

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 103, Courts and Society, Sec 2, Fall 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Judith Randle, J.D., Ph.D.
Office Location:	MH 508
Telephone:	(408) 924-8126
Email:	judith.randle@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	R 10:30am - 11:45am
Class Days/Time:	TR 12pm - 1:15pm
Classroom:	MQH 523

Course Description

Structure and functions of the court system. Emphasizes attorneys' and judges' roles and the court process. Examination of federal and state legislative, executive and judicial branch actions, including Supreme Court decisions in civil and criminal cases.

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

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

CLO1 – the history, purpose and process of the American criminal justice system.

CLO2 – the federal and state courts, their general constitutional structure and function with an emphasis on procedures, including criminal investigations, arrest, arraignment, grand jury, indictment, pretrial, trial, conviction, acquittal, sentencing and appeal.

CLO3 – the role of prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, probation officers and other actors throughout the criminal courts in the United States.

Required Materials

Textbooks

Spohn, et al (2019). *Courts* (3rd ed). Sage Press. ISBN: 9781544307947

Other Material

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

Campus Resources

CASA Student Success Center

The Student Success Center in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) provides advising for undergraduate students majoring or wanting to major in programs offered in CASA Departments and Schools. All CASA students and students who would like to be in CASA are invited to stop by the Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. If you are looking for academic advice or even tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU, check out the CASA Student Success Center. Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MQH) 533 - top floor of MacQuarrie Hall. Contact information: [408.924.2910](tel:408.924.2910). Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/>. The CASA Student Success Center also provides study space and laptops for checkout.

Department's 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 Requirements and Assignments

Homework Assignments -- 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. You must upload the homework to CANVAS by 12pm on the due date. Late submissions will incur a 10% penalty for each day late; after 12pm on the due date counts as day one.

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.

Lecture Image – 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 **Aug 29**. 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.

Midterm –There is a multiple-choice midterm that is worth approximately 75 points.

Court Observations (2) -- Twice during the semester, you must attend a local court facility and turn in written observations. You must attend on your own time. Directions for each assignment will be given in class. Each observation is worth 25 points.

Jury Deliberation Exercise -- There will be an in-class exercise that highlights research on jury deliberations.

Final Paper -- At the end of the course you turn in an essay that discusses alternative court processes explored in the film *Circle Up*. The final essay is worth 75 points.

Other Course Work:

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)

On Call Q&A (2)	20	(6%)
Lecture Image Project	20	(6%)
Homework Assignments (10)	100	(28%)
Court Observations (2)	50	(14%)
Jury Deliberation Exercise	10	(4%)
Midterm	75	(21%)
Final Paper	75	(21%)
Total	350	(100%)

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 -- You must attend lecture in order to complete all assignments. Your grade will suffer if you do not attend lecture.

Materials -- Bring your textbook to class. Bring a pencil or pen and a notebook with which to complete in-class assignments and 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/>

JS 103 Sec 2/ Courts and Society / Fall 2019 Course Schedule

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

(Week) 1	R 8/22	<u>Introduction to the Course</u> CANVAS Reading: Syllabus
2	T 8/27	<u>Structure and Function of Courts</u> Textbook Ch. 1 HW1
2	R 8/29	<u>Structure and Function of Courts</u> Textbook Reading 1
3	T 9/3	<u>Courts and the Rule of Law</u> Textbook Ch. 2 HW2
3	R 9/5	<u>Courts and the Rule of Law</u> Textbook Reading 3
4	T 9/10	<u>Prosecutors</u> Textbook Ch. 3 @ beginning - p. 126, Readings 5 & 6 CANVAS Video: Adam Foss TED Talk HW3
4	R 9/12	<u>COURT SELF-TOUR -- NO LECTURE</u>
5	T 9/17	<u>Defense Attorneys</u> (Constitutional right) Textbook Ch. 3 @ pp. 126 - end

		CANVAS Video: <i>Gideon</i>
5	R 9/19	<u>Defense Attorneys</u> CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bright excerpts “The Practice of Law as a Confidence Game” (Blumberg) Due: CO1
6	T 9/24	<u>Pretrial Processes: Plea Bargaining</u> Textbook Ch. 6 @ beginning - p. 263; Reading 12 HW4
6	R 9/26	<u>Pretrial Processes: Pretrial Detention, Bail, and Double Jeopardy</u> Textbook Ch. 5 & Reading 9 CANVAS readings on bail controversies in California
7	T 10/1	<u>Criminal Trials</u> (Evidence) Textbook Reading 10 HW5
7	R 10/3	<u>Criminal Trials</u> (Evidence)
8	T 10/8	<u>Jury Trials</u>
8	R 10/10	<u>Jury Selection -- NO LECTURE</u> Textbook Ch. 4 @ pp. 176 - 181 Hans & Vidmar Excerpts Race & Peremptory Challenges Readings / Audio HW6
9	T 10/15	<u>Jury Decisionmaking</u> Textbook Ch. 4 @ pp. 181 - end Textbook Reading 8
9	R 10/17	<u>Jury Decisionmaking</u> Deliberation Exercise
10	T 10/22	<u>Sentencing Processes</u> Textbook Ch. 7 HW7
10	R 10/24	<u>Sentencing Trends</u> Textbook Readings 13 & 14
11	T 10/29	<u>Judges</u> Textbook Ch. 4 @ pp. 181 - end Brock Turner Readings Textbook Reading 7 HW8
11	R 10/31	<u>Victims</u> CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Payne v. Tennessee</i> <i>Booth v. Maryland</i> Victim Impact Statement by Emily Doe
12	T 11/5	<u>Catch-Up / Review</u>

12	R 11/7	<u>MIDTERM</u>
13	T 11/12	<u>CRIMINAL COURT OBSERVATION -- NO LECTURE</u>
13	R 11/14	<u>Appellate Courts</u> Textbook Ch. 8 CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Herrera v. Collins ● Freddie Taylor article HW9
14	T 11/19	<u>Wrongful Convictions</u> Textbook Readings 2 & 15 Due: CO2
14	R 11/21	<u>Specialized Courts</u> Textbook Ch. 9
15	T 11/26	<u>FILM -- NO LECTURE</u> Film: <i>Circle Up</i> Due: Final Paper Outline
15	R 11/28	<u>THANKSGIVING DAY -- NO LECTURE</u>
16	T 12/3	<u>Specialized Courts</u> Textbook Reading 17 HW10
16	R 12/5	<u>Specialized Courts</u> Textbook Reading 18 Due: Final Paper Draft
FINAL	T 12/17	Final Paper Due ONLINE @ 12pm