San José State University
College of Health and Human Sciences
Department of Justice Studies
JS 274, Applied Project, Spring, 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Adams
Office Location:	MacQuarrie Hall 527
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Email:	ericka.adams@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Mondays 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm Thursdays 10:00 am to 11:00 am
Class Days/Time:	Online

Course Format

Online instruction is utilized for this class.

Online Course

All instruction takes place online, with no physical in-person or campus meetings or activities required. Internet connectivity, a computer, and access to software apps (including Microsoft Office, Adobe Player, Canvas, etc.) are required for this class.

MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, instructions for assignments, etc. can be found on Canvas Leaning Management System course login website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. Canvas will be used to facilitate this class including discussion boards and submitting assignments. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at http://my.sjsu.edu and Canvas to learn of any updates.

Course Description

For this project, a substantial paper of a justice agency program, justice policy, and/or organizational issue is required. The contents will be determined by the student in consultation with the instructor, with whom the student meets regularly for supervision.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO 1. Independently explore and study a justice agency program, justice policy, and/or organizational issue.
CLO 2. Formally present their work in both oral presentations and written reports.
CLO 3. Constructively critique and discuss the work of others.
CLO 4. Evaluate and synthesize different points of view in understanding a justice agency program, justice policy, and/or organizational issue.

Required Texts/Readings

There are no assigned readings for this class. However, students are required to incorporate at least 40 scholarly sources (peer-reviewed journal articles and academic books) into their applied project. Textbooks are not considered scholarly material. Students may use the scholarly sources they used in previous classes as long as they are directly applicable to the topic under investigation. Students may incorporate non-scholarly sources in their applied project but they do not count towards the scholarly sources required.

Library Liaison

For help with library resources and library research (including the use of databases and online research materials—such as journal search engines), students are strongly encouraged to contact the Justice Studies Library Liaison: Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu, (408) 808-2118.

Course Requirements and Assignments

The applied project is the culminating activity of the MS in Criminology program. It is an independent piece of work by the student that shows their familiarity with the subject matter, mastery of appropriate research methods and capacity for scientific expression. For this project, students are required to complete a substantial paper on a justice agency program, justice policy, or organizational issue. Applied projects must be completed within 8 weeks; please keep this in mind when selecting a project. Applied projects may incorporate secondary data, content analysis, program evaluations, and other forms of data. **Applied projects may not involve "human subjects."** To increase student success, the applied project has been divided into several segments.

Completed applied projects should be between 35 to 50 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman, with one-inch margins, and contain at least 40 scholarly sources. Papers should not exceed 70 pages. Students may incorporate other resources but they do not count towards the scholarly sources required.

APA format is required for the entire paper (from cover page to references/ appendices if used). Citations are not allowed. Students must paraphrase all material to be cited in the project. In-text citations must accompany all material derived from other sources. The only materials that can be quoted are laws and statements from persons you personally interviewed.

In order to receive credit for this class, students need to submit all assignments by the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Introductory Discussion

Being that this is one of the final classes in the program, the introductory discussion requires each student to introduce themselves and provide the following information: (1) your name, (2) an enjoyable part of your holiday season, and (3) what you plan to do upon the completion of your MS degree.

This assignment is due on Canvas on 1/27 by 11:59 pm.

Description of Project—Discussion

In this assignment students are required to provide a brief outline of the topic for their applied project. This post should be structured and contain the following sections.

Identification of Justice Problem or Research Question: In a 2 to 3 sentences, identify the topic/justice related problem you will be focusing on for your applied project.

Purpose of Project: In 2 to 3 sentences, succinctly describe the purpose of your applied project. Specifically state the goals of the project.

Methodology: Describe your proposed methodology (approximately 4 – 5 sentences). Be sure to answer the following questions: What data will be analyzed for this project? How will you access the data?

Human Subjects Statement: In 4 to 6 sentences, explain how your applied project does not involve "human subjects." Incorporate information from "Defining Research with Human Subjects" and "Chart 1: Is an Activity Research Involving Human Subjects?"

Note: due to the limited time you have to complete the applied project, you will not have enough time to get Institutional Board Approval. As such, your applied project cannot involve human subjects.

All students should read "Defining Research with Human Subjects" available in the "Files" folder, and complete "Chart 1: Is an Activity Research Involving Human Subjects?" to determine if their applied project involves human subjects. Please feel free to set an appointment with me to discuss for project if you have any uncertainty about whether your project involves human subjects.

Each student must respond to at least three of their classmates' posts. Responses to classmates' posts should be discussion based. Students may respond to aspects of the proposed project that intrigued them, highlight aspects they would like more clarification on, or continue the development of a thought/argument, etc. **Be sure to provide feedback on the topic selected, aspects of the topic that should be considered, and the intended methodology**. Comments may be based on opinion and do not need to, but may contain, empirical support.

This assignment is due on Canvas on 2/1 by 11:59 pm.

Applied Project Proposal

This proposal serves as the first major sections of your applied project. The proposal must be in paragraph format and structured with the following headings:

<div align="center">

COVER PAGE

ABSTRACT

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The abstract should describe the research problem, material and methods used, and the main results of the project. (The abstract will be further developed once you complete the entire project).

The reader must be able to understand the abstract without having read the applied project. The sentences in the abstract must be complete. References and quotations must not be used, nor should there be anything in the abstract that does not appear in the applied project. The abstract should be as concise as possible: it is recommended that it does not exceed one single-spaced page (300- 500 words).

An abstract should contain the following information:
- topic of applied project

- purpose of study
- research methodology
- main results
- conclusions and possible recommendations

INTRODUCTION

Papers should commence with a statement pertaining to why the research topic is important. Students could cite statistics, incorporate a short narrative, discuss the history of the topic, etc., to convey the importance of the topic. A clear objective or thesis statement should be found in this section.

REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE

In this section, students should present details to help the reader thoroughly understand the dynamics of the subject under investigation. For example, if the applied project is on the effectiveness of a program for juveniles on probation, the student should discuss the rate of juveniles being taken into custody, the rate of juvenile detention, the demographics of juvenile probationers (e.g., age, gender, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, etc.), the types of offenses for which juveniles are traditionally detained, the types of programs implemented to help juveniles on probation, etc.

The bulk of this section should summarize past research. This section should NOT be written as an annotated bibliography. Make certain that you synthesize studies that complement each other in one paragraph. Do NOT simply describe one study after another via a series of paragraphs or blocks of text.

Students should guide the reader through this section using subheadings in APA format. The "Review of Relevant Literature" section should be divided into 3 to 4 subsections. One of the sub-sections in the "Review of Relevant Literature" section should be the "Theoretical Framework" section.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Select and describe one or more **theory**/**theories** that will be incorporated into the applied project. Detail the components of the theory/theories selected and discuss why this/these theory/theories do the best job of explaining the subject under investigation. For instance, what do these theories take into consideration that other theories do not. For the above mentioned topic, students could theorize about the reasons young people engage in delinquency and the factors that may help them desist. Think about the role of friends, family, socio-economic factors, structural factors, psychological factors, and all the theories you learned from your other JS classes. Be sure to connect the research you discuss in this section to the components of the theory selected.

METHODOLOGY

Describe the methodology/design you plan to use? Are you using a content analysis, ethnography, semi-structured interviews, or program evaluation? Why is this the best methodology for your project? Be sure to detail your methodology step by step. Think about this section as a recipe; you need to be that specific. Be sure to obtain peer-reviewed journal articles to support your intended methodology.

Detail your overarching research questions. Research questions are not survey items that you will pass out to interviewees, but instead describe the overall objective of your study. For example, "What services do juveniles need to desist from delinquency?" or "How effective is X program at helping juvenile probationers abstain from delinquency?"

Discuss the process you will use in detail. Where will you obtain your data? How will you obtain your data? If you are interviewing employees of a program, what questions will you ask them (provide a copy your interview guide—this should be incorporated into the appendix of the applied project—final paper)? How will you invite people to participate in your study (provide a sample of your recruitment material: email, flyer, script for phone conversation)? Will you audio record your interview? Do you have a consent form (if yes, provide a sample)? Will you transcribe your interview yourself? If yes, how long did it take? Will you be doing a content analysis on newspaper articles? If yes, what newspaper? How will you access the archives? What range of time will you be looking at? Why was this range of time selected? What search terms will you use? How will you download the data? How will you analyze the data. *Details, details, details*.

How much data did you analyze. Speak about the number of interviews, observations, newspaper articles, laws, etc. that you will analyze for this project. What is your analysis strategy? How long will analysis take? How could you be sure that you will be accurately analyzing the data? What are the strengths and weaknesses of your methodology. Why did you select this methodology over others? Remember to *cite, cite, cite*.

Important Note: For the proposal submission, students should write the methodology section in future tense; you should describe what you plan to do. For the applied project—final paper, students need to change the methodology to past tense, what you did. You need to also describe unexpected occurrences during the research process and how you handled them.

REFERENCES

Cite all your references in APA format. Students should incorporate at least 25 scholarly sources for this submission.

This assignment is due on Canvas on 2/11 by 11:59 pm.

Findings and Analysis

RESULTS

The Results section represents the core findings of your study. It presents these findings in a logical sequence without bias or interpretation from the author, setting up the reader for later interpretation and evaluation in the Discussion section. A major purpose of the Results section is to break down the data into sentences that show its significance to the research question(s). This section answers the basic question "What did you find in your research?"

The Results section should include the findings of your study and ONLY the findings of your study. The findings include:
- A contextual analysis of this data explaining its meaning in sentence form
- Data that corresponds to the central research question(s)
- Secondary findings (secondary outcomes, subgroup analyses, etc.)
- Data presented in tables, charts, and graphs (this is optional and should only be done if it is necessary. APA format is required when including tables, charts, and graphs).

Findings should be presented in well-developed themes. A **minimum** of three and **maximum** of four themes should be presented in the Results section. One theme may be divided into sub-themes, though this is not necessary. To identify themes in your data, you should look for trends in the information you collected. For help

in developing themes, please read "Techniques to Identify Themes in Qualitative Data," review the information you learned in your methodology class, and search for peer-reviewed journal articles that provide instruction on this. You may also review results section of articles you are using for this project. Please review my article (Adams, Morris, Maguire, 2018 available in the "Files" folder) for an example of well-developed themes.

There is no right or wrong answers when it comes to your themes or results. The Results section can however be more or less informed. The amount of time spent analyzing the data, identifying themes, and determining where your data is consistent with or diverges from the information currently available in scholarly sources determines how well informed your Results section will be.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the Discussion is to interpret and describe the significance of your findings in light of what was already known about the topic being investigated and to explain any new understanding or insights that emerged as a result of your study of the topic. The discussion will always connect to the introduction by way of the research questions you posed and the literature you reviewed, but the discussion does not simply repeat or rearrange the first parts of your paper; the discussion clearly explains how your study advanced the reader's understanding of the topic from where you left them at the end of your Review of Relevant Literature. For detailed instructions about writing the Discussion section, please read "Organizing your social sciences research paper." Finally, students should present the policy implications of their research in this section.

CONCLUSION

Your applied project should end with a well-constructed conclusion. The conclusion is somewhat similar to the introduction. You restate your aims and objectives and summarize your main findings and evidence for the reader. You can usually do this in one paragraph with three main key points, and one strong take-home message. You should not present any new arguments in your conclusion. You can raise some open questions and set the scene for the next study. This is a good place to state your thoughts about possible future work. Try to explain to your readers what more could be done? What do you think are the next steps to take? What other questions warrant further investigation? Remember, the conclusion is the last part of the applied project that your reader will see, so spend some time writing the conclusion so that you can end on a high note.

REFERENCES

Cite all your references in APA format.

This assignment is due on Canvas on 2/25 at 11:59 pm.

Peer Review

Students will conduct a peer review of two of their classmates' applied projects. Students will be provided with specific questions to answer, and instructions for switching papers at a later date.

This assignment is due on Canvas on 3/1 at 11:59 pm.

Applied Project—Final Paper

For the final paper, students are required to combine all the components of the applied project and submit a polished version. Completed applied projects should be between 35 to 50 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman, with one-inch margins, and contain at least 40 scholarly sources. Papers should not exceed 70 pages.

All applied projects should contain the following sections:

<div align="center">

COVER PAGE

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE
</div>

SUBSECTIONS (Subtitles should be based on topic)

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

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METHODOLOGY

RESULTS

DISCUSSION

CONCLUSION

REFERENCES
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Deviations from the requirements listed in the syllabus are not suggested and will result in a student receiving No Credit for the Applied Project.

Note I: APA format must be used throughout the applied project (final paper). A References section, containing all the sources used in the applied project, must appear at the end of the paper.

Note II: **Common paper errors include (PAY ATTENTION to these)**:
1. APA format not followed (in paper and/or references section)
2. Mechanics
3. Underdeveloped Review of Relevant Literature section
4. Underdeveloped Results section
5. Underdeveloped Discussion section
6. Weak conclusion

This assignment is due on Canvas on 3/15 at 11:59 pm. Late assignments will NOT be accepted.

Applied Project Presentation

Students are required to present the research they conducted for their applied project to the class via PowerPoint. PowerPoint presentations should be recorded, last between 7 to 8 minutes, and be posted on Canvas.

Your presentation must have the following sections:

- Introduction. Any successful public speaker must demonstrate the ability to capture the attention of the audience. A quotation, statement of the problem (e.g., a statistic), photograph, question, story, etc., should accomplish this goal. Briefly describe the topic you focused on for your applied project and the importance of this topic.
- Review of Relevant Literature. Briefly describe literature that is vital to the topic you focused on. Speak about the theory you applied to your project. Be sure to speak about how components of your theory relates to the topic under investigation.
- Methodology. Detail the methodology implemented, any struggles encountered, and how you resolved these problems. Be sure to state your overarching research questions.
- Results. Answer your research questions using the data you gathered from your research. Describe the patterns that you saw across the data. Provide quotes, or specific examples from your data, to illustrate the emergent themes. Try to go beyond pure description and grapple with the "WHY." Why are your findings occurring?
- Discussion/Conclusion. Interpret and describe the significance of your findings in light of what was already known about the topic being investigated and to explain any new understanding or insights that emerged as a result of your study of the topic. Thoughtfully reflect on the value of your research and identify possible directions for future research.

Students are require to post their presentations on Canvas on 3/10 by 11:59 pm.

Students are required to comment on at least 3 presentations. In responding to the presentations, students should comment on the information presented in the (1) methodology, (2) results, and (3) discussion sections. Students could also comment on the policy implications presented.

Students' comments on at least 3 presentations are due on Canvas on 3/12 by 11:59 pm.

"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." Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are inexcusable under any circumstances and will be turned over to judicial affairs. Plagiarism includes, *but is not limited to* the following activities: Directly copying someone else's words and failing to put quotation marks around that work or failing to give the author proper credit; paraphrasing work by someone else and failing to give the original author credit; using an idea you have read or heard and failing to give the author proper credit. It is important that you include proper citations and give credit when relying on someone else's writing or ideas. Ignorance will *not* be accepted as an excuse, nor will 'I just forgot to cite it.' Being that you attend a major university you are responsible for the work you produce. If you have any doubts or questions about what constitutes plagiarism I will be happy to meet with you during office hours or I recommend you visit the University Writing Center.

Final Evaluation

The culminating activity for this class will be submission of the completed applied project (final paper) and the applied project presentation.

Grading Information

This is a credit/no-credit (CR/NC) course. In order to receive credit, students must complete all assignments/requirements associated to the applied project. If all requirements are not met, students will receive NC—unless they make prior arrangements with the professor to finish with an incomplete (I) and sign a "Contract of Incomplete." The professor may refuse to assign an incomplete (I).

Classroom Protocol

All written assignments must be submitted by the due date to the respective drop box on Canvas. If you are unable to complete course requirements because of extenuating circumstances, please email Dr. Adams before the due date for the assignment. Late assignments are not accepted.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 *(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)*, relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/" Make sure to review these university policies and resources with students.

JS 274 / Applied Project, Spring, 2019, Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/24	Thoroughly read syllabus and begin thinking about the topic for your applied project.
2	1/27	Introductory Discussion Post due on Canvas by 11:59 pm
2	2/1	Description of Project—Discussion Due on Canvas by 11:59 pm
4	2/11	Applied Project Proposal Due at 11:59 pm
6	2/25	Findings and Analysis Due at 11:59 pm
6	3/1	Peer Review Due at 11:59 pm
8	3/10	Applied Project Presentation due on Canvas by 11:59 pm
8	3/12	3 Posts on Classmates' Applied Project Presentations due on Canvas by 11:59 pm
8	3/15	Applied Project—Final Paper due on Canvas by 11:59 pm

*** If at any time during the class you would like to discuss your applied project please email me to set up a phone appointment.