

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 102: Police and Society**  
**Spring 2019**

**COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Jackson Sargent  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Office Location: Virtual  
Email: jackson.sargent@sjsu.edu  
Class Day & Time: N/A  
Classroom: Virtual  
Prerequisites: JS 100W (or equivalent)

**COURSE FORMAT**

Online: I will use the Canvas Learning Management System as a means for distributing course materials such as syllabus, handouts, lecture slides, assignment instructions, and communications about changes to the course. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of updates.

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

A multidisciplinary study of law enforcement from the early 1800s to the present. Focus on significant studies in relation to the role of police and analysis of current models and practices.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the role and function of policing in modern American society. Course concepts include police operations, methods, issues, and challenges associated with crime control and reduction. The course will also examine the changing role and perception of police; the expectations placed on police by the larger society; police/community relationships; and police ethics, culture, and behavior.

**COURSE GOALS**

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.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- ✓ Understand and explain the basic procedures and functions of policing in America.
- ✓ Describe the challenges facing the practice of professional policing.
- ✓ Understand police culture and behavior, and the requirements of police work.
- ✓ Explain the importance of, and issues associated with, the use of discretion and force in law enforcement.
- ✓ Critically evaluate scholarly literature pertaining to the practice of professional policing in the United States.
- ✓ Describe the common methods, tactics, and strategies in policing.

## REQUIRED TEXTS / READINGS

### *Textbook*

Walker, S. & Katz, C (2017). *The Police in America: An Introduction* (9<sup>th</sup> Edition). McGraw-Hill. ISBN13: 9781259140761.

### *Other Readings*

Provided electronically by the instructor via Canvas

### *Library Liaison*

Silke Higgins (silke.higgins@sjsu.edu)  
<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

*Online Discussion (25%):* Active participation in discussions is a necessary and integral part of the course. Each week there will be an online discussion, through Canvas, on specific readings and key issues or current events related to that week's overall topic. Students will be expected to discuss the implications of the issue or event to our understanding of the police and their complex relationship with society.

*Topic Paper (25%):* This assignment will require students to select a topic relevant to this course, locate a minimum of five scholarly articles identifying an issue associated with the selected topic, and prepare an assessment of this issue inclusive of recommended policy initiatives. Detailed instructions pertaining to this assignment are available via Canvas. **This assignment is due on Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>.**

*Midterm and Final Examinations (50%):* Students will be administered Midterm and Final Examinations, each worth 25% of their final grade. Each timed exam will occur online and will cover material from lectures (including all media presented) and assigned readings. Each exam will be non-cumulative and comprised of multiple choice, true/false, and short-answer questions.

## GRADING INFORMATION

To receive a grade for this course, all course requirements must be met and every assignment must be completed. Failure to complete any one assignment may result in a failing grade for this course. *At the discretion of the course instructor, late assignments/papers may be subject to a deduction of 10% for every calendar day that they are late, including weekend days.*

### Grade Scale

A	=	94-100%	A-	=	90-93%			
B+	=	87-89%	B	=	83-86%	B-	=	80-82%
C+	=	77-79%	C	=	73-76%	C-	=	70-72%
D+	=	67-69%	D	=	63-66%	D-	=	60-62%
F	=	Below 60%						

## 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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

*Course topics are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.*

### **Week 1: Introduction & Course Foundations (01/22 – 01/27)**

- Orientation to class
- Course expectations and outcomes
- Police and Society (Walker Ch. 1)

### **Week 2: History of Policing (01/28 – 02/03)**

- The History of Policing (Walker Ch. 2)
- Two Models of the Criminal Process (on Canvas)
- Video: *History of the British Police Force* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9P48YT61zII>

### **Week 3: Overview of Modern Policing (02/04 – 02/10)**

- The Contemporary Law Enforcement Industry (Walker, Ch. 3)
- Police Organizations (Walker, Ch. 4)

### **Week 4: Recruitment & Training (02/11 – 02/17)**

- Police Officers I: Recruitment and Training for a Changing Society (Walker, Ch. 5)

### **Week 5: Police Officers on the Job (02/18 – 02/24)**

- Police Officers II: On the Job (Walker, Ch. 6)

### **Week 6: Patrol (02/25 – 03/03)**

- Patrol: The Backbone of Policing (Walker, Ch. 7)

**Week 7: Peacekeeping & Order Maintenance / Police Discretion (03/04 – 03/10)**

- Peacekeeping and Order Maintenance (Walker, Ch. 8)
- Police Discretion (Walker, Ch. 11)

**Week 8: The Police “Working Personality” (03/11 – 03/17)**

- Sketch of the Policeman’s “Working Personality” (on Canvas)
- Video: *Policing the Police* <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/policing-the-police/>

**Week 9: Midterm Exam (03/18 – 03/24)**

*Midterm Exam opens March 18<sup>th</sup> and closes March 24<sup>th</sup>*

**Week 10: Crime / Criminal Investigation (03/25 – 03/31)**

- The Police and Crime (Walker, Ch. 9)
- Criminal Investigation (on Canvas)

**Week 11: Spring Recess (04/01 – 04/07)**

**Week 12: Children & Juveniles (04/08 – 04/14)**

- Responding to Children and Juveniles: Our Nation’s Future (on Canvas)

**Week 13: Homeland Security (04/15 – 04/21)**

- Terrorism: From Hometown Security to Homeland Security (on Canvas)

**Week 14: Ethics & Policing / Police Corruption (04/22 – 04/28)**

- Liability and Ethics: Is it Legal? Is it Moral? (on Canvas)
- Police Corruption (Walker, Ch. 13)

***Topic Paper assignment due Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>***

**Week 15: Police Legitimacy & Accountability (04/29 – 05/05)**

- Legitimacy and Police – Community Relations (Walker, Ch. 12)
- Accountability of the Police (Walker, Ch. 14)

**Week 16: The Future of Policing in America / Final Exam Review (05/06 – 05/12)**

- The Future of Policing in America (Walker, Ch. 15)

**Week 17: Final Exam**

*Final Exam takes place on **Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup> only, 5.15 – 7.30pm***