San José State University
CoSS/Justice Studies Department
FS 11-81 Survey of Forensic Science, CRN 24643
SPRING 2022

Instructor:	Mary Juno
Office Location:	Health Building 127
Email:	mary.juno@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Wednesdays, 10:00am-12:00pm on Zoom, drop-in https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/93007422140
Class Days/Time:	January 26-May 16, Asynchronous (no required meetings)
Prerequisites:	None
Library Liaison:	Nyle Monday nyle.monday@sjsu.edu
FS/JS Lib Guide:	http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&p=1526987

Course Description

This survey course introduces students to the fields of crime scene investigation and forensic science. Topics include the myths and realities of CSI, history and sub-disciplines of forensic science, types of evidence and analysis, and types and sources of error.

Note: This course is required for FS majors and FS minors. It is recommended for JS majors, and open to any student with a general interest in forensic science.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Summarize the history of forensic science, the structure and organization of crime labs, and the sub-disciplines of forensic science.
2. Differentiate and explain the roles of investigative personnel, and articulate a realistic perspective of the field.
3. Categorize types of evidence, and select appropriate methods of analysis used for each type.
4. Evaluate the criteria for admission of scientific evidence in court and expert testimony and the types and sources of error in forensic science.

Texts/Readings

Our textbook is available free as an ebook from SJSU (the link is provided on our Canvas course home page): Bell, S. (2019). *Forensic science: An introduction to scientific and investigative techniques,* 5/E. CRC Press.

Other: Links to additional readings will be posted on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check frequently for new postings.

Course Format

Our course meets entirely online, asynchronously, on Canvas. Even though we will not meet at a specified time, the course is not self-paced. You will have readings, discussions, videos, and deadlines every week so be sure to log in daily so that you do not fall behind in the material.

Tips for Success in an Online Class
- 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 frequently 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
- Get in contact with your groupmates early in the semester

Spring 2022 Course Schedule
Details and assignment due dates can be accessed on Canvas, but will follow this general outline:

Module 1: Introduction to Forensic Science & CSI (Jan 26-Feb 19)
Textbook Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 5 ~ Module 1 Quiz
Module 2: Biological Evidence (Feb 19-Mar 12)
Textbook Chapters 4, 6, 8 & 9 ~ Module 2 Quiz
Module 3: Trace and Chemical Evidence (Mar 12-Apr 9)
Textbook Chapters 10, 11, 12, & 16 ~ Module 3 Quiz
Module 4: Pattern Evidence (Apr 9-Apr 23)
Textbook Chapters 13, 14, & 15 ~ Module 4 Quiz
Module 5: Scientific Evidence in Court & Forensic Error (Apr 23-May 7)
Textbook Chapter 21, additional readings ~ Module 5 Quiz
Module 6: Special Topics (May 7-May 16)
~ Module 6 Quiz

Assignment Groups and Weights
50% Tests: There will be six tests in this class (Canvas calls them quizzes), one for each module. Format may include multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer, and short essay. There is no final exam.
20% Discussion Board: The discussion board is where you demonstrate your understanding of material, and interact with your classmates. Students are required to post a substantive and original response to each prompt, *and* at least one substantive response to a classmate in order to receive credit for a discussion.
10% Chapter Review Questions: Students will complete the questions found at the back of assigned textbook chapters.
10% Case Project & Presentation: Individually, students will create and present a PowerPoint on one criminal case in which a major error occurred involving physical/forensic evidence. Details of this assignment will be provided.
10% Presentation of Subtopic: In Module 6, students will research a subfield of forensic science (one that was not covered in the class), and create and present a PowerPoint on the topic. Details of this assignment will be provided.

Final Grade Scale

Grade	Percentage
A plus	98 to 100%
A	93 to 97.99%
A minus	90 to 92.99%
B plus	88 to 89.99 %
B	83 to 87.99%
B minus	80 to 82.99%
C plus	78 to 79.99%
C	73 to 77.99%
C minus	70 to 72.99%
D plus	68 to 69.99%
D	63 to 67.99%
D minus	60 to 62.99%

Grading Policies

- All assignments are graded based on adherence to directions, thoroughness, thoughtfulness/effort, clarity, logic, accuracy, and writing mechanics.
- 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 **within 2 weeks of the original due date**, -10% for each day that it is late… so get it turned in quickly to avoid deep reductions.
- Quizzes will typically be open for a 30-hour window in order to maximize flexibility. You are expected to take the quiz within this time frame. Make-ups will not be permitted unless you experience a documented emergency. Please set reminders so that you do not miss quizzes.
- Please read and follow the directions of each assignment. Students will not be permitted to resubmit work if directions were not followed the first time.

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 assignments, to do your own thinking and writing, turn in your best original work, and cite all sources you consult. No exceptions.

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

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.

Themis: Research Journal of Justice Studies and Forensic Science
Themis is a student-run journal that publishes original SJSU student papers on a wide range of justice- and forensic science-related topics. Themis runs as a 3-unit class every spring, publishing one volume annually in May in hardcopy and is hosted online at Scholarworks. Researchers the world over have downloaded and cited our students. For more information about Themis, please see: https://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/our-department/publications/themis/index.html
Contact mary.juno@sjsu.edu to join Themis (JS 180-04 or JS 182) as an associate editor, and/or to submit an original paper for consideration in our next volume (deadline January 31).

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 the Forensic Science Minor and teaches FS and JS courses at SJSU. She also teaches at CCSF and SFSU.

How to Contact Me
- Email me mary.juno@sjsu. I will respond within 48 hours, M-F.
- Zoom Office Hours: Weds 10-12, just drop in! https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/93007422140