

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
FS 162 Forensic Science Applications
CRN 23781 & 23782, Spring 2019

Instructor	Mary Juno
Instructor Email	mary.juno@sjsu.edu
<u>Canvas Website</u>	https://sjsu.instructure.com/
Office Location	127 Health Building
Office Hours	1330-1600 Thursdays (drop-in)
Class Days, Times, & Location	T/TH 0900-1130
Prerequisites	You must have declared a FS major or minor, or a JS major, and be a junior or senior. Also required: FS 11 (if you are a FS major or minor), JS 10 if you are a JS major.
JS & FS Library Liaison	Silke Higgins silke.higgins@sjsu.edu
<u>FS LibGuide</u>	http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&p=1526987

Course Description

Scientific analysis and interpretation of physical evidence using identification and comparison techniques. Practical lab exercises in human identification, questioned documents, bite marks, trace evidence, presumptive testing and glass analysis. Additional topics include court testimony, quality assurance and ethics.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

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

LO1 Classify evidence and use appropriate analytical techniques in human identification, serology, trace evidence, questioned documents, pattern identification, glass reconstruction, and bite mark identification.

LO2 Explain the history and importance of DNA fingerprinting, articulate the principles of DNA profiling and inheritance, and apply this knowledge to a realistic field exercise.

LO3 Analyze and critically evaluate forensic error, and ethical issues in forensic science.

LO4 Explain and describe the Scientific Method; the Locard Exchange Principle; safe lab practices and proper evidence handling techniques; class and individual characteristics of evidence; identification, individualization and comparison techniques; and probative value and probability, and other important terms.

Assignments

1. Exams (40%) There will be three exams (and unannounced reading quizzes), and one final exam. Format will include multiple choice, fill-in, short essay and diagrams. (LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4)
2. Laboratory Exercises (30%) Labs will include Observation, Locard Principle, Hair & Soil, Physical Fit, Questioned Documents, Stab Lab, Human ID, Presumptive Tests for Blood & Semen, Pattern Evidence, and Anthropometry. (LO1)

3. DNA/Mass Disaster Paper (10%) Each student will determine familial relationships between and among disarticulated body parts by correctly interpreting DNA profiles, and write their findings in a 3-4 page scientific report. (LO2)
4. Canvas Quizzes (10%) Regular quizzes (biweekly or weekly) will be given on readings and lecture.
5. Group Presentation (10%) In small groups, students will present a case or project on ethics in forensic science. (LO3)

Required Texts and Materials

- James, S., Nordby, J., & Bell, S. (2014). *Forensic Science: An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques, 4/E*. CRC Press/Taylor & Francis. ISBN-13: 978-1439853832
- Composition notebook.
- Journal articles, tutorials, and links to other required readings will be posted on Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to check the website for new postings.

Grading Scale for All Assignments

A plus	97-100
A	94-96.9
A minus	90-93.9
B plus	87-89.9
B	84-86.9
B minus	80-83.9
C plus	77-79.9
C	74-76.9
C minus	70-73.9
D plus	67-69.9
D	64-66.9
D minus	60-63.9
F	<60

All assignments are graded based on adherence to directions, accuracy, thoroughness, thoughtfulness, clarity, and logic. Note: A final grade of C or better is required for all Justice Studies and Forensic Science major and minor coursework.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may be available throughout the semester and will be used to augment your final grade up to 3%.

1. Join a professional organization (CAC, AAFS, IAI, *etc.*) that is of specific interest to *you* and supply proof of membership before the end of the semester. A professional organization is one that holds meetings or conferences and produces a scholarly journal. A professional membership is not the same as an internship, job, or a membership in a student organization. A quick google search will turn up dozens of professional orgs.
2. Tour a crime lab and write a 2-page, typed, double-spaced synopsis of the experience. Santa Clara has monthly tours, but feel free to arrange a tour of another lab.
3. Attend a Forensic Science Seminar and write up a 2-page, typed, double-spaced synopsis of the experience.

Class Protocol and Policies

- No cell phones in class: Turn them off and put them away.
- Laptop use in class is permitted only for note-taking.
- Plagiarized work and/or cheating on any assessment will result in a 0 grade on the assignment, and the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.
- Some late work may be submitted for half credit within one week of due date.
- Make-ups for quizzes and exams will generally not be possible unless extraordinary, documented circumstances exist.
- Handle personal business before you begin an exam. A student who leaves the classroom *for any reason* during an exam will be presumed finished with the exam.

Student Info and Resources

**See your major advisor for major advice. See a GE advisor for GE advice.
Follow your major's graduation roadmap.**

Consult the [Canvas Student Guide](#) for answers to common questions about Canvas.

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and 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 digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

University Help Desk is the first point of contact for service and support to help you with password resets, login issues, email support and account requests. University Help Desk is located in Clark Hall, Room 102. Phone: 408.924.2377 Email: help@help.sjsu.edu Hours: Mon – Thur 8am - 9:45pm, Fri 8:00am – 4:45pm.

A.S. Computer Services Center has a computer lab with 100 computers that provided most major operating systems available from recently released versions of Microsoft Windows, to Linux, and Macintosh. Located in the Student Union on the 3rd floor. Phone: 408.924.6976 Hours: Mon - Thurs 8:00am – 10:00pm; Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm

CHHS Student Success Center

The Student Success Center in the College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) provides advising for undergraduate students majoring or wanting to major in programs offered in CHHS Departments and Schools. All CHHS students and students who would like to be in CGGS are invited to stop by the Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. If you are looking for academic advice or even tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU, check out the CHHS Student Success Center. Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MQH) 533. Contact information: [408.924.2910](tel:408.924.2910) The CHHS Student Success Center also provides study space and laptops for checkout.

Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center and assists students in the development of their full academic potential and motivates them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skill assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development.

SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall and offers a variety of resources to help students become better writers, including one-on-one tutoring sessions and numerous writing workshops. All services are free for SJSU students.

Forensic Science Student Group (FSS) is a campus group open to all students interested in forensic science. The group meets biweekly during the fall and spring semesters and offers friendship, forensic science-related activities, networking opportunities, and mentorship. Members of the FSS participate and assist at conferences, CSI camps, guest speaking events, and other extra-curricular activities. FSS Peer Mentors assist forensic science students in navigating the major, understanding requirements and prerequisites, and making wise choices in their college careers. Mentors may also offer limited tutoring, and facilitate educational and professional opportunities. Contact sjsu.fss@gmail.com for more information, or to get an application for membership.

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.

Important Dates This Semester

Feb 5: Last Day to Drop Without a W

Feb 12: Last Day to Add a Course, Last Day to Request CR/NC

Apr 25: Last Day to Submit Late Drop/Withdrawal Request <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/forms/>

May 13: Last day of Instruction

Instructor

Mary Juno earned her MSc in Forensic Science from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, and her BA in Biological Anthropology from San Francisco State University. Juno worked for many years as a CSI at the Oakland Police Department where she processed hundreds of major crime scenes. She currently co-coordinates the FS program, teaches JS and FS courses, and advises FS majors and minors. Her office is 127 Health Building.

FS 162 Forensic Science Applications Spring 2019 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

Week	Date	Topics and Activities	Reading
1	1/24	Course overview, form groups, lab notebook rubric Brief history of forensic science, forensic laboratory structure, investigative personnel roles & responsibilities Lab: Observation	JNB Ch 1 & 2
2	1/29 & 1/31	The scientific method, characteristics of science/scientists, characteristics of evidence: class, individual, identification; types of evidence, types of analysis, databases, chain of custody, probative value of forensic evidence, probability	TBD
3	2/5 & 2/7	Microscopy & trace evidence, Locard Exchange Principle, primary and secondary transfer, physical fit Lab: Locard Exchange Principle	JNB Ch 16
4	2/12 & 2/14	Labs: Locard Lab (cont.) & Microscopy Exam 1	TBD
5	2/19 & 2/21	Human ID: Early methods, Lab: Anthropometry Human ID: Bones and teeth, Lab: Bite marks	JNB Ch 6
6	2/26 & 2/28	Human ID: Bones and teeth, Lab: Bones Human ID: Serology, Lab: Presumptive tests for blood & semen	JNB Ch 8
7	3/5 & 3/7	Human ID: DNA, Lab: Mass Disaster Lab: Mass Disaster	JNB Ch 9
8	3/12 & 3/14	Due: Mass Disaster Paper, Exam 2 Questioned documents, Lab: QD	JNB Ch 17
9	3/19 & 3/21	Tool marks, wounds, Stab Lab Pattern evidence: Definition and criticism. Is it scientific? Lab: Pattern Evidence	JNB Ch 14
10	3/26 & 3/28	Lab: Physical Fit (Glass) Exam 3	JNB Ch 13 & 15
11	4/2 & 4/4	No Class: Spring Break!	TBD
12	4/9 & 4/11	Expert Testimony, Frye, Daubert, FRE Quality control & quality assurance, ASCLD-LAB, accreditation, certification, standardization, Lab: TBD	JNB Ch 21
13	4/16 & 4/18	Problems in Forensic Science: NAS Report, CSI Effect, evidence backlog, types & sources of error, absence of a research culture in FS, SWGs, FEPAC, FSAT Lab: Innocence Project, case studies	NAS Report
14	4/23 & 4/25	Professional and scientific ethics, begin Ethics Lab Lab: Ethics, cont.	TBD
15	4/30 & 5/2	Presentations	TBD

Week	Date	Topics and Activities	Reading
16	5/7 & 5/9	Presentations In-class Jeopardy Final!	
Final Exam	5/17	Canvas Final	

Notes:

- JNB = James, Nordby & Bell
- **Check Canvas daily for assignments, due dates, and supplemental readings.**