

San José State University
Justice Studies
JS 10-80 (46125): Introduction to Justice Studies
Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Gil Zamora
Office Location:	Online
Google Chat:	Online
Email:	Gil.zamora@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Mondays (0900 – 1030), by appointment – email or chat to schedule appointment
Class Days/Time:	Online only
Classroom:	Online
Prerequisites:	JS 10, JS 11, JS 25, or FS 11

Course Description

Introduction to Justice Studies examines the historical and philosophical development of the justice system; description, analysis and evaluation of criminal justice agencies, and explores the relationship between theory and practice in the United States. Note: Students must achieve a grade of "C" or better (not C-) to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Provide an introduction of the characteristics, structure, and processes of justice system operations in the United States.
2. Explain criminology, criminal law, criminal statistics, and constitutional criminal procedure as it relates to practices within the justice system.
3. Describe and discuss the purpose, functions, critical issues, and societal interactions of the three major components of the justice system, which includes the police, courts, and corrections.

Required Texts/Readings

- Owen, Stephen S. (2015). *Foundations of Criminal Justice* (3rd edition). Oxford University Press ISBN 978-019085562

Other Readings Supplied electronically via Canvas; *Elements of Style* (EOS).

Library Liaison

Nyle Monday (Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu)
<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Course Requirements and Assignments

Participation

Discussions (20%): Participation in asynchronous class discussion requires being present and prepared to critically discuss the implications of key issues of the topic. This requires completing the weekly readings and other assignments prior to participating in online discussions. Your grade will reflect the importance of being

active in this course, which relies in great part on the reflections, discussions, and exercises in class. Attendance is encouraged in order to receive maximum points. All discussions will be monitored by the professor.

Exams

Midterm and Final Examination (40%): You will be administered a midterm and final examination, each worth 20% of your final grade. Each exam will cover material from lectures (including all media presented) and assigned readings. The midterm will be held during the midpoint of the semester while the final will be held during the final exam period. Each exam will be non-cumulative and comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions. The dates for both mid and final exam will be announced at least 45 days in advance.

Special Projects

Challenging the Institution of Law Enforcement (20%): Students will leverage web-based technologies or multi-media platforms to create their own special project. These projects can include a website, short video, slideshow presentation, creative poster, or something you believe deserves consideration. Special Projects must be approved by the instructor in order to receive full credit. Each student will be evaluated by their peers and the instructor. Students will be provided a rubric for the special project. Detailed assignment guidelines will be provided via Canvas.

Grading Information

A plus = 98.0 to 100.0	A = 94.0 to less than 97.0	A minus = 90.0 to less than 92.0
B plus = 87.0 to less than 89.0	B = 83.0 to less than 86.0	B minus = 80.0 to less than 82.0
C plus = 77.0 to less than 79.0	C = 73.0 to less than 76.0	C minus = 70.0 to less than 72.0
D plus = 67.0 to less than 69.0	D = 63.0 to less than 66.0	D minus = 60.0 to less than 62.0
F = less than 59.0		

- 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.
- Late assignments or papers will not be accepted unless specifically announced at the time of the assignment. You may lose a minimum of 10% for late assignments/papers.
- Extra credit opportunities will be assigned after the midterm. Extra credit points will be added to your final grade (after your final examination).

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 65 hours over the length of the course for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

ACCESS Success Center

The Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in the Social Sciences (ACCESS) provides General Education advising for undergraduate students majoring or intending to major in any of the departments in the College of Social Sciences (CoSS). ACCESS Academic Advisors are committed to helping you develop a clear path to graduation and supporting your academic success.

Fall 2020 Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Friday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. You can schedule an appointment and find more information at sjsu.edu/access.

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 10-80: Introduction to Justice Studies Fall 2021 Course Schedule

This course schedule is subject to change with fair notice, at the instructor's discretion. Changes will be communicated via Canvas. Each module must be completed before being granted access to the next module. Since this class is online, all assignments and discussions are offered asynchronously. Your instructor will communicate with you via Announcements, grading comments, emails, and special announcements for upcoming assignments. If you have a question about an assignment, you must email the instructor (through Canvas only) or leave a comment in the HELP section, or chat online during normal business hours.

Week/Lesson	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Introductions/Course overview
2	Chapter 1, Introducing Crime and Criminal Justice; criminal justice professions that interest you, discretion and criminal justice professionals, decline of crime and statistics, and module quiz.
3	Chapter 2, Society and Morality; social contract theory, death penalty, five concepts of morality, module quiz.
4	Chapter 3, Legal Philosophy; Six Concepts of Law, Idealism and Pragmatism, officer discretion revisited, legal principles, module quiz.
5	Chapter 4, Theories of Deviance and Social Control; Prescriptive and proscriptive norms, social control, medicalization of deviance, decriminalizing marijuana, module quiz.
6	Chapter 5, Theories of Criminal Behavior; deviance in society, sociological theories of criminal behavior, causes for crime and police misconduct, rational choice and neutralization theories, module quiz.

	MIDTERM
7	Chapter 6, Concepts of Justice; procedural, social, and individual justice, distributive justice, vigilante justice, authoritarian, participatory, and compassionate criminal justice systems, module quiz.
8	Chapter 7, Concepts of Justice Policy; criminal and civil justice, social justice and political culture influence criminal justice, criminal justice policy shaping government structure, shaping criminal justice policy, module quiz.
9	Chapter 8, Concepts of Criminal Procedure; procedural justice rights and the U.S. Constitution, procedural justice rights contained in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments, crime control model, holding criminal justice accountable, module quiz.
10	Chapter 9 & 10, Criminal Law and Punishment; primary components of modern criminal law, U.S. Constitution and the limits of criminal conduct, conceptualizing punishment and the justification for punishment, module quiz.

11	Chapter 9 & 10, Criminal Law and Punishment; primary components of modern criminal law, U.S. Constitution and the limits of criminal conduct, conceptualizing punishment and the justification for punishment, module quiz.
12	Challenging the Institution of Law Enforcement Special Project (DRAFT); design and development
13	Challenging the Institution of Law Enforcement Special Project (DRAFT); refinements
14	Special Project - Challenging the Institution of Law Enforcement (DRAFT); receive peer reviews

	15	Challenging the Institution of Law Enforcement Special Project (FINAL)
	16	Challenging the Institution of Law Enforcement Special Project (FINAL); receive peer reviews
Final Exam	17	TBD; ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE.