San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 103, Courts & Society, Section 80,
Summer 2020 (Online)

Instructor:	Harold W. Peterson
Office Location:	MQH 508
Email:	harold.peterson@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	(online or by appointment only)
Class Days/Time/Location:	Online

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as the syllabus, assignments, exams, grades, and important announcements can be found on the course Canvas page, accessed at: https://idp01.sjsu.edu/idp/Authn/UserPassword
You are responsible for any information posted on Canvas. It is recommended that you log in regularly and check for Announcements.

Course Description

As an introduction to American criminal courts, their history, purpose and process, this course will survey 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. In addition, the course will examine the role of prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges and probation officers throughout the criminal courts in the United States.

Prerequisite: Upper division standing.

A grade of "C" or better is required for Justice Studies' majors.

Justice Studies 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 Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Course Content Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, the student will understand:

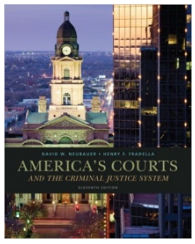
CLO1 – the history, purpose and process of the American criminal justice system.

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.

CLO2 – the role of prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, probation officers and other actors throughout the criminal courts in the United States.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook



American Courts and the Criminal Justice System, 11th edition (2014), *David W. Neubauer*, is available at the campus bookstore, with supplemental readings held on e-reserve as assigned by topic. In addition, the textbook publisher provides supplementary internet resources at www.wadsworth.com.

Library Liaison

Justice Studies Subject Specialist:
Silke Higgins
Email: Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu
Phone: 408-808-2118.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/faq/index.htm#add. Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Chapter Prompts – For each chapter, the instructor will post questions for students to respond. Generally, the questions require a response that shows that the student understands the course material. Responses for the short essay prompts must be no longer than 150 words. Please dedicate time to this course. **DO NOT FALL BEHIND**.

The purposes of the prompts are:

1) To have students think critical regarding issues.

2) To keep the students on track and focused on the course material. The Critical Thinking Prompts will cover one or two chapter from the text. Students must submit their responses daily. The instructor will not accept late assignments.

Examinations – There will be a midterm and a final examination. Each will consist of approximately 40 multiple-choice questions and two (2) short-answer/essay questions. These will be open from (midterm on Monday, July 10, 2017, to Friday, July 14, 2017, and the final on Friday, August 11, 2017 to Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at midnight. The examinations will be timed. Students will have approximately 75 minutes to complete the exam.

Class Participation – Points for class participation will be awarded pursuant to the quantity and quality of the student's contribution to the Discussion Topics. PLEASE NOTE—the amount of points awarded is at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Grade Item	Weight
Midterm Examination (*CLO's 1-3)*	25%
10 Chapter prompts	30%
Discussions	15%
Final Examination	30%
Total	100%

Grades – This course will be using the +/- system on final grades based on the following percentages:

93-100:	A	74-76:	C
90-92:	A-	70-73:	C-
87-89:	B+	67-69:	D+
84-86:	B	64-66:	D
80-83:	B-	60-63:	D-
77-79:	C+	0-59:	F

Please note, a "C" or higher is required to receive credit for this course toward a Justice Studies or Forensic Science Major.

Students must submit all assignments online at the **Canvas** website.

Email Policies
Students may contact the instructor via email or the **Canvas** website.

Canvas
Please log into **Canvas** and become familiar with the various menus and modules. Students will find the primary content under the **Modules** and **Assignments** section of the **Canvas** website.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know the University's Student Conduct Code, available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/docs/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development, found at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the AEC (Accessible Education Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.
A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and

Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at http:/www.sjsu.edu/larc.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter.

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering "roadside assistance" to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor.

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. Looking for academic advice or maybe just some tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU? Check out the CASA Student Success Center! It's also a great place to study, and you can check out laptops.

Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MH) 533 - top floor of MacQuarrie Hall. Contact information: 408.924.2910. Website: http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/.