

San José State University
Justice Studies
JS 121-80 (48889): Media and Justice
Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Gil Zamora
Office Location:	Online (Synchronous/Asynchronous)
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 (Tuesday and Thursday, 1500 hrs. – 1615 hours)
Classroom:	Online
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing, JS 100W. Restricted to JS majors and minors or with departmental consent

Course Description

This course is an interdisciplinary and comparative media examination of justice concepts and controversies, including forms of violence, human rights, undocumented persons, the state's role in promoting criminalization and social inequality, and the need for social justice and media reform. We will examine contemporary media examples of social problems which include, but not limited to, police misconduct and radicalization of police personnel. Students will engage in critical analysis of different types of media and develop critical thinking skills to enhance their ability to discern credible information. 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:

CLO1: Theorize how the media contributes to structural inequality by helping to create or maintain categories of social difference that impact people psychologically, physiologically, socially and culturally.

CLO2: Elaborate about race theories and media studies methodology in relation to justice issues.

CLO3: Explain the nature of social inequality and stratification particularly in regard to media stereotypes and social phobias toward people who are marginalized and disenfranchised by society.

CLO4: Build collaborative experiences with other students through class discussion, fishbowls, peer conversations, small group and large group discussions.

To practice reading comprehension and analysis of scholarly material, to identify the thesis statement and supporting points of that material, to incorporate these skills into class discussions.

CLO5: Improve the students writing skills with weekly written assignments.

Required Texts/Readings

*Centola, D. (2021). *Change: How to Make Big Things Happen*. London: John Murray Publishers

*Police Make 10 Million Arrests a Year, but That Doesn't Mean They're Solving Crimes, *The Intercept*, A. Speri, 2019.

*Claims and Denials of Bias and Their Implications for Policy, In E. Shafir, Ed., *The Behavioral Foundations of Public Policy* (pp. 195-216). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (PDF); E. Pronin & K. Schmidt.

Other Readings: **Elements of Style* (EOS).

* Supplied electronically via Canvas.

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 regularly scheduled class time while the final will be held during the final exam period. Each exam will be non-cumulative and comprised of multiple choice and short essay questions.

Paper

Changing the Perceptions of Law Enforcement (20%): Students will write a paper that focuses on developing law enforcement reforms to change the perception of local police agencies in their communities. Students will rely on the Seven Fundamental Strategies for *Change* (Chapter 13, D. Centola) to deliver a comprehensive plan to initiate change in reforming the law enforcement agencies to hold their officers accountable and alter the perspective of their constituents. Detailed assignment guidelines will be provided via Canvas.

Special Projects

Changing the criminal justice system from within (20%): Students will leverage web-based technologies or multi-media platforms to create their own special project. Students may utilize their research in writing their final paper to offer specific content for this project. These projects can include a short spoken-word video, slideshow with voice over, or musical lip-sync production. Special Projects *must be approved* by the instructor before starting the project 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.

Grading Information

A plus = 98.0 to 100.0

B plus = 85.0 to less than 89.0

C plus = 70.0 to less than 74.0

F = less than 60.0

A = 94.0 to less than 97.0

B = 80.0 to less than 84.0

C = 65.0 to less than 69.0

A minus = 90.0 to less than 93.0

B minus = 75.0 to less than 79.0

C minus = 60.0 to less than 64.0

- 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 121-80: Media and Justice 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 can email the instructor (through Canvas only) or leave a comment in the HELP section; if you do not receive a reply within 24 hours you should send an email via SJSU email address.

Week/Lesson	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Introductions/Course overview; Reliable and Credible sources

2	Expectations on papers submitted; introduction to cognitive bias; are our law enforcement personnel being radicalized?
3	Elements of positive discourse; delve into the particulars of articles and media stories

4	Scrutinizing your Sources; collaboration in expectations
5	Scrutinizing sources; discourse in presentations; making arguments for credibility
6	Scrutinizing sources; discourse in presentations; making arguments for credibility
7	MIDTERM Scrutinizing sources; discourse in presentations; making arguments for credibility
8	Radicalization of officers through union communications; Special Project and Poems; approval of concepts, scrutinizing sources; discourse in presentations; making arguments for credibility
9	Radicalization of officers through union communications; scrutinizing the truth and rewriting the facts

10	Radicalization of officers through union communications; scrutinizing the truth and rewriting the facts
11	The Rap on Trial, perspectives
12	Changing the Perceptions of Law Enforcement
13	Changing the Perceptions of Law Enforcement
14	Special Projects
15	Special Projects (DRAFT)
16	Reflections on the semester
Final Exam	TBD; Special Project is due.