

**San José State University**  
**JS 114, Research Methods in Justice Studies, Section 61, Summer, 2023**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Michael Vallergera, M.A.
<b>Office Location:</b>	<a href="https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/8936165961">https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/8936165961</a>
<b>Telephone:</b>	N/A
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:michael.vallergera@sjsu.edu">michael.vallergera@sjsu.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Online, Monday 4-5PM, Friday 3-4PM By Appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Online, Asynchronous
<b>Classroom:</b>	
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	<b>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.</b>

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking the Canvas system to learn of any updates.

**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 more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. 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.

**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.*

## **Learning Outcomes and Course Goals**

Course Learning Outcomes:

**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.

## **Texts/Readings**

### **Textbook**

- Chambliss & Schutt (2018). *Making Sense of the Social World: Methods of Investigation*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. SAGE Publications. ISBN-10: 1483380612

### **Required Software**

SPSS will be required for portions of this course. A student license is available for free online through the SJSU IT department. I will show you how to do this in the course.

Alternatively, students may borrow a computer with SPSS from the Student Computing Services at the Library for a week at a time.

### **Library Liaison**

Silke Higgins, [silke.higgins@sjsu.edu](mailto:silke.higgins@sjsu.edu), (408) 808-2118 <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including 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](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

### ***Homework Assignments***

There will be 6 Homework Assignments to help reinforce what has been covered in readings and lectures. These will be due via CANVAS before class. These will be a combination of discussion assignments and assignment submission assignments. These are worth 4 points each.

### ***Quizzes***

To measure your understanding of research and research methods covered in this course more broadly, there will be three quizzes. They will be multiple-choice and short-answer. They will each be worth 9 points, totaling 27 points.

### ***Research Paper Checkpoints***

To help students develop their Final Research Paper, there will be four Research Paper Checkpoint Assignments:

RPC1 – Topic Development Paper

RPC2 – Literature Review Draft

RPC3 – Analyses and Results

RPC4 – Research Paper Draft

Each of these assignments are worth 6 points, totaling to 24 points. Late work will be accepted for a maximum of half credit within a week of the due date – then the assignment will be graded as per usual. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact me ASAP.

### ***Final Research Paper***

This paper will be the culmination of many things students have learned over the whole course. It will include the following sections: introduction, literature review, sample, methodology, data analyses, results, and conclusions. It will be an original research paper, which will involve data collection (most likely through a class survey). It will be due at the end of the course and will be worth 25 Points.

### **Grading Policy**

The course grade is based on the final score out of 100 possible points. Theoretically, it is possible for everyone to earn an A. **Missing any assignment may result in a grade of zero for the item.** The grading scale is:

97 – 100 A+  
92 – 96 A  
89 – 91 A-  
87 – 88 B+  
82 – 86 B  
79 – 81 B-  
77 – 78 C+  
72 – 76 C  
69 – 71 C-  
67 – 68 D+  
62 – 66 D  
59 – 61 D-  
58 and below F

Grades are based on:

Homework	24 points
Quizzes	27 points
Research Checkpoints	24 points
<u>Final Research Paper</u>	<u>25 points</u>
Total	100 points

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**

#### ***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 put “JS 114 Section 1” and your full name in the subject line.** Emails without this will most likely be discarded without response.

### ***Classroom Etiquette***

Please try to avoid being late. It is understood that many have numerous other commitments, but students must also understand that they have enrolled in school aware of the demands of those commitments. Please make arrangements in order to arrive in 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. 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.

### **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 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, 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 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/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The Late Drop 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 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>, 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 S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.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. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

### **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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD\\_1997-03.pdf](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](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

### **Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays**

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent 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 date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

### **SJSU Peer Connections**

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals. In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC). Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

## **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

## **SJSU Counseling Services**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

# JS 114, Research Methods in Justice Studies, Winter 2023, Course Schedule

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

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings/Assignments Due</u> MSSW= <i>Making Sense of the Social World</i> OR=Other Readings <b>Assignments Due at end of week unless specified</b>
1 (Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course introduction</li> <li>• Social Science Research Broadly</li> <li>• The Research Process</li> <li>• Ethics in Social Science</li> <li>• Topic Selection and Literature Searching</li> </ul>	Read Syllabus MSSW: Chapter 1-3 <b>Quiz 1</b> <b>HW1 &amp; 2</b> <b>RPC1 – Topic Development</b>
2 (Jan 9 <sup>th</sup> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Measurement</li> <li>• Populations and Sampling</li> <li>• Survey Methodology</li> <li>• Elements of a Lit Review</li> <li>• Literature Searches</li> <li>• APA Style</li> <li>• Finding a Dataset</li> </ul>	MSSW: Chapter 4-7 <b>Quiz 2</b> <b>HW 3, 4 &amp; 5</b> <b>RPC2 –Lit Review Draft</b>
3 (Jan 16 <sup>th</sup> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Analysis Refresher</li> <li>• Evaluation Research</li> <li>• Mixed Methods Research</li> <li>• Proposing and Reporting Research;</li> </ul>	MSSW: Chapter 8, 12, &13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz 3</b></li> <li>• <b>HW 6 Due 1/18 at midnight</b></li> <li>• <b>RPC3 – Analyses and Results Due 1/18 at midnight</b></li> <li>• <b>RPC4 – Research Paper Draft Due 1/19 at midnight</b></li> </ul>
Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>		<b>Final Paper Due Midnight</b>