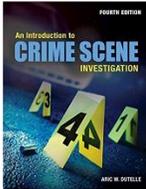

Course Information

Class Location: Boccardo Business Complex, BBC326
Class Day/Time: Tuesday/Thursday 3pm – 4:15pm

Course Website: [FS11 - SURVEY OF FORENSIC SCIENCE](#)
Textbook (*optional*):



Dutelle, A. W. (2020). An introduction to crime scene investigation.
Jones & Bartlett Learning.
Print ISBN: 9781284164671
eText ISBN: 9781284227345

Contact Information

Instructor: Kimberly Wong, M.S., C.C.S.A.
Email: kimberly.a.wong@sjsu.edu
Office Location: MH508
Office Hours: (Email or see me after class for an appointment.)

Course Description

This course is intended to provide students with the opportunity to learn about the role forensic evidence in the criminal justice system. This will include methods of the criminal investigation process, forensic analysis at the crime lab, and presenting the forensic evidence in court. The students will learn the basics of criminalistics and how the different types of forensic evidence are utilized in investigating various criminal offenses. Case studies will be illustrated throughout the course to highlight the covered topics.

Course Objectives

This course is intended to introduce and familiarize students with:

- ☒ Comprehension of the responsibilities related to the crime scene investigator: protecting the integrity of the crime scene, identifying physical evidence and determining its value, and the collection and preservation of physical evidence.
- ☒ Classify the categories of physical evidence, identify the unique properties of the different types of forensic evidence, and knowledge of forensic analysis techniques.
- ☒ Distinguish real-life crime scene investigation, criminalistics, and criminal investigation from popularized TV shows/movies and explain the “CSI Effect.”
- ☒ Prepare students with the professional skills to succeed in the criminal justice field.

Course Requirements

Syllabus

Students must read this syllabus thoroughly and in full, and are responsible for every policy listed herein. Students are required to complete and sign the “FS11 Course Contract” during the first week of the semester, which indicates that they fully acknowledge all of the terms of the class and agree to be held to all course policies as listed in the syllabus.

Attendance

Class is held in-person twice a week on Tuesday/Thursday from 3pm – 4:15pm in BBC326. Students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared for class. Attendance is required for both learning and performance, but it will not directly impact your grade. Class will consist of a combination of lecture and discussion. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and build on ideas presented in them. On many occasions, information will be provided in lecture that extends beyond the specific readings. Thus, the best strategy for success in this course is to complete the assigned readings AND take detailed notes on the lectures and discussions. In the event of an unexcused absence, students are responsible for all material covered in class, and for any announcements or assignments.

Canvas

In addition to in-class meetings, Canvas will be a primary source of course information, and the method of distribution for any announcements, assignments, assigned readings, or class material. It is the student’s responsibility to check Canvas regularly and to receive the Canvas email notifications.

Exams

There will be three non-cumulative exams administered over the course of the semester. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Exams may include questions that are true/false, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer, or essay format. Exams will be based on all material covered in the course, including required readings, lectures, and videos.

Course Evaluation

Grading

Exam #1	100pts
Exam #2	100pts
Exam #3	100pts

300 pts

282 - 300 = A

270 – 281 = A-

261 – 269 = B+
252 – 260 = B
240 – 251 = B-
231 – 239 = C+
222 – 230 = C
210 – 221 = C-
201 – 209 = D+
192 – 200 = D
183 – 191 = D-
190 & under = F

(NOTE: FINAL GRADES ARE FIXED AND NON-NEGOTIABLE.)

Extra Credit

Students may earn extra credit through participation in writing response papers to outside materials (e.g., podcasts, videos, presentation) throughout the semester. Each opportunity will be worth up to 10 points on the final point total. Three (3) such opportunities can be completed, for a total of 30 points. More information about the extra credit can be found on the Canvas “Assignments” tab when they become available.

1. CSI Comparison Paper
2. Case Study Presentation
3. “*How to Fix a Drug Scandal*” Reaction Paper

Late Work

Assignments are considered late after the stated date and time, and will be penalized 10% (one letter grade) for each day they are late (including weekends). **The inability to meet any deadline requires advance notification to the instructor at least 24-hours prior to the due date and time.** The acceptance of late work is subject to university rules and instructor discretion, and documentation of the reason for late submission must be submitted prior to or with the late assignment for it to be considered for grading.

Missed Exams

Students without a university-recognized excused absence will NOT be allowed to make up missed exams, and will receive a grade of zero. The following are the only circumstances for which makeup exams will be considered: (1) required participation in a university-sponsored activity; (2) a serious illness, injury, or unavoidable emergency; (3) required participation in active military service or jury duty; or (4) observance of an official religious holy day.

Students will only be excused for a missed exam if the instructor is contacted as soon as possible, and if documentation is provided to substantiate the reason for the missed exam. Advance notice and documentation of (1) and (4) must be submitted within the first two weeks of the semester, (3) two weeks prior to the missed exam, and (2) within 24 hours of the missed exam. If the above requirements are not met, a grade of zero will be entered for the missed exam. All makeup exams will be held on the exam makeup day at the end of the semester as listed on the course schedule.

Students have the responsibility to be present on the date and time of the makeup exam. Failure to do so will also result in a grade of zero.

Course Policies

In-Class Technology Policy

Laptop computers are allowed in class for the purpose of taking class notes. Unrelated internet use is not allowed during class. Smartphones are permitted, provided that they are switched to silent mode and remain in your backpack, unless required by a special class activity. No calls, texting, internet use, gaming, etc. during class. If you violate this policy, you may be asked to leave class for the day.

Email

Instructor communication will be through email, and it is the student's responsibility to check their SJSU email account daily. I will do my best to respond to emails within 1-2 business days.

Please send all emails through your SJSU email address and include the following in your correspondence, or else it will not receive a response:

- 1) "FS11" and your section number in the subject line
- 2) a professional greeting and title for the addressee
- 3) formal message in complete sentences with proper grammatical structure
- 4) an appropriate closing
- 5) signed with your full name

(See Canvas "Pages – Other Resources" for more details on how to compose a professional or academic email.)

Office Hours

Office hours are available for you to address questions regarding the course material. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are experiencing difficulties with the course, so that we may have more time to remedy the situation. Office hours are by appointment, which must be arranged via email or by seeing the instructor after class.

Recording of Classroom Lectures / Notice of Copyright

Lecture presentations may include information and images from real-life criminal cases and depict actual crime scenes. **Students are prohibited from screenshotting, photographing, copying, or recording any course material, and from transmitting classroom lectures and instructor materials**, unless written permission from the instructor has been obtained and all students in the class have been informed that photography or audio and video recording may occur. Permission to allow the audio and visual recording is not a transfer of any copyrights to the material recorded. Photographs, reproductions, videos, and audio recordings may not be uploaded to any publicly accessible web environments or social media. Notes are for personal

use only - students are not to post lecture notes or other course materials on commercial or public websites.

A VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE ABOVE RULES WILL RESULT IN THE FINAL GRADE BEING REDUCED BY ONE FULL LETTER GRADE PER INCIDENT.

An exception to the ban on recording will be any student determined by the Accessible Education Center (AEC) to be entitled to education accommodations, to exercise any rights protected under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, including needed recording or adaptations of classroom lectures or materials for personal research and study.

Disclaimer / Warning

Please be advised that this course may cover sensitive and graphic material related to crimes of violence, victimization, and death. Some individuals may find the topics disturbing and/or triggering. If you find material of this nature offensive, or have a personal or moral aversion to such material, you may have a difficult time in the course. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible with any concerns, and will still be responsible for all requirements should they choose to remain enrolled in the course.

University Policies

Honor Code / Academic Dishonesty

All students taking Criminal Justice classes must subscribe to the San Jose State University Honor Code and the Code of Student Conduct. Failure to adhere to any component of these codes may require consequences ranging from serious (e.g., an exam score of zero) to severe (e.g., a course grade of “F” or dismissal from San Jose State University). Violations of the SJSU Honor Code include, but are not limited to the following: cheating, collaboration and collusion, plagiarism, fabrication, and facilitation of academic dishonesty. See the SJSU website for more information and view additional resources here: [SJSU Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Any instances of these acts or violations of the SJSU Honor Code will not be tolerated. Students have the responsibility to know what is expected of them and what is proper academic conduct. Any assignment or exam that is in violation of the above stated rules will receive a score of zero for all parties involved, and each incident will be subject to administrative involvement.

Title IX

Please be aware that if you choose to disclose any incidents of sexual misconduct (listed below) to me, I am a mandatory reporter as a state employee, which may take away your autonomy as a victim and subject you to proceedings which you do not want. Unfortunately, this means I cannot provide any support or resources without having to make a report.

Effective January 2, 2020, state law (SB 212) requires all university employees, acting in the course and scope of employment, who witness or receive information concerning an incident of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking) involving

an enrolled student or employee to report all relevant information known about the incident to the university's Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX coordinator. An employee who knowingly fails to report or provides false information is subject to termination of employment and possible criminal penalties in accordance with university policy.

For confidential services provided by SJSU, please click here:

[SJSU Title IX Resources](#)

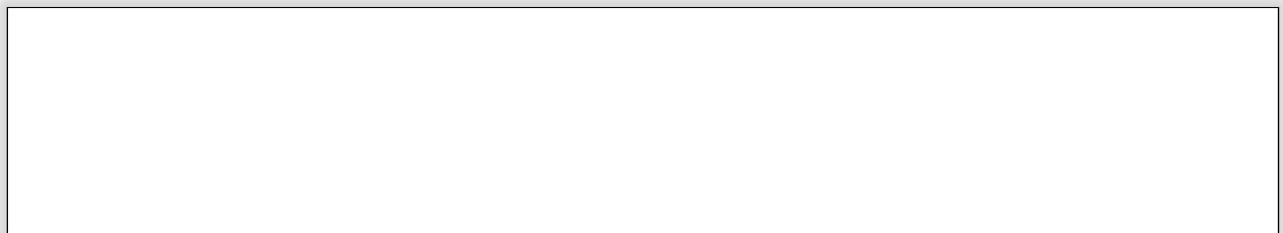
Campus Health, Wellness, and Safety

Students must abide by SJSU's COVID-19 policies, including verification of vaccination and wearing a mask during in-person classes. See the [SJSU Presidential Directive](#) and [SJSU COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements](#).

Student Resources

Disability Statement

In accordance with San Jose State University policy and federal law, reasonable and appropriate accommodations will be made for qualified students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are asked to contact the Accessible Education Center (AEC), who will provide documentation on behalf of the student and coordinate with the instructor on any necessary accommodations. Students are required to file paperwork at the beginning of each semester for any accommodations through AEC. Any student with a disability requiring accommodation must contact the instructor *within the first two weeks of the semester*. Failure to do so in a timely manner may delay any requested accommodations. For more information contact: <https://www.sjsu.edu/aec/>



Class Schedule & Academic Calendar

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Lecture Topic/Video</u>	<u>TO DO</u>	<u>Assignment Due</u>
1	8/22 – 8/28	Course Overview	Read: THE SYLLABUS	
		Introduction / History of Forensic Evidence	Read: Ch. 1	FS11 Course Contract Due 8/28 @ 11:59PM
2	8/29 – 9/4	Legal Issues in Criminal Justice	Read: Ch. 3	
		First Response / Crime Scene Searches / Role of the CSI	Read: Ch. 4 & 5 Ch. 6 (pp. 85-92)	
3	9/5 – 9/11	Evidence Collection & Preservation	Read: Ch. 6 (pp. 75-78)	
		Presenting evidence in court / The “CSI Effect”	Read: Ch. 2	
4	9/12 – 9/18	Exam Review		
		EXAM #1 9/15/22		
5	9/19 – 9/25	The Forensic Laboratory	Read: Ch. 7	
		Biological Evidence	Read: Ch. 10	Extra Credit: “CSI” Paper Due 9/25 @ 11:59PM
6	9/26 – 10/2	Blood Spatter Analysis	Read: Ch. 11	
		Toxicology	Read: Ch. 14	
7	10/3 – 10/9	Fingerprint Evidence	Read: Ch. 8	
8	10/10 – 10/16	Trace / Impression / Toolmark Evidence	Read: Ch. 9 & 12	

		Firearms / Ballistics Evidence	Read: Ch. 13	
9	10/17 – 10/23	Questioned Documents	Read: Ch. 15	
		Electronic Evidence	Ch.15	
10	10/24 – 10/30	Exam Review		
		EXAM #2 10/27/22		***Extra Credit: Must submit case study selection by 10/30 @ 11:59PM
11	10/31 – 11/6	Arson Investigation	Read: Ch. 17	
		Homicide Investigation	OPTIONAL: Watch: Crime 360 “The Shooting Party”	Extra Credit: Case Study Presentation Due 11/6 @ 11:59PM
12	11/7 – 11/13	Death Investigation	Read: Ch. 16	
		Anthropology / Odontology / Entomology		
13	11/14 – 11/20	Forensic Evidence Controversies	Watch: PBS Frontline “The Real CSI”	
		Crime Lab Controversies	Watch: Netflix “How to Fix a Drug Scandal”	
14	11/21 – 11/27	CJ Career Panel Presentation	Watch: (See Canvas)	
		Thanksgiving Break	(11/23 – 11/27)	
15	11/28 – 12/4	Exam Review		

		EXAM #3 12/6/22		
16	12/5 – 12/11	Careers in CJ		Extra Credit: “How to Fix A Drug Scandal” Paper Due 12/11 @ 11:59PM