

San José State University
CoSS/Justice Studies Department
FS 161 Crime Scene Investigation, CRN 29782 & 29784
SPRING 2021

Instructor:	Mary Juno
Office Location:	Health Building 127
Email:	mary.juno@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Wednesdays, 10-12 on Zoom https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/93007422140
Class Days/Time:	Jan 28-May 13, Tues & Thurs, 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 Spring 2021. 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.

Zoom Class Link:

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/85496701665?pwd=d21qNysyTU1rTFFqNTYvb2xsTUp2dz09>

Password: FS161

Technology Requirements

Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone. SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students (<https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php>). Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during class. If students are unable to have

reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible to determine an alternative. See Learn Anywhere website for current Wi-Fi options on campus. All assignments **must** be submitted via Canvas.

Use of Camera in Class

You are encouraged (not required) to turn on your camera during class discussion/lecture. Either way, you are required to participate in class discussions and group projects. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Zoom Classroom Etiquette

- **Mute Your Microphone:** To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- **Be Mindful of Background Noise:** Find a quiet place to “attend” class, to the greatest extent possible.
 - Avoid video setups where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc.
 - Avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.
- **Position Your Camera Properly:** Be sure your webcam is in a stable position and focused at eye level.
- **Limit Your Distractions/Avoid Multitasking:** You can make it easier to focus in class by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless of course you are using it to access Zoom class).
- **Use Appropriate Virtual Backgrounds:** If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning.

Recording Zoom Classes

This course or portions of this course (i.e., lectures, discussions, student presentations) may be recorded for instructional or educational purposes. The recordings will only be shared with students enrolled in the class through Canvas. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the semester. If, however, you would prefer to remain anonymous during these recordings, then please speak with the instructor about possible accommodations (e.g., temporarily turning off identifying information from the Zoom session, including student name and picture, prior to recording).

Students are not allowed to record without instructor permission

Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S12-7) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

Canvas Course Page and E-mail

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) on [Spartan App Portal](#) <http://one.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates. For help using Canvas Resource page at http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources.

Some course materials will be posted in Adobe PDF format; if you choose to download them, you will need Adobe Reader to view the documents. There is no cost to download Adobe Reader (<http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/adobe/students/index.html>).

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

Course Learning Objectives

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

1. Utilize appropriate methods to document, collect, and preserve commonly encountered evidence in a variety of crime scene exercises.
2. Explain 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.
3. Reconstruct crime scenes using the scientific method and evidence-based logic.
4. Analyze types and sources of potential error at the crime scene.

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

- 35%** Crime Scene Exercises (35%)
- 35%** Quizzes and Exams (2 midterms, 1 final)
- 10%** Group Presentation
- 10%** Chapter Review Questions
- 10%** Discussion Board

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

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

- 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, 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)

FS 161 Crime Scene Investigation Spring 2021 Course Schedule

*The instructor reserves the right to alter this schedule at any time during the semester. Logging into Canvas multiple times a week will ensure that you are abreast of any changes that are made.

Week	Date	In-Class Topics	Due	Readings, Assignments
1	1/28	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	2/2-4	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	2/9-11	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	2/16-18	Documentation: Photos CSE #1 & 2 Diagrams & Photos (and notes)	Chapter 5	Read Chapter 6, complete DQ Check Canvas for discussions
5	2/23-25	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	3/2-4	Commonly Encountered Evidence: Fingerprints CSE #4	CSE #3	Read FSS Blood Spatter Read FSS Footwear & Tire Treads Check Canvas for discussions
7	3/9-11	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	3/16-18	Digital Evidence Reading Quiz Commonly Encountered Crime Scenes: Burglary, Robbery, Assault, Arson, Death	Chapter 8 CSE	Check Canvas for discussions
9	3/23-25	Oakland PD cases		Read Articles on Canvas Check Canvas for discussions Study for midterm
		Midterm 2		
10	3/30-4/1	SPRING BREAK		
11	4/6-8	Crime Scene Reconstruction Reconstruction CSE #7		Complete reconstruction exercises in groups Check Canvas for discussions
12	4/13-15	Reconstruction CSE #8 Criminal Profiling		Read Chapter 9 & 10, complete DQ Check Canvas for discussions
13	4/20-22	Criminal Profiling Error: Presentation assignment overview	CSE #7 Chapter 9, 10	Crime scene error brainstorm session Check Canvas for discussions
14	4/27-29	Ethics		Check Canvas for discussions

Week	Date	In-Class Topics	Due	Readings, Assignments
15	5/4-6	Court Testimony Maintaining Mental Health		Complete group presentation Check Canvas for discussions
16	5/11-13	Presentations Last class: Final exam review		Study for Final
	FINAL			Have a great summer!

Important university dates this semester <https://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/Spring-2021.php>