

JS112 Criminalistics Spring 2011

Instructor: Mary Juno
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Class Hours: T/TH 9-1030

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Class Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/mary.juno/courses/js112/>

Course Description

This course covers fundamental theories of physical evidence, practically applied, and the legal considerations involved in its recognition, collection, preservation and presentation in court. Students will learn the appropriate methods for securing and processing different types of crime scenes, as well as how to search for and document evidence. Topics include latent fingerprints, scene photography, impression evidence, firearms, questioned documents, trace evidence, and death investigations. **Prerequisite: upper division standing.**

Course Text and Materials

Required Texts:

- *Crime Scene Investigation and Reconstruction, 3rd Ed.* 2011. Robert Ogle. Pearson Prentice Hall. ISBN: 978-0136093602
- *Course Reader*

Course Format

The course will include lectures by the instructor, class discussions, powerpoint presentations, videos, and hands-on group exercises. Text will be supplemented with documents posted on the class website. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the class website, as many important and time-sensitive documents will be posted there throughout the semester.

Course Requirements

- **Exams (30%):** Two (or three) major exams will be given in this course. Exams may be cumulative and may 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.
- **Homework (10%)** Review questions at the back of each chapter will be due the week the reading is assigned. If the reading is online or from a source other than the text, the review questions will be posted by the instructor. Answers must be handwritten. **No late homework accepted.**
- **Paper (10%)** A 3-page research/opinion paper on ethics and the consequences of unethical behavior in police departments and forensic science will be required. Specific guidelines will be distributed later in the semester. Your paper must be submitted to turnitin.com before it will be accepted. APA format is required.
- **Notebook (10%)** Every student will keep an *organized* notebook containing *all* lectures notes, homework, quizzes, exams, and all CSE assignments. It can be a 3-ring binder or a scientific notebook with documents taped inside. This will be turned in at the end of the semester.
- **Crime Scene Exercises (25%)**
 - Scene Diagrams
 - Photography
 - Observations, Notes & Reports
 - Developing and Lifting Latent Fingerprints
 - Blood Spatter Interpretation
 - Mock Crime Scene Processing (15%)

Most of these exercises will be carried out in teams. Written reports and project materials will be due for each exercise. **These exercises involve a lot of prep and set up and therefore cannot be made up, so do not miss them!**

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Details of format and grading will be provided for each exercise. Grading in general includes the following considerations:

- Were all directions followed? Is the work presented neatly or sloppily? Are team members' full names and team numbers all listed on materials? Is the documentation complete? Are all questions answered? Do answers show thoughtfulness and a solid grasp of the material? Are the reports organized and well presented? Is the writing grammatically sound and legible? Are descriptions detailed, clear and logical? Are all pages stapled together? Are data accurate? Does the data support statements and conclusions in the report? Is the terminology correct? Would investigators be able to reconstruct the crime scene years from now, based on the documentation in the report?

Writing

Grammar, punctuation and spelling count on every assignment in this class. At the college level, you should be able to express yourself in writing clearly, concisely, and effectively, without mechanical errors. Any job you seek in this field will expect no less of you! The SJSU Writing Center (Clark Hall) provides free workshops and tutoring to help writers of all skill levels. Your writing assignments for this class will be graded for content as well as clear and correct expression, so remember to:

- Spell check
- Proofread
- Be sure your answer fully addresses the question being asked

Grades/Percentage (points earned divided by points possible = %)

A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C* = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = <60%

**As of SP 2011, you must earn a C or better in all JS courses. You will have to retake a course in which you earn a C- or below, and may retake that course only once.*

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities are available throughout the semester:

- Attend a Forensic Science Seminar (guest lecture) and write a 2-page synopsis/reaction paper. Watch for announcements of these events.
- Tour a crime lab and write a 2-page synopsis/reaction paper.
- Join a professional organization *during the semester* (IAI, AAFS, CAC, etc.) and bring proof of membership.

Other Important Stuff

Some assignments will be conducted during class time, so if you cannot make it to class you will miss the assignment and lose the points. **Make-ups** will not be given without prior approval from instructor, or under extraordinary, *documented*, circumstances. *Crime scene exercises cannot be made up regardless of circumstances.* **Late work (except homework--which is not accepted late)** will be marked down 25% for each calendar day that it is late. If you know ahead of time that you will miss a day when an assignment is due, either turn it in early, have a classmate turn it in for you, date-stamp it in the JS office and put it in my box, or make other arrangements with me – *prior* to missing the class.

Laptops* and cell phones are not permitted in class. Neither is reading novels, knitting, or other activities unrelated to the course. If you feel that you *absolutely must* update your Facebook status, surf the web, check your email, text your BFF, finish that last chapter in your vampire book, knit that bootie, etc., during

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class time, then please leave the classroom to do it. Doing these tasks in class is **rude and distracting**. If you do them in my class, I will a) embarrass you, and b) ask you to leave for the day.

*If you require the use of a laptop for physical reasons, you must bring me documentation from the DRC.

Cheating is lazy and disrespectful. If you can't get through college without cheating, then *you are not college material*. There is a zero-tolerance cheating policy in this class. If you are caught cheating or copying on *any assignment* you will receive an F grade in the course. The incident will also be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

turnitin.com

This is an online plagiarism checking service. You must register with turnitin.com during the first week of class and familiarize yourself with its features. You will submit your Ethics paper to turnitin.com. Papers will not be accepted unless they have been submitted to turnitin, and will be considered late until they are submitted. *No exceptions*. To register: <http://www.turnitin.com> → New User → enter your info → join the class. **Class ID: 3754806 PW: CrimeSp11TTh**

Course Add/Drop Statement

Last day to drop a course in the SP11 semester, without receiving a grade or a W, is Monday, Feb 7.

Last day to submit C/NC option is Monday, Feb 14.

Last day to drop a course and still receive a W is Tuesday, April 26.

Instructors are permitted to drop students who do not attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Some instructors will drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. However, instructors are not required to drop a student from their course. *It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped*. You, the student, are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, withdrawal, etc., which can be found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University. The policy on academic integrity can be found at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/f88-10.htm>.

To better understand plagiarism and to aid you in making sure that you are not plagiarizing, please see me and/or visit: <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm>

American 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 to register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

Justice Studies Department

