

Justice Studies Department
San Jose State University
Spring 2007
Class Hours: Thursday 5:30-8:15pm
Room: MH 526

Instructor: Cordelia Willis
Office Hours: Thursday 8:15 - 9:15pm
or by appointment in MH 529 (408-924-2949)
Email (*preferred for contact*): cwillis@crimelab.sccgov.org
Daytime Phone (*at crime lab*): 408-918-2963

JS 113- Introduction to Forensic Science

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the basics of forensic science. Students will be introduced to the scientific concepts, methods, practices and analytical instrumentation utilized by forensic scientists for the recognition, collection, preservation, identification, comparison, analysis and documentation of physical evidence. Evidence interpretation, court testimony, professional requirements, standards, training, ethics and quality assurance will also be covered.

Course Reading Materials:

Required Text: *Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science* (College Version) 9th Edition. Copyright 2006, published 6/18/2003. RE Saferstein, Ph.D., ISBN: 0-13-111852-8, Prentice Hall, 672 pages.

Additional articles and/or internet websites may also be assigned.

Class Participation and Grading:

Course Format: This course may include lectures by the instructor, guest lecturers, discussions, videos, hands-on activities, and laboratories. Students will be responsible for all in-class information as well as reading assignments. A field trip may be scheduled during the semester.

Course Requirements:

Exams: Three exams will be given during the semester. The first two exams, worth 100 points each, will only cover the current unit (i.e., are not cumulative). The final exam will consist of two parts: the first part will cover the final unit studied (100 points), and the second part will be cumulative (100 points). The exams will cover all in-class information (including lectures, activities, and labs) as well as the assigned readings. Exams may include multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer, diagrams, drawings/sketches, short essay and/long essay.

Weekly Reading Quizzes: Keeping up with the reading is an important part of this class, so short 10-point quizzes will be given at the beginning of class covering the assigned reading. If you are late to class (without having contacted me in advance), you will miss the quiz and get a zero. Twelve quizzes will be given, and the lowest two grades will be dropped.

Laboratory Reports: Six lab reports will be required, worth 50 points each. Details will be provided at the first laboratory session.

Class Participation: 15 class participation points may be awarded based on an individual student's participation in class discussions, group assignments, and laboratories. These extra credit points may be used to augment your final point total.

Grading:

10 Quizzes	100 pts
Exam 1	100 pts
Exam 2	100 pts
Final Exam	200 pts
<u>Lab Reports</u>	<u>300 pts</u>
Total	800 pts

Grading Scale: Grading will follow the scale below (unless otherwise announced by the instructor):

A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-60
F	59 and below

Grading Policies: Make-up exams will generally not be permitted. However, under extraordinary circumstances and **prior approval** by the instructor, a make-up exam may be granted. Make-Ups for the final exam will not be granted.

No late work will be accepted without **prior approval** from instructor. In accordance with University policy, students caught cheating will receive an F grade.

Safety and University Policies:

Safety: Any student with special needs should contact the instructor on the 1st day of class. Classroom safety will be discussed on the first day of class and in the laboratory when warranted.

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need 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 requires students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

Course Add/Drop Statement: **You, the student,** are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, withdrawal, etc. found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

Academic Integrity Statement: Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy 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 policy on academic integrity can be found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

Tentative Course Schedule:

(subject to change depending on scheduling conflicts and notice from instructor):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assigned Reading in Saferstein Text</u>
01/25/07	Introduction to Forensic Science & Legal Aspects	Ch. 1 (no quiz)
02/01/07	Crime Scene Processing & Crime Scene Lab	Ch. 2 & 3, & "Stain Patterns of Blood" section of Ch. 12
02/08/07	Instrumental Analysis and Examination	Ch. 5, 6, & 7
02/15/07	Drugs and Forensic Toxicology	Ch. 9 & 10
02/22/07	EXAM 1 & Introduction to Comparisons	no add'l reading assigned / NO QUIZ
03/01/07	Shoeprints, Firearms, & Toolmarks & Start of Shoeprint Lab	Ch. 15
03/08/07	Questioned Documents & Conclusion of Shoeprint Lab	Ch. 16
03/15/07	Fingerprints & Fingerprint Lab	Ch. 14

03/22/07	EXAM 2 & To Be Announced	no add'l reading assigned / NO QUIZ
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03/29/07	SPRING BREAK -- NO CLASS	
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04/05/07	Forensic Serology & <i>Forensic Serology Lab</i>	Ch. 12
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04/12/07	Introduction to DNA	Ch. 13
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04/09/07	DNA & CODIS & <i>DNA Lab</i>	no add'l reading assigned / <i>QUIZ will cover previous week's class content</i>
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04/26/07	Trace Evidence Pt. 1: Glass & Soil, Arson & Explosives	Ch. 4 & 11
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05/03/07	Trace Evidence Pt. 2: Hair, Fibers, and Paint <i>Hair Lab</i>	Ch. 8
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05/10/07	Guest Lecture on Computer Forensics & Case Reviews	Ch. 17 & Case Readings
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05/17/07	FINAL EXAM	

Instructor: Cordelia Willis holds a Master of Science degree in Mathematics/Statistics as well as a Master of Forensic Science degree. She has worked for the past eight years as a criminalist at the Santa Clara County Crime Lab, and she previously held internships with the Tucson City/County Crime Lab and the Naval Criminal Investigative Services' Cold Case Squad. Prior to her interest in forensic science, Ms. Willis also taught math and statistics for three years at Northern Arizona University.