

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 158, The Prison Community, Sec 01, Fall 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Judith Randle
Office Location:	https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/6570524029
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Office Hours:	M/W 12 – 1pm
Class Days/Time:	T/R 1:30-2:45
Classroom:	https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/6570524029
Prerequisites:	Any 100W
JS Competency Area:	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

Required 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, which is available for free on the Internet.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, 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 (13) -- 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. Late submissions will incur a 2% penalty per hour. (CLOs 1 – 4)

Presentation (1) – On one date in the semester you will give a 30-minute presentation to the class that expands on the week’s topics. Details to follow.

Midterm –There is a midterm at the end of Unit 2 that is a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. (CLOs 1 & 2)

Final Exam (1) – The final exam covers units 3 & 4. It is a combination of multiple choice and essay questions that reflect on the nature of incarceration as a response to crime. (CLOs 3 & 4)

Extra Credit: Extra credit assignments may be offered during the semester. I will take into consideration students’ proposals for extra credit assignments.

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

Homework	220 (44%)
Presentation	40 (8%)
Presentation Responses	70 (14%)
Midterm	70 (14%)
Final Exam	100 (20%)
Total	500 (100%)

Grading Scale (Percentages)

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

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 2020, Course Schedule

* Readings, websites, videos, audio clips, and Homework Assignments (HW) are to be completed *before class* on the assigned date. Each in-class lecture period contains one HW or CE except for the quiz date (**Sept 20**).
 ** The schedule is subject to change with fair notice by the Announcements section on the website and emails to your University account.

(Week) 1	Aug 20	Introductions
2	Aug 25 & Aug 27	UNIT 1: THE PRISON IN SOCIETY The Leniency Revolution and the Birth of the Prison CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Body of the Condemned” (Foucault) • “American Prisons” (Irwin) • “The Ideological Origins of the Penitentiary” (Ignatieff) • “Punishment and Sensibilities” pp. 141-152 (in Garland, “Sociological Perspectives on Punishment”)
3	Sept 1 & Sept 3	Convict Labor in the Reconstruction and Progressive Eras CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Political Economy of Punishment” pp. 127-132 (in Garland, “Sociological Perspectives on Punishment”) • “Except as a Punishment for Crime” (Lichtenstein) HW1
4	Sept 8 & Sept 10	The Rehabilitative Ideal in Mid-20th Century Prisons CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Correctional Institutions” (Irwin) • “Criminal Justice, Legal Values, and the Rehabilitative Ideal” (Allen) • “The Supreme Court and the Rehabilitative Ideal” (Flanders) (beginning through p. 399) HW2
5	Sept 15 & Sept 17	The Decline of the Rehabilitative Ideal: Mass Incarceration in the Late 20th Century MIOT – Introduction & Ch. 1 CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Punishment and Social Solidarity” pp. 122-124 (in Garland, “Sociological Perspectives on Punishment”) • “Dismantling the Rehabilitative Ideal” (Irwin) • California Prisons Chronology (Handout) CANVAS Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Judge in Brock Turner Case Faces Recall</i> (3 mins) • <i>Leader of the Recall Judge Persky Campaign Reads Emotional Response</i> (1 min) • <i>Mass Incarceration, Visualized</i> (3 mins)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>California Moves Inmates Out of State</i> (2 mins) • <i>Life in Prison</i> (27 mins) • <i>California's 3 Strikes Law</i> (9 mins) <p>HW3</p>
6	Sept 22 & Sept 24	<p style="text-align: center;">UNIT 2: THE PRISON AS A SOCIETY</p> <p>Power, Roles, and the Prison as a Social System</p> <p>CANVAS Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Stanford Prison Experiment</i> <p>Sykes: Introduction - Ch. 1</p> <p>HW4</p>
7	Sept 29 & Oct 1	<p>The Custodial Regime</p> <p>Sykes: Ch. 2 & 3</p> <p>HW5</p>
8	Oct 6 & Oct 8	<p>Adaptations</p> <p>Sykes Ch. 4 – 6</p> <p>CANVAS Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Caged and Celibate” (Abu-Jamal) • “Rape and the Prison Code” (Kupers) <p>HW6</p>
9	Oct 13 & Oct 15	<p>Race, Gender, and the Social Order in Contemporary Prisons</p> <p>CANVAS Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “How Gangs Took Over Prisons” (Wood) • “Doing Time in Solano” (Irwin) <p>CANVAS Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “In the Gay Wing of LA Men’s Central Jail” – <i>Part 1</i> (3 mins) • “In the Gay Wing of LA Men’s Central Jail” – <i>Part 2</i> (3 mins) • “Mothers of Bedford” (96 mins) <p>HW7</p>
10	Oct 20 & Oct 22	<p>**No Lecture All Week – Self-Study**</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNIT 3: REGULATING EXTREME PRISON CONDITIONS</p> <p>Solitary Confinement & Control Units</p> <p>MIOT: Ch. 2</p> <p>CANVAS Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Supermax” (Irwin) • “Psychiatric Effects of Long Term Solitary Confinement” (Grassian) <p>CANVAS Video: <i>Frontline: Solitary Nation</i> (53 mins)</p> <p>Due: HW8</p> <p>MIDTERM (Oct 19)</p>
11	Oct 27 & Oct 29	<p>Chronic Overcrowding & Health Deterioration in California’s Prisons</p> <p>MIOT: Chs. 3 – 5</p> <p>Due: HW9</p>
12	Nov 3	<p>Brown v. Plata & Realignment</p> <p>MIOT: Chs. 6 & 7</p>

	& Nov 5	CANVAS Websites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Public Safety Realignment: Impacts So Far” (PPIC) HW10
13	Nov 10 & Nov 12	Juvenile Incarceration CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Declines in Youth Commitments and Facilities in the 21st Century” (Rovner) • “Juvenile Life Without Parole: An Overview” (Rovner) CANVAS Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “They Call Us Monsters” (82 mins) HW11
14	Nov 17 & Nov 19	Legacies of Caste CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Deadly Symbiosis” (Wacquant) • “Black Disparities in Youth Incarceration” (Sentencing Project) CANVAS Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “13th” (100 mins) HW12
15	Nov 24 & Nov 26	UNIT 4: THE FUTURE OF US PRISONS
		** No Lecture Tuesday, November 24 (Self-Study)** **No lecture Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving)**
		Rehabilitation & Re-Entry CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “New Law Puts Most of S.F. Off-Limits to Sex Parolees” (Matier) • “Jessica’s Law Sex Offender Buffer Zone Struck Down” (Egelko) CANVAS Websites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Questions Regarding Sentencing, Incarceration, & Parole of Offenders” • “Life Parole Process”
16	Dec 1 & Dec 3	Abolition & Alternative Prison Designs CANVAS Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Why Scandinavian Prisons are Superior” (Larson) CANVAS Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Norden – Nordic Prisons” (27 mins) HW13
END	Dec 15	FINAL EXAM due by 2:30pm