San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
FS 169, Forensic Science Senior Seminar
Core Competency Area E, Section 01 Spring 2014

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Steven Lee
Office Location: MacQuarrie Hall 509
Telephone: (408) 924-2948
Email: sblee999@gmail.com, steven.lee@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Weds 1300-1500 (in person- please set up appointment via email). On line Fridays 1300-1500
Class Days/Time: Weds 1500-1745
Classroom: SH 413

Prerequisites:
For Justice Studies Majors: Senior standing, JS 100W and JS 114 or instructor consent, graduation application filed and you must have already filled out and have a signed major form. Note- JS 114 is waived as a prerequisite for forensic science majors.
For Forensic Science Majors: Senior standing, JS 100W, FS 161, FS, 162, Biology 1A, CHEM 1A and CHEM 1B or by instructor consent, graduation application filed and you must have already filled out and have a signed major form.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging
Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/people/steven.lee/. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn any updates.

Course Description
Identification, discussion and analysis of selected problems in justice studies and/or forensic science. A major term paper, presentation on a selected topic and participation on written as well as in-class assignments and activities are required.
Prerequisites for this course : For Justice Studies Majors: Senior standing, JS 114 and JS 100W or instructor consent, graduation application filed and you must have already filled out and have a signed major form. Note- JS 114 is waived as a prerequisite for forensic
science majors. For Forensic Science Majors: Senior standing, JS 100W, FS 161, F 162, Biology 1A, CHEM 1A and CHEM 1B or by instructor consent, graduation application filed and you must have already filled out and have a signed major form.

**Course Goals and Learning Objectives**

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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

**Course Content Learning Outcomes**

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

CLO1 Critically analyze a contemporary problem in forensic science and propose policies and practices that could be implemented to help solve the problem.

CLO2 Provide oral and written presentations of the contemporary problem and its proposed solution in a manner that gives a clear introduction, rationale and purpose, addresses the issues/questions, uses an acceptable writing/speaking style, and uses APA editorial style.

CLO3 Demonstrate reasoning and argumentation that indicates an accurate and complete understanding of the issues, use of examples, data and references to support knowledge claims, and logical presentation of ideas, drawing valid conclusions.

CLO4 Think critically and solve problems using the scientific method. The course will also promote synthesis of knowledge gleaned from related learning units and current criminalistic practices. Some mathematical reasoning will be used to understand fundamental principles and their relationship to selected societal issues.

**Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbooks**


**Other Readings**

Journal articles and other readings will be accessible at the SJSU library, on reserve or will be accessible on line. Citations and URLs for on line materials will be provided in assignments.

Readings and assignments will be scheduled from the following:


Readings from Website for DNA.gov and NIJ Training Courses

NCJRS Website

STR Internet NIST Website

Library Liaison

Dr. Nyle Monday. Phone: (408) 808-2041 Email: Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignments and Grading Policy

1. Research paper (30%): prepare a literature review/policy analysis paper of an approved forensic science-related topic. (LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4)
2. Presentation (20%): a formal class presentation of the forensic science policy and practice paper, including topic outline and reference page. (LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4)
3. Participation (30%): come to class prepared to discuss and critique assigned readings; participate in all in-class and out-of-class assignments. (LO2, LO3, LO4)
4. Written assignments (20%): submission of three Discussion Questions (DQs) and Three Critical Issues (TCIs) per week. (LO3, LO4)

Course requirements and Grading:

Participation- 30%

A significant portion of the course grade is based on class participation, therefore, it is essential that students keep up with the reading, complete all assignments and are active class participants. Readings will include journal articles, chapters from the required textbook, on-line resources and publications and materials, original publications and proposals by the instructor.

Each week, one to two students selected randomly (depending on class size) will be responsible for leading the discussion of that week’s reading or topic. Every week you will be graded on your participation. 5 points will be awarded to students who participate fully each week including leading the discussion if it is your week, being on time, providing several comments and questions during the seminar and on occasion, bringing to light additional information and references relevant to the topic. “Moderate” participation (a few comments or questions made, or students who participate considerably, but arrive more than 15 minutes late or leave more than 15 minutes early) will be awarded 3-4 points. Minimal participation will be awarded 1-2 points. Students who are completely silent or are absent will receive no participation points. These will be tabulated and averaged for your final participation grade. Note that, it is also important that you be able to discuss chapter and reading contents beyond what you have written in the TCIs and DQs (see next section).
Written Assignments = 20%

Submission of Three Discussion Questions (DQs) and Three Critical Issues (TCIs) = 20%
You are responsible for keeping up with the assigned reading and being prepared to discuss them in class. Before class, everyone is required to submit a set of three discussion questions (DQs) based on that week’s readings. In addition, you will be required to identify and summarize a minimum of three critical issues (TCIs) from each of the week’s readings. Summaries of 1 paragraph per TCI (3 paragraphs total) will be required as typed, double spaced, 12-point font documents. Each TCI written assignment should be accompanied by a reference list. The reference list must be in APA format (see handout on APA citation format). The DQs and TCIs must be emailed by 3:00 PM on the day before class. Email to steven.lee@sjsu.edu, or drop off in MH 521. You must also bring hard copies of your DQs and TCIs to the class. Submission of all of the DQs and summaries of TCIs = 20% of your total grade. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Research Paper (30%):
A single final paper for this course is required and is worth 30% of your grade. Each paper should be approximately 15 pages of text (no more than 20), typed and double-spaced, in 12-point font and black ink, with standard 1-inch margins and references in APA style. Students must hand in original papers for this class. Copies of papers completed in previous classes, or papers largely adapted from previous classes, are unacceptable and, if submitted, will be considered a violation of academic integrity. This will result in severe consequences that may include failing the paper, failing the course and expulsion from SJSU. You will be required to upload your paper to Turnitin.com.

The questions guiding your paper will be developed jointly by the instructor and students during the first three weeks of the seminar on the topics under consideration. Each student must select a different topic. In the remaining weeks before the paper is due, students will meet to discuss their proposed paper topic. The students will also undertake library research and generate a minimum of 10 recent citations (with at least 5 of these citations from within the past five years: 2009-2013), directly relevant, scholarly articles on the topic and will include no less than at least 5 peer-reviewed journal articles. These recent articles must be directly related to the questions under consideration. The paper must show the capacity to undertake a literature review for the purpose of critical analysis of the questions. Copies of the recent articles obtained from library research must be attached as an appendix to each paper.

Note on paper formats and grading: page numbering begins on the first page of text (your cover page, if you use one, is not page 1, and your bibliography does not count as a page of text). Papers which are too short or too long, including papers using 1.5 or triple spacing instead of double spacing, will be penalized. You will also be provided a scoring rubric that I will use to grade your papers. Note- This scoring rubric is from Dr. Ann Lucas’ JS 205 syllabus.
Presentations (20%): You will give a 20-30-minute presentation to the class on your topic, and distribute a one-page outline with a summary to the rest of the class and the instructor. Your written summary should be in narrative form, and may be single-spaced if you choose. Summaries should have citations (minimum of 2 with at least 1 from the last year-2012). Use 10-point font or larger for your summaries, and be sure to include your name and topic. In addition, one week before, you must submit a reference by email to Lee for the entire class on your topic. The length of your presentations will depend on the number of students enrolled in the class, but plan at least 30 minutes and allow time for questions. Please practice your presentations: you need to cover your main points clearly and concisely, and you will be cut off if you talk for too long. Thus, to get a good grade for your presentation, you can’t “wing it”. You will be expected to deliver Power Point displays. Students will be expected to provide oral critiques of the summary and presentations.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may be offered throughout the semester. These may include attendance at a Forensic Science Seminar (guest lecture), documented with a 2-page synopsis/reaction paper, joining a professional organization (IAI, AAFS, CAC, AAA, etc.), or other assignments.

Policy regarding late work

Late work will be marked down 10% for each calendar day that it is late. Late work will not be accepted once the assignment has been graded and given back to the class.

Make-ups for any assignment will not be given without prior approval from the instructor, or under extraordinary, documented, circumstances. The final exam cannot be made up.

Grading Policy

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Grading Scale for All Assignments:


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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100-97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-94%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93-90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87%</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>83-80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76-73%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;74%</td>
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This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.
Classroom Protocol

Class participation is expected. You will be evaluated in part based upon your contributions to class discussions. It is essential that you come prepared to participate so keep up with the reading and plan to speak up. Attendance is imperative for success in this class. Labs will be conducted during class time, so if you cannot make it to class, you will miss the lab and lose the associated points. Labs involve a lot of prep work and set up, and cannot be made up. Cell phone and laptop use is not permitted during class. Users will be asked to leave.

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course.

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
  - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
  - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”
Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

In 2013, the Disability Resource Center changed its name to be known as the Accessible Education Center, to incorporate a philosophy of accessible education for students with disabilities. The new name change reflects the broad scope of attention and support to SJSU students with disabilities and the University's continued advocacy and commitment to increasing accessibility and inclusivity on campus.

Accommodation of Religious Creed

In compliance with Education code, Section 89320, it is the official policy of the Justice Studies Department of San Jose State University to permit any student to undergo a test or examination, without penalty, at a time when that activity would not violate the student’s religious creed, unless administering the examination at an alternative time would impose an undue hardship that could not reasonably have been avoided. Requests to accommodate a student’s religious creed by scheduling tests or examinations at alternative times should be submitted directly to the faculty member responsible for administering the examination by the second week of the semester. Reasonable common sense, judgment and the pursuit of mutual goodwill should result in the positive resolution of scheduling conflicts. The regular campus appeals process applies if a mutually satisfactory arrangement cannot be achieved.
Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab 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 DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing
Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.

CASA Student Success Center

The Student Success Center in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) provides advising for undergraduate students majoring or wanting to major in programs offered in CASA Departments and Schools.

All CASA students and students who would like to be in CASA are invited to stop by the Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. Looking for academic advice or maybe just some tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU? Check out the CASA Student Success Center! It’s also a great place to study, and you can check out laptops. Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MH) 533 - top floor of MacQuarrie Hall. Contact information: 408-924-2910. Go to the CASA Student Success Center Website for more information.

FSS Peer Mentors

The Forensic Science Students Peer Mentor Center is located on the 5th floor of MacQuarrie Hall. The purpose of the FSS Peer Mentor Group is to provide a forum to assist forensic science students in navigating the major, understanding requirements and prerequisites, and making wise choices in their college careers. FSS Peer Mentors may also offer limited tutoring, and facilitate educational and professional opportunities. Peer Mentor services are free and available to active members of the FSS. Contact sjsu.fss@gmail.com for more information.

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.
# FS 169 Forensic Science Senior Seminar, Spring 2014 Course Schedule

*The schedule is subject to change with fair notice and notice will be provided via email.*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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| 1    | 1/29 | Introductions, Overview, Evaluation of Student Prerequisites, Team Formation, Lee Website Review, Readings Posted on Steve Lee Website  
Sign up for Student-Led Discussions, 2-Student Leads Per Article, Required Readings  
| 2    | 2/5  | Introduction Continued- Review of Course Requirements (focus on paper),  
Lazar, D. 2004 DNA and the Criminal Justice System Readings  
Preface: DNA: Diviner of Guilt of Threat to Liberty?  
Chapter 1. Introduction: DNA and the Criminal Justice System  
David Lazer |
| 3    | 2/12 | Presentation Basics -- Content, Figures, Citations, Professionalism  
Library Research of Specific Topic, Library Tour if Available, Readings Posted on Steve Lee Website  
DQs and TCIs due 3:00 by email  
Chapter 2. Furthering the Conversation about Science and Society  
Stephen Breyer  
Chapter 3 Science and Technology of Forensic DNA Profiling: Current Use and Future Directions  
Frederick R. Bieber |
| 4    | 2/19 | On line- presentation and assignments - Creating a Working Bibliography for Research – Primary and Secondary Sources  
DQs and TCIs due 3:00 by email- Preliminary Research Topics and reference due. Lee at AAFS  
Required Readings  
Lazar, D. 2004. DNA and the criminal justice system  
Chapter 7 Genetic Privacy  
George J. Annas  
Chapter 8 Ethical and Policy Guidance  
R. Alta Charo  
Chapter 9 Privacy and Forensic DNA Data Banks  
Barry Steinhardt |
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| 5 | 2/26 | Research and Preparation of Presentations - Required Readings Distribution and Review of Research Presentation Evaluation Criteria  
Chapter 10 DNA Tests and Databases in Criminal Justice: Individual Rights and the Common Good Amitai Etzioni  
Chapter 11 Strands of Privacy: DNA Databases, Informational Privacy, and the OECD Guidelines Viktor Mayer-Schönberger  
Chapter 12 DNA Databases for Law Enforcement: The Coverage Question and the Case for a Population-Wide Database D. H. Kaye and Michael E. Smith |
| 6 | 3/5 | Research Paper Introductions (6-8 per day) |
| 7 | 3/12 | Research Paper Introductions (6-8 per day) |
| 8 | 3/19 | Research Paper Introductions Continued (6-8 per day) |
| 9 | 3/26 | Spring Break |
| 10 | 4/2 | Individual Topic Meetings (6-8 per day) |
| 11 | 4/9 | Individual Topic Meetings (6-8 per day) |
| 12 | 4/16 | Individual Topic Meetings (6-8 per day) |
| 13 | 4/23 | Paper Presentations (6-8 per day) |
| 14 | 4/30 | Paper Presentations (6-8 per day) |
| 15 | 5/7 | Last Class Paper Presentations (6-8 per day)  
All Final Papers Due |