

San Jose State University
Justice Studies
JS12 – Introduction to Legal Studies, Fall 2021

Instructor Info:

Andrew Perera- Instructor, Andrew.Perera@SJSU.edu

Office Hours:

Are available by appointment, please email the course instructor to make an appointment.
Regular office hours are available every Thursday from 3:00 to 4:00 pm (PST).

ONLINE Class Days / Time: **Asynchronous**

Course Description:

The course presents historical and modern perspectives of the theories and structures of law, and provides an overview of the economic and sociological challenges to law making. This course also examines the nexus between law, social change, and dispute resolution. 3 Units

This section is designed to progress through Learning Modules that cover:

1. The Role of the Legal System in Society
2. What is “Law”: How it is Created and Why?
3. Structures and Systems of the Law: Law Enforcement, Attorneys, Courts, Juries, and the Penal System
4. Solution-Based Thinking: Advocacy and Social Change in the Law

Course Goals & Learning Objectives:

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

	Course Learning Outcomes
1.	Demonstrate a general understanding of the fundamental influences society has on the law.
2.	Demonstrate knowledge of legislative, administrative and judicial law making, as well as a general understanding of the law making processes.
3.	Develop an understanding of methods for analyzing the legal and social controls and dispute resolution.
4.	Understand the various aspects of the legal profession and methods for legal research.
5.	Students should read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

San Jose State University
Justice Studies
JS12 – Introduction to Legal Studies, Fall 2021

Assignment/Activities	Percent of Grade
Discussion Board	120 Points
Paper Assignment	40 Points
Midterm Paper	100 Points
Final Paper	140 Points
Total Points =	400 Points

Course Format:

This course consists of synchronous meetings via Zoom. But supplemental materials will be provided online in the course's Canvas page. The course topics are divided into "module" sections in Canvas. All handouts, supplemental materials, and communications must be made in Canvas.

- **Course Communications**

All announcements, notices, updates, and contacts from me will be sent through Canvas or SJSU email.

Post all general questions regarding the course, policies, and schedule on the course's Q&A Discussion Board on Canvas. If you must send me an email directly, that too must be sent using Canvas's email function.

- **Course Materials**

Updates and supplementary course materials -such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, readings, etc. – are posted frequently for the course. The document will either be uploaded to Canvas or in a hyperlink accessible through Canvas. The module will list the reading that corresponds to the next class lesson. The course builds on itself. But the class session will not include a detailed review of the reading or assignments. If they are covered in class, they are mentioned for discussion, clarification, and class analysis. So you can meaningfully benefit from the class exercises, have all the reading and assignments completed before class.

- **You must:**

(1) Ensure you have the technical capability.

You need a computer and reliable internet connectivity to run Canvas and its programs.

Assignments, and/or exams require that the submission be in word-processing software (.doc or .docx), and software and hardware requirements that meet Canvas's platform needs.

You must also have the related software and hardware requirements to access and download readings from the SJSU's library, and related websites, including but not limited to Adobe Acrobat Reader or equivalent. Some course lessons and videos might require that you have access to Zoom, a media player that plays mp4 files, YouTube, and speakers.

San Jose State University
Justice Studies
JS12 – Introduction to Legal Studies, Fall 2021

Since the meetings occur online, you will also need access to reliable internet, an updated Zoom account, and a working video camera and microphone.

- (2) Regularly check Canvas and the email address associated with your SJSU account.

You must make sure Canvas has your contact information and that it is set to send you immediate notifications of updates.

- (3) Check Canvas regularly for additions and/or changes to the schedule or assignment instructions.

- (4) Submit assignments and briefs through Canvas. An assignment or brief will not be considered “submitted” until it is uploaded onto Canvas.

If a Canvas submission is required, it will not be considered “submitted” until it is uploaded into Canvas. The submission must be uploaded completely by the due date and time. Technical difficulties are your responsibility (e.g. personal computer glitches, poor internet connection, software compatibility, etc.). You must have a computer and reliable internet connectivity to run Canvas and its programs.

If a Canvas outage occurs, you must do each of:

- 1) Take a screenshot 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 explaining the issue.

I must receive notice of the Canvas outage before the due date and time. This course’s Canvas page will have information and links to Canvas guides and tutorials.

- (5) Before class, post specific questions and/or thoughts on the Canvas’s Q&A Board. I can then arrange for the class time to sufficiently address the issue.

- (6) Make sure you are comfortable with its functions. Instructions are provided on this course’s Canvas page.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Stone, D. A. (2012). Policy paradox: The art of political decision-making. W.W. Norton & Co.

You can use print or electronic copies of the textbook. If you rent the textbook, make sure to rent it long enough to use for the Final Paper due on 12/14.

EMAIL REQUIREMENTS:

1. When contacting an instructor via email, ensure that you include your name and course number in the subject line and use your university email rather than a personal email account.
2. Please keep email inquiries relatively short in nature. If more time is needed, please request time to chat (via Zoom or phone).
3. You are responsible for regularly checking your email and Canvas regarding announcements, reminders, and updates.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Discussion Boards
- Thoughtful & Respectful Class Discussion

San Jose State University
Justice Studies
JS12 – Introduction to Legal Studies, Fall 2021

- Assignment 1 Paper
- Midterm Paper
- Final Paper

All assignments will be done in 11pt font, Times New Roman, Georgia, or Arial, APA 7 format.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Late / missed work, or exams: The syllabus (following) and the website list the dates that work is due. All work is expected to be completed on time so that lectures are more meaningful. Class sessions can be based on common knowledge (and consequently be more interesting and informed). No one benefits from the additional time that others did not have. While assignments are expected to be turned in by the due dates posted on the schedule, it is understood that people face unusual challenges, beyond the ordinary ones. So, if you have good cause for missing the assigned due date (e.g., illness, serious family emergency), please let the instructor know as soon as possible if you are unable to turn an assignment in on time because of an emergency.

WORKLOAD & CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENTS:

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 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course-related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING INFORMATION:

Your course grade will be based on the following:

Discussion Board:

To Facilitate interaction, students are expected to review the online postings on a regular basis even after they have posted their own minimum required postings. Please treat your classmates and the instructors with the utmost respect. Inappropriate posts will be removed immediately. The instructor reserves the right to penalize students for repeated violations of the participation policy within a course. In the discussion board and in class, high-quality contributions advance the class discussions and do not simply summarize the material that was assigned. Quality contributions take into account not only the instructor's questions but also your classmates' contributions. Please be mindful that the Discussion Board is a space for academic exchanges. As a result, you are accountable for using proper and exacting punctuation, spelling, and grammar. In addition, you must reference all outside sources in the correct citation format. It is crucial that all participants maintain a high regard for proper decorum in the Discussion Board.

These Discussions are intended to be collaborative and a place for you to share your thoughts. While I expect the standards listed in the paragraph above, this is a DISCUSSION, not an essay. It's ok to share personal experiences to support your post; it is ok not to be completely sure of your answer; it is ok to discuss what you found interesting about the prompt subject, so long as you answer the prompt fully as well.

- Initial posts must have a minimum of 150 words, and a maximum of 500 words. You can receive a maximum of 8pts for the initial post.
- Response posts must have a minimum of 75 words, maximum 100. Each response to a classmate's post earns you 1 point for a maximum of 2pts.

San Jose State University
Justice Studies
JS12 – Introduction to Legal Studies, Fall 2021

- There will be 12 Discussion Boards @ 10pts each.

Paper assignment:

3-Page paper choosing two goals and which you personally value more.

Midterm Paper:

The midterm will consist of an academic paper on a topic selected from the list available on Canvas.

Final Paper:

The Final will consist of an academic paper on a topic described under the Assignments tab.

Extra Credit:

As opportunity allows, extra credit opportunities may arise. If so, they will be equitably accessible to all students.

GRADE SCALE:

	A = 93% to 100%	A- = 90% to 92%
B+ = 87% to 89%	B = 83% to 86%	B- = 80% to 82%
C+ = 77% to 79%	C = 73% to 76%	C- = 70% to 72%
D+ = 67% to 69%	D = 63% to 66%	D- = 60% to 62%
F is 59% and below		

INCOMPLETES:

An incomplete indicates that a portion of the required material has not been completed within the assignment due date. Earning credit is a possibility for unforeseen and justifiable reasons. It is the responsibility of the student to bring relevant information regarding the circumstances of the incomplete portion of class materials to the instructor along with the remaining course requirements.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- Read all of the assigned materials
- Come to class every session
- Prepare for your Semester Final Paper
- Lesson Readings should be completed before class, always come prepared to engage in discussions on the readings
- Attend open office hours.

COURSE ETIQUETTE & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

It is your responsibility as a student in this course to be available to discussions surrounding sensitive topics while listening, understanding, and respecting your classmates. There may be moments when the instructor will need to address language and tone. Be advised that those corrections are not an accusation of character, as we all make mistakes in communication from time to time. Be gracious in accepting criticism. It is helpful to expect such corrections at some

San Jose State University
Justice Studies
JS12 – Introduction to Legal Studies, Fall 2021

point in learning. If you do this, then you will be much more capable of navigating the course material.

I expect the most honorable behavior from you in all aspects of your conduct and communication. When contacting your instructors, please use precise and clear language. There may be times during the course where I will be receiving a lot of questions and comments, using concise language will make it easier for me to efficiently answer your questions in a timely manner.

COURSE CALENDAR:

Important Dates:

Week	Date	Assignment/Activity/Assigned Text & Readings
1	Aug 22	Introduction week
2	Aug 29	The law as a moral code
3	Sept 5	The purpose of law
4	Sept 12	Effects of law on society: Subjective opinion on law. Read Chpt 1 of Stone
5	Sept 19	Equity & Efficiency Read Chpt 2, 3
6	Sept 26	Liberty & Security Read Chpt 5, 6
7	Oct 3	Welfare Read Chpt 4
8	Oct 10	First paper assignment due Friday
9	Oct 17	Problems
10	Oct 24	Solutions
11	Oct 31	Midterm Paper due Friday
12	Nov 7	The US Constitution
13	Nov 14	Solution-Based Thinking: Advocacy and Social Change in the Law
14	Nov 21	Fall Holiday Week
15	Nov 28	Conclusions and the Future
16	Dec 5	Dec 6 last day of instruction
17	Dec 12	Final Paper due Dec 14

San Jose State University
Justice Studies
JS12 – Introduction to Legal Studies, Fall 2021

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Per [University Policy S16-9](#) [pdf]

Academic Integrity

Please review the University's policy at [Academic Integrity Policy F15-7](#) [pdf]

Accessibility

Please review the University's policy at [Presidential Directive 97-03](#) [pdf]

Recording Classes

Please review the University's policy at [University Policy S12-7](#) [pdf]

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Student Technology Resources:

Computer labs and other resources for student use are available in:

- [Associated Students Print & Technology Center](#) at as.sjsu.edu/asptc/index.jsp on the Student Union (East Wing 2nd floor Suite 2600)
- [The Spartan Floor](#) at the MLK Library at library.sjsu.edu/services/services (Fourth floor)
- [Student Computing Services](#) at library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services-center
- [Computers at the Martin Luther King Library](#) for the public at large at www.sjpl.org/wireless
- Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from [Collaboration & Academic Technology Services](#) located in IRC Building. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens, and monitors.

For a copy of the texts, videos, and any other non-electronic materials.

Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center offers a variety of free resources to help students become better writers. Visit the Writing Center website at sjsu.edu/writingcenter.