

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 102: Police and Society
Winter 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* (9th Edition). McGraw-Hill. ISBN13: 9781259140761.

Other Readings

Supplied electronically via Canvas

Library Liaison

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Online Discussion (40%): 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 (30%): This assignment will require students to select a topic relevant to this course, locate a minimum of three 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 January 18th.**

Final Examination (30%): Due to the condensed schedule for the Winter Session, only one exam will be administered for this course. The Final Examination is worth 30% of the final grade. This timed exam will occur online and will cover material from all lectures (including all media presented) and assigned readings. The cumulative exam will be 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.

Module	Dates	Topics	Readings
1	1/2 – 1/6	Course Introduction Foundations of Policing Police Organizations	<i>Textbook:</i> Ch. 1 – Police and Society Ch. 2 – The History of the American Police Ch. 3 – The Contemporary Law Enforcement Industry Ch. 4 – Police Organizations <i>Article:</i> Two Models of the Criminal Process (Packer) <i>Video:</i> History of the British Police Force https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9P48YT61zII

-- Schedule continues on the following page --

-- Schedule cont... --

Module	Dates	Topics	Readings
2	1/7 – 1/13	Police Officers Police Work Police Discretion	<p><i>Textbook:</i></p> <p>Ch. 5 – Police Officers I: Recruitment and Training for a Changing Society</p> <p>Ch. 6 – Police Officers II: On the Job</p> <p>Ch. 7 – Patrol: The Backbone of Policing</p> <p>Ch. 8 – Peacekeeping and Order Maintenance</p> <p>Ch. 9 – The Police and Crime</p> <p>Ch. 11 – Police Discretion</p>

Module	Dates	Topic	Readings
3	1/14 – 1/18	Police Legitimacy Police Accountability The Police “Working Personality” Future Directions Final Exam	<p><i>Textbook:</i></p> <p>Ch. 12 – Legitimacy and Police – Community Relations</p> <p>Ch. 14 – Accountability of the Police</p> <p>Ch. 13 – Police Corruption</p> <p>Ch. 15 – The Future of Policing in America</p> <p><i>Article:</i></p> <p>A Sketch of the Policeman’s “Working Personality” (Skolnick)</p> <p><i>Video:</i></p> <p>http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/policing-the-police/</p>
FINAL EXAM: OPEN JANUARY 16th – 18th			
TOPIC PAPER DUE ON JANUARY 18th			