

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS158, The Prison Community, Section 61, Winter 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Judith Randle, J.D., Ph.D.
Office Location:	Zoom: https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/6570524029
Email:	judith.randle@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	M-F 8:30am - 10:00am
Class Days/Time:	TBD - No meeting pattern
Classroom:	https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1412893
Prerequisite/Corequisite:	Any 100W; Grade of "C" or better is required for Justice Studies majors.

Course Description

Analysis of formal and informal systems of organization and interaction among incarcerated people and staff. Effects of the social structure and external system on the organization of the prison community.

Course Format

This course is fully online and has no scheduled meetings. The student must have regular internet access to access the course materials and submit the course assignments. This includes a computer that has video and audio playback features (e.g., YouTube, Quicktime).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Identify the various penal systems throughout the United States.
2. Analyze the effects of the external social structure on the history of prisons and on the organization of the prison community.
3. Analyze formal and informal systems of organization and interaction among inmates and staff.
4. Identify and write about the critical issues facing the American prison system.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

Simon, J. (2014) *Mass Incarceration on Trial: A Remarkable Court Decision and the Future of Prisons in America*. The New Press. ISBN: 9871595587695

Sykes, G. (2007) *The Society of Captives*. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 9780691130644

Readings on CANVAS

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

Videos and Websites on CANVAS

Required website material, web-based videos, and web-based audio files are listed on the Course Schedule below. Links are posted on the CANVAS website.

Module Videos

Each Module begins with an introductory video and may include supplemental videos, as listed on the Course Schedule below.

Library Liaison

Nyle.Monday@sjs.edu

<https://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Note: A Grade of “C” or better is required for Justice Studies majors.

Final Examination or Evaluation

Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment. This course requires a final essay.

Grading Information

Your grade is derived from work in six (6) categories:

Sykes Reading Journal: You will write answers to essay questions assigned to each chapter of *The Society of Captives*. – 60 pts (CLO 3)

Simon Reading Journal: You will write answers to essay questions assigned to each chapter of *Mass Incarceration on Trial*. – 60 pts (CLOs 3&4)

Discussion Board (18) – On the course discussion board, you must post:

- *Introductory Post (1)*: by Wednesday, Jan 6, introduce yourself on the discussion forum and provide a link to a current event about prisons that interest you— 1x10 pts
- *Professor Posts (4)*: for each module, a response to my original post related to the unit’s material (see course website for instructions) – 4x10 pts each (CLOs 1 – 4)
- *Response Posts (9)*: nine responses to other students’ posts (see course website for instructions) – 10x5 pts each (CLO 4)

Quizzes (4) – Each module contains a multiple-choice quiz

- *Module 1 Quiz* assesses your knowledge of the America’s prison and jail structures from the birth of the prison to the present. – 50 pts (CLOs 1&2)

- *Module 2 Quiz* assesses your knowledge of the internal social dynamics (roles, relationships, power struggles, etc.) that sociologists have identified within the prison community – 15 pts (CLOs 2&3)
- *Module 3 Quiz* assesses your knowledge of the 1st, 5th, 8th, and 14th Amendments’ constraints on the internal operations of prisons. – 50 pts (CLOs 2 – 4)
- *Module 4 Quiz* assesses your knowledge of parole and re-entry processes, and promising alternative prison designs that reduce recidivism. – 15 pts (CLOs 3&4)

Final Essay - The final essay is a 2000-word essay that reflects on the nature of incarceration as a response to crime. – 125 pts (CLOs 3 & 4)

Point and Percentage Values (Approximate and Subject to Minor Changes)

<i>Work</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>Sykes Reading Journal</i>	60	14
<i>Simon Reading Journal</i>	60	14
<i>Discussion Board</i>	100	24
<i>Quiz 1</i>	35	8
<i>Quiz 2</i>	15	4
<i>Quiz 3</i>	35	8
<i>Quiz 4</i>	15	4
<i>Final Essay</i>	100	24

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	98.5 to 100%
<i>A</i>	92.5 to 98.4%
<i>A minus</i>	89.5 to 92.4%
<i>B plus</i>	86.5 to 89.4 %
<i>B</i>	82.5 to 86.4%
<i>B minus</i>	79.5 to 82.4%
<i>C plus</i>	75.5 to 79.4%
<i>C</i>	72.5 to 75.4%
<i>C minus</i>	69.5 to 72.4%
<i>D plus</i>	65.5 to 69.4%
<i>D</i>	62.5 to 65.4%
<i>D minus</i>	59.5 to 62.4%
<i>F</i>	0 to 59.4%

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/>”

JS158, The Prison Community, Course Schedule, Winter 2021

Module	<u>Topics and Course Material</u>	Module-Specific Assignments (Does not include Introductory Post* and Student Response Posts**)
<p>Module 1:</p> <p>History, Structure, and Organization of American Jails and Prisons</p>	<p><u>Watch: Module 1 Overview</u></p> <p><u>The Leniency Revolution and the Birth of the Prison</u> Lecture Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Leniency Revolution and the Birth of the Prison” (25 mins) • “The Penitentiary” (6 mins) <p>CANVAS Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Body of the Condemned” (Foucault) – pp. 3-16 • “American Prisons” (Irwin) – pp. 15-23 (stop at “Hard Labor”) <p><u>Convict Labor in the Reconstruction and Progressive Eras</u> Lecture Video:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Big House” (4 mins) <p>CANVAS Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “American Prisons” (Irwin) – pp. 23-end (begin at “Hard Labor”) • “Except as a Punishment for Crime” (Lichtenstein) <p><u>The Rehabilitative Ideal in Mid-20th Century Prisons</u> Lecture Video:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Correctional Institution” (12 mins) <p>CANVAS Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Correctional Institutions” (Irwin) – pp. 34-42 • “Three Models of Rehabilitation” (Flanders) – pp. 5-17 (Section II only) <p><u>The Decline of the Rehabilitative Ideal: Mass Incarceration in the Late 20th Century</u> Lecture Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Warehouse Prison” (14 mins) • “CA State Prisons Chronology” (4 mins) <p>CANVAS Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Dismantling the Rehabilitative Ideal” (Irwin) – pp. 42-end • “Three Strikes and You’re Out! The Political Sentencing Game” (Benekos) • CA State Prisons Chronology (Handout) <p>CANVAS Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass Incarceration, Visualized (3 mins) • California Moves Inmates Out of State (2 mins) • California’s 3 Strikes Law (9 mins) 	<p>Quiz 1</p> <p>Module 1 Professor Post</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Due by: January 12, 2021 11:59pm</p>

Module	<u>Topics and Course Material</u>	Module-Specific Assignments (Does not include Introductory Post* and Student Response Posts**)
	<p><u>Current Jail and Prison Populations</u> CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Offender Data Points” (CDCR) – browse tables • “Incarceration Trends in California” (Vera) – browse tables CANVAS Websites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Incarceration in Local Jails and State Prisons” (Vera) – browse website • “California Profile” (Prison Policy Initiative) • “Youth Confinement” (Prison Policy Initiative) CANVAS Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Jail vs Prison: What’s Actually the Difference?” (6 mins) • “State Prison vs Federal Prison: What’s the Actual Difference?” (12 mins) </p>	
<p>Module 2: The Prison Society</p>	<p><u>Watch: Module 2 Overview</u></p> <p><u>The Prison as a Social System</u> Lecture Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Prison as a Social System” (20 mins) Sykes: Introduction & Ch. 1 CANVAS Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Characteristics of Total Institutions” (Goffman) <u>Custody & Power</u> Sykes: Chs. 2 & 3 <u>Deprivations</u> Sykes Ch. 4 CANVAS Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Case of Women” (Owen) <u>Masculinity and the Social Order in Male Prisons</u> Sykes Ch. 5 CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Rape and the Prison Code” (Kupers) • “Caged and Celibate” (Abu-Jamal) <u>Crisis-Equilibrium</u> Sykes Ch. 6 CANVAS Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Stanford Prison Experiment” (50 mins) • “Who’s to Blame for Torture at Abu Ghraib” (14 mins) • “Philip Zimbardo: A Study of Evil” (10 mins) </p>	<p>Quiz 2</p> <p>Module 2 Professor Post</p> <p>Sykes Reading Journal</p> <p>Due by: January 12, 2021 11:59pm</p>
<p>Module 3:</p>	<p><u>Watch: Module 3 Overview</u></p> <p><u>The Prison Community Under Mass Incarceration</u> Lecture Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Constitutional Limits on Confinement: Overview” (36 mins) </p>	<p>Quiz 3</p> <p>Module 3 Professor Post</p>

Module	<u>Topics and Course Material</u>	Module-Specific Assignments (Does not include Introductory Post* and Student Response Posts**)
Regulating (Extreme) Prison Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Constitutional Limits on Confinement: Physical Well-Being” (14 mins) MIOT: Intro & Chapter 1 CANVAS Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcrowded: The Messy Politics of California’s Prison Crisis (10 mins) <u>Solitary Confinement & Control Units</u> CANVAS Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Solitary Nation” (53 mins) Lecture Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Constitutional Limits on Confinement: Psychological Well-Being” (14 mins) • “The Logic Behind Supermax Confinement” (14 mins) MIOT: Ch. 2 CANVAS Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Consequences of Lockup” (Irwin) • “Psychopathological Effects of Long Term Solitary Confinement” (Grassian) <u>Chronic Overcrowding & Health Deterioration</u> Lecture Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Coleman and the Defeat of Total Incapacitation” (17 mins) MIOT: Chs. 3-7 CANVAS Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life in Prison (27 mins) <u>Incarceration on Death Rows</u> Lecture Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The 8th Amendment and Death Row Confinement” (10 mins) CANVAS Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Death Row Prisoners: Running Out of Time” (45 mins) <u>Juveniles in the Era of Mass Incarceration</u> CANVAS Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Superpredator Scare” (11 mins) • “Second Chance Kids” (54 mins) <u>Race and Mass Incarceration</u> CANVAS Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “How Gangs Took Over Prisons” (Wood) CANVAS Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Gangs in Control of American Prisons” (10 mins) • 13th (100 mins) 	Simon Reading Journal Due by: January 22, 2021 11:59pm
Module 4:	<u>Watch: Module 4 Overview</u> <u>Re-Entry</u> CANVAS Reading:	Final Essay

Module	<u>Topics and Course Material</u>	Module-Specific Assignments (Does not include Introductory Post* and Student Response Posts**)
<p>Re-Entry, Rehabilitation, and Alternative Prison Designs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “From Prison to Home” (Travis) <p>CANVAS Websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Sentencing, Incarceration, & Parole of Offenders” (CDCR) • “Information Considered at a Parole Suitability Hearing” (CDCR) <p><u>Rehabilitation & Alternative Prison Designs</u></p> <p>CANVAS Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Why Scandinavian Prisons are Superior” (Larson) <p>CANVAS Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Norden – Nordic Prisons” (27 mins) • “Mothers of Bedford” (96 mins) • “Five Incredible Prison Rehabilitation Programs” (16 mins) 	<p>Module 4 Professor Post</p> <p>Quiz 4</p> <p>Due by: January 22, 2021 11:59pm</p>

*Introductory Post due by **January 6, 2021 @ 11:59pm**

Five Student Response Posts are due by **January 12, 2021 @ 11:59pm. Five additional Student Response Posts are due by **January 22, 2021 @ 11:59pm**.