

San José State University
CoSS/Justice Studies Department
FS 11-04 Survey of Forensic Science, CRN 27148
SPRING 2021

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 27-May 17, 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

Required: 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 2021 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 27-Feb 20)

Textbook Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 5 ~ Module 1 Quiz

Module 2: Biological Evidence (Feb 20-Mar 13)

Textbook Chapters 4, 6, 8 & 9 ~ Module 2 Quiz

Module 3: Trace and Chemical Evidence (Mar 13-Apr 10)

Textbook Chapters 10, 11, 12, & 16 ~ Module 3 Quiz

Module 4: Pattern Evidence (Apr 10-Apr 24)

Textbook Chapters 13, 14, & 15 ~ Module 4 Quiz

Module 5: Scientific Evidence in Court & Forensic Error (Apr 24-May 8)

Textbook Chapter 21, additional readings ~ Module 5 Quiz

Module 6: Special Topics (May 8-May 15)

Assignment Groups and Weights

35% Quizzes

30% Discussion Board

20% Chapter Review Questions

15% Group Presentations

Final Grade Scale

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

All assignments are graded based on adherence to directions, thoroughness, thoughtfulness/effort, clarity, logic, accuracy, and writing mechanics.

Grading Policies

- 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 **within 2 weeks of the original due date**, -10% for each week that it is late. Late work goes to the *bottom* of the grading pile and may not be evaluated until the end of the semester.
- Make-ups for exams and quizzes will generally not be permitted. Please set reminders so that you do not miss them.
- 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) 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) 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: mary.juno@sjsu or Canvas Inbox. I will respond within 48 hours, M-F. I do not check email after 5:00pm, or on weekends or holidays.
- Post a question on the Q&A Board (for questions about the course material)
- Zoom Office Hours: Wednesdays 10-12 (link on Canvas)