

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 117 – 02, Qualitative Research Methods, Spring 2023

Course and Contact Information

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|-------------------------|--|
| Instructor: | Dennis Estrada, M.A. |
| Office Location: | MacQuarrie Hall 524 (Temporary) |
| Telephone: | 408 – 924 – 2931 (Office Number) |
| Email: | dennis.estrada@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | Tuesday: 2:30 – 3:30PM via Zoom https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/89997906736 Or by appointment – please email the professor to set this up. |
| Class Days/Time: | 4:30PM– 5:45PM Monday/Wednesday |
| Classroom: | CCB 101 |
| Prerequisites: | JS 10, 12, 25, or FS 11; JS 100W with a grade of "C" or better; JS 15 or Stat 95 or equivalent with a "C" or better; Upper Division Standing; Restricted to JS majors and minors. |

Course Description

Introduction to quantitative research methods used in Justice Studies. Includes relationship of theory to empirical evidence; logic underlying methods of inquiry; ethics in conducting empirical research; and methodological design, operationalization, and data analysis.

Note: Must achieve a grade of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Justice Studies Department 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 identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional, and civic lives more effectively. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

Canvas Course Page and E-mail

Course materials, assignments, and general announcements will be communicated via Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking your email and Canvas in regard to announcements, reminders, and any additional course materials. The majority of course materials will be posted in Adobe PDF or Word format; if you choose to download them, you will need Adobe Reader to view the documents. There is no cost to download Adobe Reader (<http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/students/index.html>). Some course materials may need to be accessed via the internet (i.e., web sites).

Course Learning Outcomes and Goals

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

CLO1: Thoroughly read and understand academic writing and demonstrate that understanding through course assignments.

CLO2: Synthesize academic readings into written work formatted in APA style.

CLO3: Discuss assignments and examples in a professional and collegial manner, asking insightful questions and contributing to the class conversation.

CLO4: Demonstrate a critical understanding of concepts covered in this course.

Required Texts/Readings

- Merriam & Tisdell (2015). *Qualitative Research: A Guide to Design and Implementation*, 4th Edition. Wiley & Sons. ISBN-10: 111900361X

Recommended Texts

- Chambliss & Schutt (2018). *Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation*, 6th Edition. SAGE Publications. ISBN-10: 150636411X

Other Readings

- There may be additional readings, which will be made available in .pdf or .doc format on CANVAS.

Library Liaison

Nyle Monday, (408) 808-2041

<http://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, completing assignments, participating in course activities, 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>.

In-Class Assignments

There will be in-class exercises designed to help students review and edit other students' papers. These exercises will provide students with the opportunity to reflect upon other's work, provide helpful feedback to one another, and engage in a collaborative activity to help strengthen knowledge of course material. There will be 5 such In-Class Assignments, worth 5 point each, totaling 25 points.

Homework Assignments (50 points)

There will be 4 homework assignments to help reinforce what has been covered in the readings and lectures. Specifically, homework assignments will provide supplementary information and assistance to your understanding of the American Psychological Association format and writing a Research Proposal. These homework assignments will be due online via CANVAS at 11:59PM. These assignments will be announced in advance and will be graded for accuracy. Partial credit may be awarded for answers that are close. Each one of these homework assignments are 10 - 15 points, depending on the nature of the assignment, with the cumulative point total equaling 50 points.

Quizzes (75 points)

To measure your understanding of research and research methods covered in this course more broadly, there will be 3 quizzes. Each quiz will consist of multiple-choice, True/False, Fill in the Blank, and short response questions. Quizzes will *not* be cumulative and will only focus on the current section(s) being covered. They will each be worth approximately 25 points, with the cumulative point total equaling 75 points.

Research Paper Checkpoints (100 points total)

To help students prepare for and develop their Final Research Paper, there will be 5 Research Paper Checkpoint Assignments. These assignments will be printed out and submitted in person. Each one of these assignments are worth 20 points, with the cumulative point total equaling 100 points:

RPC#1 – Introduction (Topic Selection) (20 points)

RPC#2 – Literature Review Draft (20 points)

RPC#3 – Proposed Methodology Draft (20 points)

RPC#4 – Proposed Data Analysis (20 points)

RPC#5 – Research Paper Draft (20 points)

Research Paper Checkpoint #1 – Introduction (Topic Selection) (20 points)

This assignment will require you to identify a topic or construct that you will center your research project around. This assignment will require you to (1) operationalize (i.e., define) your selected topic/construct and (2) provide a rationale for why you want to examine your topic.

Research Paper Checkpoint #2 – Literature Review Draft (20 points)

This assignment will provide academic literature and research that will justify and explain your proposed research study. This assignment will require the (1) introduction of your research topic, (2) the operationalized construct(s), (3) a clear statement of your research topic, (4) and the theoretical rationale for conducting your research.

Research Paper Checkpoint #3 – Proposed Research Study Draft (20 points)

This assignment will require you to outline your (1) your selected research design; (2) your proposed study sample, (3) the way in which participants will be recruited, and (4) the procedures that would need to be followed in order to conduct this study.

Research Paper Checkpoint #4 – Proposed Data Analysis Draft (20 points)

This assignment will outline a data analysis plan that will include two hypothesis and your expected data analysis procedure.

Research Paper Checkpoint #5 – Research Paper Draft (20 points)

This assignment will be the culmination of all the previous research paper checkpoints. There will be 4 required sections: Introduction, Literature Review, Methods, and Data Analysis Plan.

Final Research Proposal (100 points)

This final paper will be the culmination of all the course material students have learned over the whole course. It will be due at the end of the course and will be worth 100 Points.

Grading Policy and Late Submissions

The course grade is based on the final score out of 350 possible points. The course is writing intensive, meaning that assignments will be primarily graded on content and formatting. In order to demonstrate comprehension of the course material, you must be able to write in a clear and effective manner. Remember to carefully proofread your assignments before submitting. Finally, be mindful of the deadlines for assignments. Homework and Research Paper Checkpoints may be turned in late (without excuse), with one point removed per day, for up to one week from the due date. After one week, the late assignments will not be accepted. Late In-Class Assignments will not be accepted, as these will be handed out and collected during the class session. Quizzes that are missed cannot be made up without documented evidence of extenuating circumstances. Late Final Research Papers will not be accepted without documented extenuating circumstances. **Do keep in mind, any assignment that is submitted after the deadline without prior permission may result in a grade of zero for the assignment. If you believe you will not be able to meet the deadline for any assignment in the course for any reason, please reach out to me ASAP so we can work something out!**

A grade of “C” (i.e., at least 73%) is required to pass this course.

The grading scale is:

| Grade | Points | Percentage |
|-------|---------------|--------------|
| A+ | 335 - 350 | 96 – 100% |
| A | 324 - 334 | 93 – 95% |
| A - | 314 - 323 | 90 – 92% |
| B + | 300 - 313 | 86 – 89% |
| B | 289 - 299 | 83 – 85% |
| B - | 279 - 288 | 80 – 82% |
| C + | 265 - 278 | 76 – 79% |
| C | 254 - 264 | 73 – 75% |
| C - | 245 - 253 | 70 – 72% |
| D + | 230 - 244 | 66 – 69% |
| D | 220 - 229 | 63 – 65% |
| D - | 209 - 219 | 60 – 62% |
| F | 208 and below | 59 and below |

Grades are based on:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Homework | 50 points |
| In-Class Assignments | 25 points |
| Quizzes | 75 points |
| Research Checkpoints | 100 points |
| Final Research Paper | 100 points |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>350 points</u> |

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

Attendance – It is highly recommended that you attend class. The nature of this class is one that builds upon the previous meeting, meaning that every lecture builds upon the next. Missing one or more days of class will affect your recollection of and exposure to the course material, and ultimately affect your grade.

Instructor’s Note on Communication

As you know, a university degree is a significant undertaking and requires a high level of commitment, time management, organization, and initiative. Thus, it is in your best interest to stay on top of the readings and keep in touch with the instructor. The best way to keep in touch is in-person during office hours, or at another time by appointment. If you cannot meet with me in person, I prefer that you email me. Emails will be mostly only responded to during business hours (Monday through Friday). **When you send me an email please include “JS 117” , your full name in the subject line, and the issue at hand (e.g., Possible Extension?).** Emails that do not follow this protocol may be discarded or overlooked without a response.

Classroom Etiquette

Please try to avoid being late. It is understood that many students have numerous other commitments, but students must also understand that they have enrolled in school aware of the demands of those commitments. Please plan to arrive on time for class to begin promptly at the designated time. Please silence all cell phones, laptops, and any other electronic device. The use of anything that beeps or consistently vibrates during class is disruptive and then the instructor will need to ask that it be turned off, and then no one is happy. Please don't do rude things like texting or browsing the internet during class. That can be distracting to students behind you and can lead you (and others!) to miss out on important information. Students are responsible for all missed notes, materials, and announcements due to absence (i.e., do not email the instructor asking about what you missed). Students are encouraged to exchange contact information with someone in class just in case you miss class. Finally, it is expected that you treat your fellow classmates with respect. The classroom is one in which we are all coming together to learn new information, which may naturally be challenging or frustrating at times. As such, try to be kind and respectful at all times, and we will get through this!

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

“Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

- Audio and video recording of lectures is not allowed without written permission. In such cases, the class meetings to be recorded must be enumerated.
- Due to the active participation of students that may be on the recording, recording of the lecture must be precise to omit their participation, or permission of those students should be obtained as well.
- As a side-note, due to in-class assignments and the lecture slides being available on CANVAS, recording lectures will not likely be very helpful.

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 \[pdf\]](#) requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Visit the [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](#) website for more information.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](#) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

University Policy [S14-7](#) states that San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded classwork or activities for students observing religious holidays that require absence from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the absence. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed.

Adding and Dropping Classes

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](#). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes ([Late Drop Information](#)). Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](#).

Attendance and Participation.

Attendance is the responsibility of the student. However, attendance itself may not be used as a criterion for grading. Students are expected to attend all meetings for their courses, as they are responsible for all material covered, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. Participation may be used as a criterion for grading when the parameters and their evaluation are clearly defined in the course syllabus and the percentage of the overall grade is stated. The full policy language can be found at University Policy [F15-3 \[pdf\]](#).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

[Presidential Directive 97-03 \[pdf\]](#) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) to establish a record of their disability. AEC will contact the instructor with further details, if needed.

If special arrangements are needed in cases of emergency or if the building must be evacuated, please make arrangements with the instructor.

Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center offers a variety of free resources to help students become better writers. The center offers writing resources, workshops, and one-on-one and small group tutoring sessions. Services support writing for students in all disciplines and at all levels. The SJSU Writing Center has two in-person locations, Clark Hall, Suite 126 and MLK Library, 2nd floor. Workshops and tutoring are also available through online platforms. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at sjsu.edu/writingcenter.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy [S12-7 \[pdf\]](#) requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course. The following criteria define expectations relating to recording a course.

- Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent. This prohibition includes sharing information with third parties and on websites.
- You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.
- Permission from the instructor, whether in writing or orally, may extend to either a single class or the entire semester.
- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests must be obtained as well.

JS 117, Research Methods in Justice Studies, Spring 2023, Course Schedule

Course Schedule (*subject to change with fair notice*)

| <u>Week</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Topics/Quizzes</u> | <u>Readings/Assignments Due</u> Read Qualitative Research Guide HW Due RPC Assignment Due |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Jan. 25 th | Course Introduction | |
| 2 | Jan. 30 th | Social Science Research Broadly | |
| | Feb. 1 st | Ethics in Social Science | |
| 3 | Feb. 6 th | What <i>is</i> Qualitative Research? | Read Ch. 1 |
| | Feb. 8 th | The Use of Theory | HW 1 Due by 11:59PM |
| 4 | Feb. 13 th | Research Paradigms | |
| | Feb. 15 th | Topic Selection and Lit. Searches | |
| 5 | Feb. 20 th | <u>Quiz 1 Review</u> | |
| | Feb. 22 nd | <u>Quiz 1</u> | |
| 6 | Feb. 27 th | The Research Cycle | |
| | Mar. 1 st | Intro to Literature Reviews | DUE: RPC1 – Introduction Draft |
| 7 | Mar. 6 th | Qualitative Research 1 | Read Ch. 2 |
| | Mar. 8 th | Qualitative Research 2 | HW 2 Due by 11:59PM |
| 8 | Mar. 13 th | Qualitative Research 3 | Read Ch. 3 |
| | Mar. 15 th | Populations and Sampling | |
| 9 | Mar. 20 th | <u>Quiz 2 Review</u> | |
| | Mar. 22 nd | <u>Quiz 2</u> | |
| 10 | Mar. 27 th | (SPRING BREAK) | |
| | Mar. 29 th | (SPRING BREAK) | HW 3 Due by 11:59PM. |
| 11 | Apr. 3 rd | Writing Methods | DUE: RPC2 – Lit Review Draft |
| | Apr. 5 th | Qualitative Data Collection 1 | Read Ch. 5 |
| 12 | Apr. 10 th | Qualitative Data Collection 2 | Read Ch. 6 |
| | Apr. 12 th | Qualitative Data Collection 3 | Read Ch. 7 |
| 13 | Apr. 17 th | Writing Data Analysis | DUE: RPC3 – Methods Draft |
| | Apr. 19 th | Qualitative Data Analysis | Read Ch. 8 |
| 14 | Apr. 24 th | Validity and Reliability | Read Ch. 9 |
| | Apr. 26 th | <u>Quiz 3 Review</u> | |
| 15 | May 1 st | <u>Quiz 3</u> | |

| <u>Week</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Topics/Quizzes</u> | <u>Readings/Assignments Due</u> Read Qualitative Research Guide HW Due RPC Assignment Due |
|-------------|----------------------|---|--|
| | May 3 rd | APA Format/Structuring Your Final Paper | Read Ch. 10 DUE: RPC4 – Proposed Data Analysis Draft |
| 16 | May 8 th | <i>Individual Consultations</i> | |
| | May 10 th | <i>Individual Consultations and Peer Review</i> | DUE: RPC5 – Research Paper Draft |
| 17 | May 15 th | <i>Individual Consultations</i> | HW 4 Due by 11:59PM |
| Finals Week | May 22 nd | NO CLASS FINAL PAPER DUE | Final Paper Due on CANVAS by 5:00PM. |