

Administration of Justice Department
San Jose State University
Fall 2003
Class hours W 1730-2015
Room: MH 523

Instructor: Dr. Steven Lee
Office Hrs: M 1500-1800 W1500-1700
set by appointment via email
email: Steven.Lee@sjsu.edu
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AJ 112 Criminalistics

Course Description:

Course Objective

This course will teach an understanding of the fundamental theories of physical evidence, practically applied; and the legal consideration involved in its recognition, collection, preservation and presentation in court. Physical evidence includes such things as fibers, glass, hair, soil, bullets, fingerprints, and shoeprints. Learn the appropriate methods for processing, securing, and isolating a crime scene. Topics include recording the scene, searching for evidence, decision-making about what evidence is appropriate and necessary to collect, procedures for collecting physical evidence, and maintaining the chain of custody to avoid contamination.

Course Text and materials: Spartan Bookstore

Required Texts:

Henry Lee's Crime Scene Handbook. 2001. Henry Lee. PhD. ISBN 0-12-440830-3, 418pp. Academic Press.

Evidence and Crime Scene Reconstruction (Expanded 6th edition - April 2002), National Crime Investigation and Training Joe Rynearson, Jerry Chisolm and Jim Weigand
<http://www.ncit.com>

Required reading and internet materials:

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. CA Dept of Justice Physical Evidence Bulletins: <http://www.cci.ca.gov/Reference/pehb/peb.html> and other forensic science web sites will be required reading.

Supplementary Texts (Optional)- Course material may include citations from the following:

Techniques of Crime Scene Investigation 6/E, 2002, Barry A.J. Fisher, BS, MS, MBA, ISBN 0-8493-8119-3, CRC Press LLC;552pp.

Forensic Science: An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques. 2003. Stuart H. James and Jon J. Nordby eds.,ISBN: 0849312469, 698pp. CRC Press

Course Format:

The course will include **lectures by the instructor and guest lectures** from law enforcement agencies. **Discussions, small-group hands-on activities, and hands-on crime scene exercises** will also be included throughout the semester. On-line chat sessions if possible will also be offered.

Course requirements:

Exams: Three exams will be given in this course. Exams will be cumulative and will include all material covered up to the date of the exam. Exams may include multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer, diagrams, drawings and sketches, short essay and/or long essay.

Exam 1:	Weds October 1rd
Exam 2:	Weds November 5th
Final	TBA

Quizzes

Quizzes on assigned readings, laboratories, small group activities and other assigned materials will be given during the semester. These will generally be multiple choice, matching, true/false and short answer but may also include essay questions.

Hands-on Crime scene Reports

Three reports will be required. Each will be worth 50 points. The format and grading of the laboratory reports will be provided at the first laboratory session.

Grading

Quizzes	50 points
Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Final exam	100 points
Scene reports	150 points
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Total required	500 points

A total of 25 points may be granted for small group assignments and other assignments during the semester. Each assignment will be worth 5 points each. These extra credit points may be used to augment your final point total.

Grading Policies

Make-up exams will not generally be permitted. However, under extraordinary circumstances, with proper documentation and approval by the instructor, a 15 page single-spaced term paper of an instructor assigned topic, may substitute for 1 exam.

A=	450-500	C=	350-399	F=	<300
B=	400-449	D=	300-349		

Instructor

Professor Lee holds an MS from NYU and PhD from University of California, Berkeley in Molecular Biology. Lee is currently the Director of R&D at Hitachi Genetic Systems, Visiting Scholar at UC Berkeley, and is also an adjunct professor at San Francisco State University and Florida International University. He was formerly the Director of R&D at CA Dept of Justice DNA Laboratory from 1994-2000 where he served as an expert witness in DNA and conducted DNA training courses. He is a full member of AAFS, CAC and is ASCLD-LAB certified.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Dates	Topics	Lee
8/27/03:	Introduction and Overview of the Course Welcome- Sign up for small groups - Safety concerns Types of Crime Overview of Physical Evidence in Criminal Investigation	C1
9/3/03:	Crime Scene Management Information, Resources, Technology Logistics, Role of the Criminalist	C2
9/10/03:	General Crime Scene Procedures Role of the first responder Initial crime scene response, Communication, Legal implications Documentation, Preliminary reconstruction, Investigative team, Biohazards	C3
9/17/03:	Crime Scene Documentation Note-taking Videography, Photography, Sketching	C4
9/24/03:	Searching for Physical Evidence Objectives Locating physical evidence, Search patterns, Practical applications	C5
10/1	EXAM 1- Lee at Human Identity meeting	
10/8:	Collection and Preservation of Physical Evidence Fingerprints, Hairs, Fibers and Trace	C6
10/15:	Collection and Preservation of Physical Evidence Firearms and Toolmarks and Impression Evidence	C6
10/22:	Collection and Preservation of Physical Evidence Arson, explosives, Drugs, Volatile and transitory evidence, QDs	C6
10/29:	Collection and Preservation of Physical Evidence Biological Evidence	C6
11/5	Exam 2	
11/12	Field Tests, Enhancement Reagents and Special Techniques	C8,9
11/19	Crime Scene Reconstruction	C10
11/26	No Class	
12/3:	Crime Scene Reconstruction continued Course Review, All reports are due	

Assignment 1. Due 3 September by email to Steven.Lee@sjsu.edu

Part A

Review for the following: <http://www.crime-scene-investigator.net/respon1.html>

Read and discuss the Overview section and Personnel Duties and Responsibilities of this URL (next time we will discuss personnel duties and responsibilities) among your team mates.

After reviewing **write 3 quiz questions with a separate sheet for answers and explanations.**

Total size of the document you submit should not be more than 3 paragraphs (300 words of questions and answers). You may include 1 multiple choice question. **Email the Qs and As to me**

Part B Start to collect the following individually and with your team mates

(For a complete list See Appendix I in Lee. 2001)

For each person:

1. Bound notebook with page numbers- Spiral notebooks are not as good as pages can easily be torn out. If you need to use a spiral notebook, be sure every page is numbered.
2. Tape measure
3. Rulers and protractors (with metric and inches)
4. Graph paper (10 sheets/person)
5. Permanent sharpie markers (at least 2- black or blue)
6. Pens (ball points)
7. Manila envelopes (30 – 8x11”, 50 coin envelopes)
8. Paper bags (2/person)
9. Plastic ziplock bags (2/person)
10. Q tips (20/person)

For each team

11. Clear packing tape with dispenser
12. 35 mm camera with 3 rolls of film
13. Rope or Twine
14. Pill boxes (various sizes)
15. String
16. Labels
17. Tweezers
18. Dust buster vacuum and new vacuum bag
19. Scissors
20. Toothpicks

I will provide access to

- Knife
- Gloves (latex)
- Masks (painters)
- Etoh wash bottles
- Cleaning solutions
- Lab coveralls/booties
- Water bottles

This list will be completed in the following weeks before our first exercise.

For next week please bring items 1-7