

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Justice Studies Department
FS 161 Crime Scene Investigation, CRN 49897 & 49898
FALL 2020

Instructor:	Mary Juno
Office Location:	Health Building 127
Email:	mary.juno@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Wednesdays, 10-12 on Zoom
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-11 on Zoom
Prerequisites:	Upper-Division Standing, FS 11 (FS majors/minors), JS 10 (JS majors/minors)
Library Liaison:	Nyle Monday nyle.monday@sjsu.edu
FS/JS Lib Guide:	http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&p=1526987

Course Catalogue Description

Fundamental theories of physical evidence practically applied and the legal considerations involved in its recognition, collection, preservation and presentation in court. Topics include securing the scene and documenting evidence using photos, diagrams, and notes; collecting evidence; and maintaining the chain of custody and scene reconstruction.

FS 161 is a required course in the FS major and FS minor. It satisfies Area B (Methodology) in the JS major. The course is recommended for anyone who plans to pursue a career in investigations.

Course Format

In the interest of safety (due to COVID-19), this class has been moved online for Fall 2020. Instead of meeting in person, we will meet on Zoom on the same scheduled days/times: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:00. You will find Zoom login information on our Canvas course.

Course Learning Objectives

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

CLO1 Utilize appropriate methods to document, collect, and preserve commonly encountered evidence in a variety of crime scene exercises.

CLO2 Demonstrate understanding of crime scene hazards and corresponding safety measures, search warrants and the 4th Amendment, chain of custody, court testimony, the Locard Exchange Principle, and other critical terms and concepts.

CLO3 Reconstruct crime scenes using the scientific method and evidence-based logic.

CLO4 Analyze types and sources of potential error at the crime scene.

Required Course Materials

- Primary Text: Obtain From Instructor
- Recommended Text: Miller, M.T. & Massey, P. (2019). *The Crime Scene: A Visual Guide, 2nd Ed.* Academic Press/Elsevier. ISBN: 978-0-12-812960-9
- Links to films, websites, and articles will be posted on Canvas.
- Fake blood, dropper, metric ruler, graph paper, pencils, camera (cell phone is fine).

Assignment Groups and Weights

1. Crime Scene Exercises (35%): Practical lab exercises in scene diagrams, photography, report writing, fingerprints, blood spatter interpretation, and impression evidence, and scene reconstruction. (CLO1,2,3)
2. Exams (35%): Two non-cumulative midterms, one final exam, and periodic (unannounced) reading quizzes on material from lectures and reading. Format may include multiple choice, fill-in, short answer, short essay, and diagrams. (CLO1-4)
3. Group presentation (10%) on types and sources of crime scene error. (CLO 4)
4. Review Questions (10%) Answer questions in text (found throughout each section and at the end of each section). (CLO 2,3)
5. Discussion Board (10%) Students will respond substantively to discussion prompts and to classmates on various crime scene-related topics. (CLO 1-4)

Final Grade Scale

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

Online Class Policies and Protocol

- In Zoom class sessions, I will initially “mute all.” This is to limit the dog-barking, child-yelling, horn-honking, microphone-bumping noises in the backgrounds of all our lives! Please raise your hand to ask a question (hand raising is a Zoom feature). I will call on you and you can unmute yourself. Alternatively, you can type questions in the chat box.
- Please be respectful of each other in Zoom class (live) and in writing on the discussion board. Absolutely no racist, sexist, homophobic, or other offensive or discriminating language or imagery will be tolerated.
- Plagiarized work will result in a 0 grade on the assignment and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. See below for more information on academic integrity.
- Late work may be submitted for reduced credit, -10% for each week that it is late.

- Make-ups for exams and quizzes will generally not be permitted. Please set reminders so that you do not miss them.

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

Important dates this semester: <https://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/Fall-2020.php>

Tips for Online Learning

- If you are new to Canvas, please visit the Canvas Guide for Students: https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources/index.html
- Download the Canvas mobile app to your smartphone so that you will have access to the course if you are away from a computer
- Login to class every other day so that you do not miss important announcements and assignment deadlines, and set reminders on your phone
- Bookmark frequently visited course sites and resources so that you can revisit them to study for tests

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to pursue their studies with honesty and integrity. When students have a person other than themselves take a test or complete an assignment; cut and paste writing from a source into their paper without giving proper credit; accept, buy, or copy the work of another; share or sell their own work; lie, cheat, or otherwise misrepresent their work product, they have committed the serious offense of *academic dishonesty*. If you cheat, copy, or misrepresent your work in this class in any way, including citation "errors," you will receive a 0 on the assignment and the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. You are expected, in all classes, to do your own thinking and writing, and turn in your best original work.

Forensic Science Student Group (FSS)

[Forensic Science Students](#) is a campus group open to all students interested in forensic science. The group meets biweekly during the semester 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.

About the Instructor

Juno earned an MSc in Forensic Science from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, and a 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 coordinates Forensic Science Minor and teaches FS and JS courses at SJSU. She also teaches at CCSF and SFSU.

How to Contact Me

- Email: Canvas Inbox (I will respond within 48 hours, M-F)
- Post a question on the Q&A Board (for questions about the course material)
- Zoom Office Hours: Wednesdays 10-12 (link on Canvas)

FS 161 Crime Scene Investigation Fall 2020 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

Week	Date	In-Class Topics	Due	Readings, Assignments
1	8/20	Introduction and class overview CSI Reality vs Fantasy, CSI as a Career		Forensic TV Assignment Read Chapters 1&2, complete DQ Check Canvas for discussions
2	8/25-27	Scientific Thinking, Principles of Logic & Reasoning (LE, OR, PLE), Facts & Opinions Categories of Physical Evidence, Probative Value, Elements of a Crime	Chapters 1&2 Forensic TV	Read Chapters 3&4, complete DQ Check Canvas for discussions
3	9/1-3	Important Scene Considerations, Steps of CSI, Search Methods Documentation: Diagrams: You will need graph paper for this exercise (¼" squares)	Chapters 3&4	Read Chapter 5, complete DQ Check Canvas for discussions
4	9/8-10	Documentation: Photos CSE #1 & 2 Diagrams & Photos (and notes)	Chapter 5	Read Chapter 6, complete DQ Check Canvas for discussions
5	9/15-17	Documentation: Notes/Report Writing CSE #3 Scene Description Packaging and Preserving Evidence, Chain of Custody	Chapter 6 CSE #1&2	Complete CSE Study for midterm Read Chapter 7, complete DQ, Read FSS Fingerprints Check Canvas for discussions
		Midterm 1		
6	9/22-24	Commonly Encountered Evidence: Fingerprints CSE #4	CSE #3	Read FSS Blood Spatter Read FSS Footwear & Tire Treads Check Canvas for discussions
7	9/29-10/1	Commonly Encountered Evidence: Blood CSE #5 Commonly Encountered Evidence: Firearms, Impression/Pattern Evidence CSE #6	Chapter 7 CSE #4&5	Read Chapter 8, complete DQ Read NIJ: Death Investigation Read NIJ: Digital Evidence Check Canvas for discussions
8	10/6-8	Digital Evidence Reading Quiz Commonly Encountered Crime Scenes: Burglary, Robbery, Assault, Arson, Death	Chapter 8 CSE	Check Canvas for discussions
9	10/13-15	Oakland PD cases		Read Articles on Canvas Check Canvas for discussions Study for midterm
		Midterm 2		

Week	Date	In-Class Topics	Due	Readings, Assignments
10	10/20-22	Crime Scene Reconstruction Case Studies		Complete construction exercises in groups, Check Canvas for discussions
11	10/27-29	Reconstruction CSE #7		Read Chapter 9 & 10, complete DQ Check Canvas for discussions
12	11/3-5	Ethics Error: Presentation assignment overview	CSE #7 Chapter 9 , 10	Crime scene error brainstorm session Check Canvas for discussions
13	11/10-12	Court Testimony Maintaining Mental Health		Complete group presentation Check Canvas for discussions
14	11/17-19	Presentations		Check Canvas for discussions
15	11/24-26	No Class Meetings: Happy Thanksgiving!		Check Canvas for discussions
16	12/1-3	Emerging Technologies, Challenges and Barriers, Closing Thoughts, Exam Review		Study for Final
	FINAL	Wednesday 12/9 0715-0930		Happy Holidays!