

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS185-02 Special Topics: Forensic Social Sciences, Fall 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Stephen J. Morewitz, Ph.D.
Office Location:	TBA
Telephone:	TBA (email preferred)
Email:	stephen.morewitz@sjsu.edu (Due to security requirements, you must only use the SJSU email system to receive a response)
Office Hours:	TH., 1:45-2:45 pm
Class Days/Time:	TTH., 3:00-4:15 pm
Classroom:	Sweeney Hall 313

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the email system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Syllabus Course Name: JS-185-02: Special Topics: Forensic Social Sciences

Program Goal: This essential course is a clear and comprehensive introduction to the complex issues surrounding the principles, theories, and methods of the social sciences and their use in civil, criminal, and military law and policy making.

Subjects examined in this exciting and fast-paced course include: forensic counseling and therapy, government testimony, social science evidence in suicide litigation, social science data in malpractice lawsuits, the role of gang experts, forensic neuropsychological evaluations, child custody evaluations, forensic anthropology, forensic archaeology, economic damages evaluation, jury selection, mock trials, and trial observations. The student is challenged to come to grips with the diverse role of the interdisciplinary social

sciences in the justice system and to be prepared to serve as forensic social sciences policy makers, justice system analysts/researchers, expert witnesses, and consultants.

Required Text:

None

Other Readings

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas.

Teaching Method: Assignments will be completed and submitted by the due date. Class time will be devoted to discussing content, presenting enrichment materials, answering student questions, working on in-class exercises, in-class quizzes, and additional learning activities.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. *CLO 1 Critically evaluate the definition of forensic social sciences*
2. *CLO 2 Identify concepts, theories, and methods related to the use of forensic social sciences in civil, criminal, and military law*
3. *CLO 3 Identify concepts, theories, and methods associated with the use of government testimony related to the forensic social sciences and policy making*
4. *CLO 4 Critically evaluate the concepts and theories about the role of the social sciences in investigating justice system outcomes*
5. *CLO 5 Identify the impact of the media on immigration courts*
6. *CLO 6 Describe the role of social sciences organizations in litigation and policy making*
7. *CLO 7 Identify the role of social scientists as litigation consultants*
8. *CLO 8 Critically evaluate cultural aspects of forensic social sciences litigation in different countries*

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>.
- Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

1. **Midterm (Take-Home Short Essay) (25% of total grade)**
2. **Critique Paper (25% of total grade):**
 - a. *Evaluate important claims made in a peer-review article about the use of the social sciences in the courts or policy-making settings*
 - b. *Analyze what the author has really demonstrated*
 - c. *Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments made*
 - d. *Discuss research questions raised by the article*
 - e. *Analyze potential policy consequences of the article*
 - f. *Write three typed pages, double-space, title page, and list of at least five peer-review references using only the APA format*
3. **Quiz (Short-Essay/Answer and Multiple-Choice and True/False Items) (25% of total grade)**
4. **Final Exam (Take Home or Multiple-choice and True/False Test Items) (25% of total grade)**
5. **In-Class Assignments**
Students will work solo and in teams to complete other in-class assignments such completing in-class quizzes, participating in debates, preparing key terms, and writing essay questions.

Grading Policy

According to the Departmental policy, all recorded grades are FINAL. The faculty member will not change any grade after it is recorded unless the faculty member has made an error in calculation. Students will not be permitted to re-submit assignments for a better grade.

Grading Scale

		92.1%-100% = A	
Midterm	25%	90 %-92% =A-	
Critique	25%	88%-89.9%=B+	
Quiz	25%	82.1%-87.9%= B	70%-72% = C-
Final Exam	25%	80%-82%= B-	68%-69.9% = D+
		78%-79.9% = C+	62.1%-67.9% = D
In-Class Assignments		72.1%-77.9%=C	60%-62% = D-

(See discussion of the in-class assignments)

STUDENT CONCERNS/COMPLAINTS ABOUT GRADES

Students with concerns and/or complaints relating to grades must first communicate with the professor and allow the professor to settle the matter fairly

with the student directly using office hours or some other appropriate means of discussion and review. All University policies and procedures regarding grades are followed in this course to guarantee fairness and due process. Please refer to the University Catalog for more information on the University's grading policy.

Grading Criteria for In-Class Assignments

*In terms of participation, students must complete 75% of all in-class assignments by the end of the last class session of the semester to receive full credit. Otherwise, students will lose 10 points from their final grade. Students who complete 100% of the assignments and participate in class may **get one or more points extra credit** added to their final grade depending on the final grade distribution. However, if the students do very well, no extra credit may be possible.*

Grading Criteria for Writing Assignments

Students will receive the following written break-down and explanation of points for their grade:

Relevance to social sciences in civil, criminal, and military law and policy making (5 points)

Adequacy of the analysis of peer-review journal articles and books (20 points)

Adequacy of critically analyzing major theories and/or findings (20 points)

Creativity (5 points)

Critical Thinking Skills/Clarity/Logic/Grammar/Five Peer-Review References/APA Report Format (50 points)

1. Passing This Course: Passing this course requires consistent good effort to turn in all materials, use correct grammar, and know the conventions of writing in the social sciences. Poor attendance, sloppy papers written in one night (I know this is possible for some of you), or consistently turning materials in late, usually result in lower overall points, and the possibility of not passing.

2. Late Assignment Penalty: All late major assignments will lose **10** points for each class meeting that the assignment is late. Your major assignments must also be submitted electronically on the same day of the hard-copy submission date. I will allow assignments to be turned within one week in-class, and there will still be a late paper penalty. Assignments must be turned in during class (**hard copy**) and not just emailed to the instructor. Papers CANNOT be turned into the department office.

Classroom Protocol

Participation and Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory and attendance may be taken twice: at the beginning of class and at another time during class. Do not leave class early. If you miss class, you are responsible for contacting classmates to make up the work. In addition, you must review the Canvas postings to submit your in-class assignments for the day that you missed. Please do not email the instructor to ask about missed work.

Do not use any electronic devices in class unless you are using them for preparing assignments in class. Do not carry on conversations with classmates unless they are related to class discussions and specific assignments.

*Students must complete 75% of all in-class assignments by the end of the last class session of the semester to receive full credit. Otherwise, students will lose 10 points from their final grade. Students who complete 100% of the assignments and participate in class **MAY get one or more points extra credit** added to their final grade depending on the final grade distribution. However, if students do well, no extra credit will be possible.*

Being on Time: Attendance and being on time is critical on the days that we have in-class assignments. If you do not have your assignment, then you can still do the assignment. While attendance cannot be graded, expect that absences and/or late arrivals could affect your grade should you miss (parts of) in-class exercises or assignments. If you miss announcements, lecture material, hand-outs, you need to be sure to pick them up and have someone else to get them for you.

Contacting Your Professor: I receive A LOT of email, so be sure to put in your SUBJECT line: **JS 185-02**. That way I know why you are contacting me. Please sign your full name at the end of your email so that I know who you are! Don't expect me to email you a copy of anything if I can post it on Canvas, it will be there. I try to respond to email within 24-48 hours only between Mondays and Fridays.

Hand-outs, Readings, and Other Learning Materials: Purchase the books!! These books are useful for your entire career at SJSU. I recommend bringing the books and the Powerpoint lecture outlines to class, as I frequently explain and lecture from the material in the book. I post my hand-outs on Canvas.

Professor's Revisions to the Syllabus: I reserve the right to adjust assignments, material, and time schedule to fit the needs of the class. I will not however, add additional material to what is already stated in the syllabus. Students will be notified of all changes in the syllabus.

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.”
 - It is suggested that the syllabus include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “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 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.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. 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.

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 10th 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. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)



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](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

JS 185-02 Fall 2019 Semester Course Schedule

List the agenda for the semester. Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Course Schedule

Week of	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8.22	<p>Standards for Forensic Social Scientists as Expert Witnesses: <i>Daubert</i> Standard, https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/daubert_standard; <i>Frye</i> Standard, https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/Frye_standard Evolving Practice Parameters of Forensic Criminology, https://www.experts.com/Articles/Evolving-Practice-Parameters-Forensic-Criminology-By-Dr-Daniel-Kennedy; Mitigation Work: The Work of the Sociologist as Mitigation Expert, https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/a-subcultural-mitigation-defense-explaining-behaviors-scripted-from-ideas-2169-0170.1000109.php?aid=23637; Developing Mitigation Evidence, https://moe.fd.org/Dev_Mitigation.php In-Class Assignments</p>
2	8.27	<p>Forensic Social Scientists and Criminal Law: The Problem of Interrogation-Induced False Confessions, file:///C:/Users/morewitz/Downloads/ReprintofSevenProcessesArticle.pdf; Brainwashing as Forensic Evidence, https://www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/kidnappings/patty-hearst-kidnapping/; A Social Psychological Critique of Brainwashing Claims, https://www.cesnur.org/testi/Socpsy.htm; In-Class Assignments</p>
3	9.3	<p>Forensic Social Scientists and Criminal Law: Role of the Gang Expert Witness in the Courts, http://www.accessmcle.com/Courses/MCLE_409.pdf; Gang Expert Witness, https://thetayloraustrainingroup.com/expert-witness/gang-expert/; Victims of Gang Violence, https://www.ncjrs.gov/ovc_archives/academy/chap22-3.htm; Crime Foreseeability Premises Liability, https://crimedoctor.com/crime-foreseeability/; Gangs in the Workplace, https://www.ifpo.org/resource-links/articles-and-reports/crime-violence-and-terrorism/gangs-in-the-workplace-their-structure-</p>

Week of	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<p>signs-and-practices/; Gang-Related Legislation by Subject, https://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Legislation/Nuisance; Gang Prevention and Research, https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/231116.pdf; In-Class Assignments</p>
4	9.10	<p>Forensic Social Scientists, Criminal Law, and Military Law: Quiz Honor Killing in Muslim Society, https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1001&context=islamandwomen; Bride Kidnapping, https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/28989/121927.pdf?sequence=4; Muslim World Expert Witness, https://www.muslimworldexpert.com/services-offered/expert-witness/what-is-an-expert-witness/; Military Courts-Martial Procedures, https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/military-court-martial-trial-procedures.html; War Crimes, https://www.britannica.com/topic/war-crime; Gender and the Framing of Torture at Abu Ghraib, by Ryan Ashley Caldwell, https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1072&context=swb; War Crimes and Military Courts-Martial, https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-us-military-a-mindset-of-barbarism/17476; In-Class Assignments</p>
5	9.17	<p>Forensic Social Scientists and Immigration Law Expert Witnesses in Immigration Proceedings; https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/eoir/legacy/2010/06/07/vol4no5.pdf; Increasing Reliance on Expert Witnesses in Immigration Cases, https://www.theexpertinstitute.com/increasing-reliance-expert-witnesses-immigration-cases-catch-22/; Expert Witnesses in U.S. Asylum Cases, https://www.law.unc.edu/documents/academics/humanrights/expertwitnesshandbook.pdf; Framing Citizenship: Media Coverage of Anti-Deportation Cases Led by Undocumented Immigrant Youth Organisations, https://migrationcluster.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk821/files/2017-07/patler_framing-citizenship.pdf; In-Class Assignments</p>

Week of	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	9.24	<p>Forensic Social Scientists and Competency Evaluations</p> <p>Competency to Stand Trial in Juvenile Court, http://www.njjn.org/uploads/digital-library/NJJN_MfC_Juvenile-Competency-to-Stand-Trial_FINAL-Nov2012.pdf;</p> <p>Juveniles' Competency to Stand Trial, https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=7315&context=jclc;</p> <p>Competency Evaluations for Adult Defendants, https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/1d83/7370e105924c5425c9075e3b0fc07430d07a.pdf</p> <p>In-Class Assignments</p>
7	10.1; NO CLASS ON 10.3	<p>Child Custody, Abuse, and Neglect and the Justice System:</p> <p>Child Custody Litigation;</p> <p>Child Protection and Justice Systems' Processing of Serious Child Abuse and Neglect Cases, https://s3.amazonaws.com/academia.edu.documents/43792579/Child_protection_and_justice_systems_pro20160316-17202-qvs3sa.pdf?response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3DChild_protection_and_justice_systems_pro.pdf&X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIAIWOWYYGZ2Y53UL3A%2F20190820%2Fus-east-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20190820T232832Z&X-Amz-Expires=3600&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=9b0cee17da4428c7246e2c8b7bb0df37a5aef5d38fb472ff80ad78f8327537bf;</p> <p>Impact of Spouse Abuse on Children and Its Relevance in Custody and Visitation Decisions in New York State, https://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1160&context=cjlp;</p> <p>Preventing Elder Abuse Through Education and Litigation, https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2350&context=llr</p> <p>Review for Midterm</p> <p>In-Class Assignments</p>
8	10.8	<p>Forensic Social Scientists and Psychological Evaluations:</p> <p>Midterm</p> <p>A Survey of Psychological Test Use Patterns among Forensic Psychologists,</p>

Week of	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<p>https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1207/s15327752jpa8701_07; Assessing Effort and Malingering with the Hispanic Client, http://web20kmg.pbworks.com/w/file/fetch/119273634/Guide%20to%20Psychological%20Assessment%20with%20Hispanics%20Online%20Book.pdf#page=113</p> <p>PTSD-Related Litigation Articles: TBA In-Class Assignments</p>
9	10.15	<p>Social Science Evidence and Testimony in Civil and Criminal Law: Social Science Evidence in Medical Malpractice Litigation Social Sciences Data in Personal Injury Cases Social Sciences Evidence in Suicide Litigation Social Science Testimony in Toxic Tort Lawsuits Articles: TBA In-Class Assignments</p>
10	10.22	<p>Social Science Evidence in Civil and Criminal Law: Social Science Data in Product Liability Litigation Human Factors-Related Lawsuits Social Science Testimony in Employment Cases Articles: TBA In-Class Assignments</p>
11	10.29	<p>Social Sciences in Civil Law: Social Sciences Evidence in Education Litigation Social Science Data in Trademark Litigation Articles: TBA In-Class Assignments</p>
12	11.5	<p>Forensic Anthropology and Criminal Investigations: Critique Forensic Anthropology and Criminal Investigations Forensic Anthropology and Missing Persons Investigations Evaluating the Role of Forensic Anthropologists in Human Rights Investigations of Missing Persons</p>

Week of	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Articles: TBA In-Class Assignments
13	11.12	Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology in Criminal Investigations: Forensic Archaeology and Criminal Investigations The Role of Forensic Archaeology in Missing Persons Investigations Mass Grave Investigation and Identifying Missing Persons: Challenges and Innovations in Archaeology and Anthropology Articles: TBA In-Class Assignments
14	11.19	Forensic Social Sciences: Forensic Economics Evaluating Economic Damages in Personal Injury-Related Litigation Forensic Counselors and Therapists Forensic Social Work Articles: TBA In-Class Assignments
15	11.26; NO CLASS, 11.28	Policy Making and Research on the Justice System: Social Scientists Testify as Experts before Government Agencies Social Science Organization Participate in Policy Making Social Science Analysis of Justice System Outcomes Social Science-Related <i>Amicus Curiae</i> Briefs Articles: TBA Review for Final Exam In-Class Assignments
16	12.3	Forensic Social Sciences Litigation Consulting and Careers: Litigation Consultants Trial Consultants <i>Voir Dire</i> Mock Trials Observation of Trials Careers and Salaries of Forensic Social Scientists Articles: TBA

Week of	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Review for Final Exam In-Class Assignments
	Final Exams Week	Final Exam (see SJSU Final Exam Schedule)