

San José State University
CHHS/Department of Justice Studies
Forensic Science Program
FS 11-80 Survey of Forensic Science, CRN 23879, Spring 2020

Instructor	Mary Juno
Instructor Email	mary.juno@sjsu.edu
Canvas Website	https://sjsu.instructure.com/
Office Location	127 Health Building
Office Hours	Tues and Thurs, 1:30-3:00 no appointment needed
Class Days, Times, & Location	Asynchronous, on Canvas
Prerequisites	None
JS & FS Library Liaison	Nyle Monday nyle.monday@sjsu.edu
FS LibGuide	http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&p=1526987

Course Catalogue 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 Goals and Student Learning Objectives

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

SLO 1 Summarize the history of forensic science, the structure and organization of crime labs, and the sub-disciplines and contributing sciences of forensic science.

SLO 2 Differentiate and explain the roles of forensic and investigative personnel, their separate duties and how they work together, and articulate a realistic perspective of the field of forensic science.

SLO 3 Select the appropriate methods of analysis used for biological, chemical, and pattern evidence, and execute appropriate techniques in lab exercises.

SLO 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

- Bell, S. (2019). *Forensic Science: An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques, 5/E*. CRC Press.
- 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, it is not self-paced. You will have assignments, readings, videos, discussions, and

deadlines every week so be sure to log in every day so that you do not fall behind in the material.

There are six content modules in the course, ranging in length from 4 weeks to 1 week.

Spring 2020 Course Schedule

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

Module 0: Jan 23-25, WELCOME TO FS 11

Log in, get familiar with Canvas, attend Zoom orientation, post a greeting and say hello!

Module 1: Jan 23-Feb 22, Introduction to Forensic Evidence & CSI

Textbook Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 5 ~ EXAM 1 Feb 21/22

Module 2: Feb 23-Mar 14, Crime Lab: Forensic Biology

Textbook Chapters 4, 6, 9 & 10 ~ EXAM 2 Mar 13/14

Module 3: Mar 15-April 11, Crime Lab: Forensic Chemistry

Textbook Chapters 11, 12, & 17 ~ EXAM 3 Apr 10/11

Module 4: Apr 12-Apr 25, Crime Lab: Pattern Evidence

Textbook Chapters 14,15, 16 ~ EXAM 4 Apr 24/25

Module 5: Apr 26-May 9, Forensic Error

Journal and article readings (no textbook readings) ~ EXAM 4 May 8/9

Module 6: May 10-16 Special Topics in Forensic Science

Textbook Chapters 20 & 21 EXAM 6 May 15/16

Assignments

1. **Tests/Quizzes (35%):** There will be 5-6 exams in this class, one at the end of each module. The final exam will not be cumulative. Format may include multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer, and short essay.
2. **Reading and Review Questions (20%):** Chapter reading and review questions are assigned in every module (3-5 chapters per week for an accelerated summer course). Late work (turned in after the module has ended) will be marked down 10% for each week that it is late.
3. **Discussion Questions (30%):** The discussion board is where you demonstrate your understanding of material, articulate your thoughts in writing, and interact with your classmates. There will be several discussion questions posted each week. It is wise to read through threads and to take note of instructor comments (particularly the end-of-discussion summary), as these may reinforce particular ideas or trains of thought. Students must respond substantively to every discussion question, and to at least one classmate's post, per question. A substantive post is one that moves the discussion forward, adds a new idea, poses a thoughtful question, etc.

Simply *liking* or *agreeing with* a classmate is not substantive and will not receive discussion credit. See the "About the Discussion Board" page on Canvas for more info. No late discussion posts are permitted, since the purpose of the discussion is not simply to post, but to *discuss* questions and ideas with your classmates.

4. **Presentations** (15%): Students will create and present a PowerPoint on one criminal case in which a major forensic error occurred. Students will also create and present a PowerPoint on a special topic of their choice. Details and guidelines will be provided.

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, thoroughness, thoughtfulness, accuracy, clarity, and logic.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may be available throughout the semester and will be used to augment the 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.
2. Tour a crime lab and write a 2-page, typed, double-spaced synopsis of the experience. San Mateo offers an excellent tour at the end of October, and Santa Clara has monthly virtual lab tours.

Student Resources

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

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 is located in MacQuarrie Hall 533, and in the bottom floor of the Health Building. They provide GE advising for undergraduate students majoring or interested in majoring in programs offered by CHHS Departments. The Student Success Center also provides assistance with changing majors, answers to academic policy related questions, meetings with peer advisors and/or various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. Students are welcome to study in the CHHS Center during open hours.

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](#).

Tips for Success in This Course

- Online classes are not self-paced. Assignments are due every week and most deadlines are firm. It is up to you to keep up with the reading and posting. Set aside a certain time every day to login to the class website and participate. Don't let yourself fall behind.
- Create a folder on your browser toolbar titled "FS 11". Bookmark all the sites you visit during the class and keep them in that folder. That way, you'll have quick access to them when you revisit a topic or study for an exam.

- If you have a question regarding course material or requirements, post it on the Q&A board. If you have a private issue or concern, email me. Don't wait until it's too late to do anything about it!
- Join the FSS during the fall or spring semester. If you are a Forensic Science major/minor, this group will provide you with an instant network of peers, friends, and mentors. Even if you're not an FS major/minor, you will have a great time in this group! They schedule many fun events during the semester.
- Download the Canvas app to your smart phone and/or tablet. You'll be able to access course content and timely announcements from wherever you are.

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 is currently the FS Minor Coordinator, teaches JS and FS courses, and advises FS majors and minors. Her office is 127 Health Building. Feel free to drop by and say hello!