

# Course Syllabus, FS 160, Spring 2017

## Course Catalogue Description

Forensic art has been part of criminal investigations for over 50 years. Law enforcement relies on this unique resource to assist in identifying and apprehending dangerous criminals, finding missing persons, and cracking cold cases. Topics include techniques of composite sketching and advanced cognitive interviewing, reliability of eyewitness testimony, and rules of evidence for composite sketches.

## Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

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

- LO1 Demonstrate understanding between the current types of forensic art sketching techniques.
- LO2 Demonstrate the basic elements of the Compositure sketching technique
- LO3 Demonstrate practical knowledge of the principles of the cognitive interview technique
- LO4 Perform a mock interview in the Compositure Methodology and address feedback
- LO5 Demonstrate understanding of the reliability of eyewitness interviews

## Texts/Readings

- Smalarz, L. & Wells, G.L. 2012. Eyewitness-Identification Evidence:Scientific Advancements and the New Burden on Trial Judges. *Court Review: The Journal of the American Judges Association*, 48, 14-21.
- McQuiston–Surrett, D., Topp, L.D., & Malpass, R. S. 2006. Use of facial composite systems in US law enforcement agencies. *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 12(5), 505-517.
- The National Research Council of the National Academies. 2014. *Identifying the Culprit: Assessing Eyewitness Identification*. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press
- Fisher, R.P. & Geiselman, R.E. 1992. *Memory–Enhancing Techniques for Investigative Interviewing: The Cognitive Interview*. Springfield, Ill: Charles C. Thomas Publisher.
- Loftus, E.F. 1996. *Eyewitness Testimony*. Cambridge, Mass. Harvard University Press.
- Benton, T.R., McDonnell, S.A., Thomas, N., Ross, D.F., & Honerkamp, N. 2005. On the Admissibility of Expert Testimony on Eyewitness Identification: A Legal and Scientific Evaluation. *Tennessee Journal of Law & Policy*. 2(3). 1-62

## Assignments

1. Cognitive Sketch Interview sessions (50%): Practical lab exercises exposing the student to composite sketching techniques in use today. (LO1, LO2, LO4)
2. Exams (35%): One midterm, one final exam, and periodic (unannounced) quizzes. Format may include multiple choice, fill-in, short answer, short essay, and diagrams. (LO2, 3, 5)
3. Homework (10%): Answer review and discussion questions at the end of each assigned article and substantively respond to written discussion questions; complete online exercises. Chapter review questions must be handwritten. (LO2, 3, 5)
4. Portfolio (5%): Students will turn in an organized binder (portfolio) at the end of the semester containing work completed in the class. (LO4, 5)

## 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, clarity, and logic. Note: A final grade of C or better is required for all Justice Studies and Forensic Science courses.

## 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. Note: a professional organization is one that holds conferences and/or produces a periodic journal. This is not the same thing as an internship, job, or student organization; it is a professional *membership*.

2 Interview a forensic artist currently working for a law enforcement agency, 2-page, double-spaced synopsis of the experience.

3 Attend a relevant conference or workshop, and write a 2-page, double-spaced synopsis of the experience.

## Late Work and Make Ups

Late work will generally not be accepted, or may be given half credit in some instances. Make-ups will generally not be possible unless extraordinary, documented circumstances exist. If you are in any doubt about the requirements of an assignment, or due dates/times, please re-read the directions of the assignment and/or schedule. If your question is still unanswered, contact me for clarification.

## Classroom Protocol

Attendance and class participation is expected. It is essential that you come to class prepared so keep up with the reading, complete assignments on time, and participate in class discussions. Lack of adequate participation *will* result in pop quizzes, which *will* count toward your final grade.

Cell phone and laptop use is not permitted during class. Students who use their phone in class will be asked to surrender it for the remainder of the class period, or leave for the day.

## Student Resources

### **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](mailto:sjsu.fss@gmail.com) for more information, or to get an application for membership.

## Student Technology Resources

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.

## Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center 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. <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>

## SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center located in Room 126 in Clark Hall 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. <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>

## CASA Student Success Center

The Student Success Center located in MacQuarrie Hall, Room 533 (top floor) provides GE advising for undergraduate students majoring or interested in majoring in programs offered by CASA Departments and Schools. The Student Success Center provides also assistance with changing majors, answers to academic policy related questions, meetings with peer advisors and/or various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/>

## 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/>

## Justice Studies Reading and Writing Philosophy

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

## Instructor

Gil Zamora was certified as a sketch artist by the FBI in 1993 and was formally selected to be the police artist for San José Police Department in 1995. During his 17 years as the police artist, Gil completed over 3,000 sketch interviews and he was involved in the majority of every high profile criminal investigation in the Bay Area.

In 1996, Gil applied his knowledge of human memory and eyewitness misidentification research to create an interview technique called Compositure®. This mindful technique relies on his interview process to create a sketch of the suspect without the use of reference images.

Gil was featured in the YouTube video: Dove's Real Beauty Sketches (2013). You can see Gil interview real women about how they see themselves by comparing the sketches that Gil created of them with the sketches from random strangers.

The attention to forensic art has been tremendous and Gil hopes to educate more people about the value of having a highly trained forensic artist on the staff of every major law enforcement agency in the country.