

San José State University
CASA/Justice Studies Department
JS-103, Courts and Society, Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Elizabeth Tejada
Office Location:	This course occurs entirely via Canvas. Check module link.
Email:	elizabeth.pacheco@sjsu.edu (all contacts for this course should occur via Canvas)
Office Hours:	<p>This is an online course. Virtual office hours will be held one hour per week. By appointment, I can be available by telephone, Zoom meetings, and live-chat.</p> <p>Additionally, for questions regarding general course policies, schedule, and assignments, post your question for the class on the “Discussion” link in Canvas. For contacts specifically regarding you (not the course generally) including your grade, etc. contact me via Canvas “mail.” Allow 24-hours for my response.</p>
Class Days/Time:	Thurs. 1/24/19 – Thurs. 5/16/19
Prerequisites:	Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Note: A grade of "C" or better is required for graduation.

Course Description

Structure and functions of the court system. Emphasizes attorneys' and judges' roles and the court process. Examination of federal and state legislative, executive and judicial branch actions, including Supreme Court decisions in civil and criminal cases.

Course Goals

This course is an in-depth examination of the structure and process of the judicial system in the United States, both at the federal and the state levels. Topics to be discussed include: roles and behavior of various actors within the judicial system, the process of criminal law as compared to civil law, and the interrelationship between political and social impact on the judiciary.

Using learning modules, you will explore:

- Theories of Law and Justice Systems
- The Purpose and Role of the Courts in Society: “Activist” Judges and Constitutional Restrictions
- The Structure of the Judiciary
- Courts as Interpreters of the “Law”
- Adversarial System: Attorneys and Judges in Courtroom
- Adjudication of Claims: the Process of Deciding Criminal Cases
- Alternative Judicial Systems: ADR and Trends in the Courtroom

The legal system is a sum of its parts. So we approach this subject not as isolated concepts. This course challenges you to review critically the themes and strategies involved in all aspects of the judiciary. You will gain a realistic sense of what

it is like to work in and be a part of the criminal justice system. You will extend beyond identifying the roles and responsibilities of the major courthouse players, to examine how decisions are actually reached despite conditions of uncertainty, disagreement, and limited resources. From it, you will come to appreciate how the judiciary creates justice and its potential for change.

Required Texts/Readings

You are not assessed on your ability to memorize any particular textbook, nor are you expected to just adopt the viewpoints of one author. Instead, this course seeks to challenge you to examine your own beliefs and opinions as supported by course materials. So each learning module in Canvas gives you a variety of materials on the topic. To accommodate different learning preferences, you are given a combination of handouts, videos, podcasts, and links to supplemental resources.

If require more detail to understand the subject, you can decide to purchase it or even use a limited rental of the below optional texts. Information is provided on Canvas.

Optional Textbooks

- (1) Judicial Process: Law, Courts, and Politics in the United States, 7th ed. by: David W. Neubauer; Stephen S. Meinhold, Publisher: Cengage Learning; Print ISBN: 9781305506527, 1305506529; eText ISBN: 9781337025942, 1337025941
- (2) Law and Society, 2d ed. by: Matthew Lippman Publisher: SAGE Publications, Inc., Print ISBN: 9781506362274, 1506362273; eText ISBN: 9781506395432, 1506395430

Course Format

Reading

This course covers a complex legal and procedural concepts. The learning modules are designed so you are not given a long list of seemingly unrelated terms and concepts to memorize. Instead, as outlined above, each learning module involves an aspect of the judiciary's impact on justice. Since your grade is based on your ability to formulate and explain a position on these concepts, each learning module gives you a variety of materials. The materials present you with the viewpoints and theories involved in the topic. You will use the materials for the argument and theories to use in your analyses in the discussion, assignments, and final report. This class is not assessing you on your ability to memorize any particular textbook. Instead, you must be able to analyze each topic using specifically cited examples from course materials to support your opinion.

So this course is reading and writing intensive. But you will notice that not all the reading is to be closely and meticulously reviewed. Each student takes this course with different goals and interests. To cater to the differences, each learning module includes a variety of materials to accommodate learning preferences. There are videos, handouts, and audio recordings.

On Canvas you are given suggestions for how to approach the topics. You will see, though, that you are not expected to memorize or retain all the material in detail. Some materials are labeled as "optional," which you can review to the extent it is helpful to you. Some materials are "supplemental resources," which is provided for those personally or professionally curious about the topic. The learning modules are scheduled to account for the complexity of the corresponding reading and subject.

This course is cumulative, so your success depends on your ability to keep up with the reading. If you do not keep current with the reading, you will not have the framework for the course lectures and discussion. Students know their study needs and pace. But suggested approaches are provided and discussed in Canvas. To help budget your time, a schedule is provided. Try to get ahead and read as much as possible during the first weeks.

Online Courses - All Communications, Assignments/Quizzes, and Exams Through Canvas

This course is administered entirely online.

Programs

You need a computer and reliable internet connectivity to run Canvas and its programs. Assignments, quizzes, and/or exams require that the submission be in word-processing software (.doc or .docx), and software and hardware requirements that meet Canvas platform needs.

You must also have the related software and hardware requirements to access and download readings from the SJSU, library, and related websites, including but not limited to Adobe Acrobat Reader or equivalent.

Course lessons and videos require that you have access to mp4 and media player, Youtube, Zoom and other conferencing programs. So you must have access to computer microphone and speakers.

Course Materials-

Updates and supplementary course materials - such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, readings, etc. – will frequently be posted for the course. It will be posted on either: (a) posted on Canvas and/or (b) a hyperlink link will be given on Canvas to where it can be accessed.

Canvas website is <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You must regularly check Canvas and the email address associated with your MySJSU account at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates. Any difficulty accessing the materials must be reported to me before the deadline.

Course Communication –

All communication with me must be sent through Canvas. My announcements will be sent to you in Canvas. Make sure Canvas has your current contact information and that you set Canvas to send you immediate notifications of updates.

If you have general questions regarding the course, policies, and schedule, post it on the course's Q&A Discussion board.

Course Assignment, Quiz, and Exam Submissions

Class assignments, quizzes, and exams are submitted in Canvas; no email submissions accepted. Submissions must be completely uploaded to Canvas by the due date and time; "late" submissions (meaning one minute or more) are subject to the "Late Policy" reduction below.

Technical difficulties are your responsibility (e.g. personal computer glitches, poor internet connection, software compatibility, etc.). So you must have a computer and reliable internet connectivity to run Canvas and its programs.

If a Canvas outage occurs, students must do each of: 1) take a screen shot to document the difficulty 2) submit a request to Canvas for help (keep written request of the request), and 3) immediately send me an email of the issue. I must receive notice of the Canvas outage before the due date and time. This course's Canvas page has information and links to Canvas guides and tutorials.

See University Policy F13-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.

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. For more information on student resources see the course's module on Canvas has links and information to assist you with this.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students can:

- CLO 1: Understand the constitutional structure and function of civil and criminal judicial processes from pretrial through litigation and appeal in the United States. Compare the state and federal courts.
- CLO 2: Identify and understand the roles played by participants in the United States justice system, including judges, attorneys, parties, witnesses and jurors.
- CLO 3: Critically analyze how developments in society can affect court decisions and the impact of court decisions on society.
- CLO 4: Read, write, and contribute to discussion with understanding and skill.

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 a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over a lifetime.

Credit Hour Requirement

SJSU classes are designed so to succeed students must spend **at least forty-five hours for each unit of credit**. For this three unit course, you must complete approximately 135 hours of study this semester (approx. 9 hours per week). This includes preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Grading Scale

The course consists of 100 total points. To determine your course progress, you just manually add up the points already earned. The grading scale corresponds to these points:

	A 100 – 92 points	A- 91– 89 points
B+ 88– 86 points	B 85– 82 points	B- 81– 79 points
C+ 78– 76 points	C 75– 72 points	C- 71– 69 points
D+ 68– 66 points	D 65– 62 points	D- 61– 59 points
F 58 points or below		

“This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.”

Grading Opportunities

Your course grade is based on a total possible of 100 points which you will work towards by:

I. Required:

(1) Module Quizzes:

You must take assigned Module Quizzes. Each quiz corresponds to the learning module's topic. It may consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and/or fill in the blank.

It is an opportunity for you to assess your understanding and comfort of the material. It will help you gauge clarification you need from me. So give it an honest and meaningful effort. You can use your textbook and your notes. **But you cannot use outside resources like the internet.**

You can each quiz two (2) times. But the questions will change each time. Your highest score earned by the deadline listed in the instruction will serve as the quiz score.

(2) Final Analysis Report due uploaded by 5/9 10:00PM.

To truly understand these concepts, students must see the judicial system in action. You must conduct at least two criminal court observations: (1) trial court and (2) alternative court (e.g., Drug Court, Family Preservation Court, Prostitution Court, DUI Court, etc.) You have flexibility in the location and specific court chosen based on your schedule availability and interests. Court information will be provided on Canvas.

This will serve as your final exam and culminating project for this course. The analysis is cumulative; it covers the entire semester's course material. There is no "correct" answer; rather, this analysis challenges you to examine your beliefs on the court system based on this course. From your observations, you will form an opinion regarding the process and interactions of the parties. You will explain and support your opinion using specifically cited examples and accounts from your course materials.

The Analysis Report can earn **up to 20 points**.

(3) Final Exam (due completed by Mon. 5/20 10:00PM)

You must complete the Final Quiz no later than Thurs. 5/16 11:59PM. It consists of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and/or fill in the blank. It is cumulative by testing all the topics you learned all semester.

You can use your textbook and your notes. You cannot use outside resources like the internet. It is an opportunity for you to assess your understanding of the material and to gauge what, if any, questions you have for me to clarify the information. So give it an honest and meaningful effort.

Your review and preparation for the Final is from your notes on the module Quizzes. So keep track of your lessons.

The exam will be opened Thurs. 5/16. It must be fully completed by Mon. 5/20 at 10PM. It is a timed exam. So do not begin the quizzes until you confirmed you have a reliable computer and internet.

II. Options for Assignment Choices:

Not all students like writing essays; not all students like multiple choice. To balance this interest, this course offers you the flexibility to earn your remaining points by choosing from list of assignment options.

The options vary in due date and score values. But to give you an idea, the categories are:

- "You Decide" Case Studies
- Analysis Papers
- Discussion
- Reflections

- Research and Report
- Real-World Application

The goals and objectives vary depending on the assignment. The assignments range in difficulty level and due dates/times. So consider your options carefully. Each has its own grading detailed criteria provided in the instructions.

Despite the different formats, the assignments each assess your ability to:

- comply with the assignment instructions
- explore and comprehend the course subject
- understand the connection between concepts
- develop an opinion or thesis on the issues
- utilize course materials to support your analysis
- apply the course concepts across settings
- approach the subject thoughtfully and professionally

Grading Criteria:

This is a critical analysis course. Grading is based on a qualitative, not quantitative basis. While some assignment options require just recall and application, most require you evaluate the material and develop an opinion. There is no “correct” position – meaning, you are not expected to agree with every position stated by the authors or me.

Instead, you are challenged to explore your own beliefs on these topics and support it using course materials. You are graded on your demonstrated understanding of the concepts by the relevance and accuracy of the examples you chose.

In Canvas, I provide you with detailed instructions for each assignment. But for all, your answer should reflect your ability to:

- Recall and retrieve relevant knowledge from your course material;
- Recognize pertinent examples that specifically illustrate your understanding of the example you chose. You must decide which examples are relevant and apply to the problem.
- Critically analyze the course materials by making and explaining the connections between concepts and historical accounts. The more on-point your example is, the greater your points;
- Summarize and highlight the main points briefly;
- Duplicate, irrelevant, inaccurate, and/or loosely-related excerpts will affect your grade.

Late Assignment

Since the course is cumulative, late submissions strictly follow this policy. Varying reasons come up for students (work, family, illness, etc.), so I will not decide “worthy” vs. “unworthy” causes. No requests for an extension should be made. Instead, **late submissions are treated the same regardless of reason. For your privacy, I need not know the reason it is late. Do not email me any medical or other private records.**

“Late submission” means the due date and time that applies to you; this means it is respectful of any applicable AEC approved accommodations.

For "**credit/no-credit assignments**," late (even by a minute) will not be accepted for points.

For **graded assignments**, late-submissions, regardless of reason, are subject to a grade reduction from what could have been earned. This reduction applies to the submission:

1– 60 minutes: points equal to 10% reduction (e.g., illustration: A to A-)

61 – 120 minutes: points equal to 20% reduction (e.g., illustration: A to B-)

121 – 720 minutes: points equal to 30% reduction (e.g., illustration: A to C-)

721 minutes – 24 hours : points equal to 40% reduction (e.g., illustration: A to D-)

over 24 hours (even by a minute) – are not accepted for points; submission will receive “0” points

Grading Policy:

All grades are final; no re-grading will occur. The above Late Policy applies to all deadlines that occur before I receive notification from AEC about accommodations. So if you have a disability that might require accommodations, speak to the AEC immediately to arrange.

This course is a critical analysis course heavily based on written submissions. This course is not rendering writing exams; your score will be based on the substance of your paper. Although you are not penalized for minor spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc., your grade does depend on your ability to articulate your research and opinions. Excessive errors will affect the clarity of your writing and my ability to understand your analysis. So, if needed, seek University support for writing assistance and tutoring.

Ethical Conduct –

Your assignments require you examine and discuss viewpoints from various sources. Some are from course materials; others ask you to conduct research. As explained in each instruction, referring to the sources can be acceptable. The key is that anytime you use an idea or material you did not create, you must cite the source.

Academic misconduct occurs according to University policy. Academic misconduct includes cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, violating course rules, and facilitating academic dishonesty. Violations can be unintentional or inadvertent.

So ask if you are in doubt. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- presentation of another’s words or ideas as one’s own without attributing the proper source
- copying material from books and journals
- taking material from the internet
- privately purchasing or obtaining papers from others, which one then presents as one’s own
- Any material taken word-for-word from another source must be placed in quotation marks and footnoted or cited.

Even those ideas and information from other authors that are not a direct quote must be acknowledged with a citation.

Submissions are processed through Turnitin. So I discover when you use other’s information even if you paraphrase it. If you cite the source, not only do you comply with ethical requirements, but it even shows the depth of your analysis (i.e., you did not just make it up) and could help your score.

If you do not cite the source you cause difficulties for both of us. Faculty members must report infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Academic misconduct could cause failure for an assignment or course, and even in expulsion from the university.

So, this course requires: any information in your paper from a source that is not you must have a corresponding citation. I require no specific citing style (APA, MLA, etc.). But I require that all citations be contained within the text (immediately following the sentence it belongs to); a **“work cited” list at the end of the paper is ambiguous and will not suffice.**

Failure to follow these citing requirements will: at minimum, reduce your grade for failing to follow instructions, and could be considered plagiarism.

For more information see, the University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 (at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf>) requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Student Resources

Tutoring at the Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center will be open for tutoring. During the fall and spring semesters, we also conduct drop-in tutoring sessions (on a first-come, first-served basis) at our location in Clark Hall 126. Tutoring appointments are scheduled through our Online Reservation System or at (408) 924-2308. They are located on the second floor of the MLK Library. Students can schedule appointments online at <https://sjsu.mywconline.com/>.

Student Technology Resources

This course's Canvas page has information and links to Canvas guides and tutorials.

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. For more information on student resources see the course's module on Canvas has links and information to assist you with this.

Academic Liaison Librarian

Higgins, Silke: Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu; (408) 808-2118; <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Add and Drop:

Students must add or drop the class by the University deadline. Check the university calendar for the last day to drop the class without a "W" grade. Students must know of the deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. **For the Winter Session it is Thurs. 1/3.**

More information can be found at: Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>.

Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Disabilities

The winter session is on an accelerated schedule. So any student who has needs academic accommodations for a disability must contact without delay the Accessible Education Center (AEC) (at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec>) to register and get assistance. Telephone: 408-924-6000; email: aec-info@sjsu.edu. See Presidential Directive 97-03 (at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf)

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. is 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/>

CASA Student Success Center

The Student Success Center in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA), on the 5th floor of MacQuarrie Hall, provides advising for undergraduate students majoring in or wanting to major in programs offered in CASA. All CASA students and students who would like to be in CASA are invited to stop by the Center for general education (GE) advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. If you are looking for academic advice or even tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU, check out the CASA Student Success Center. Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MH) 5331. Contact information: 408.924.2910. Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/>. **The CASA Student Success Center also provides study space and laptops for checkout.**