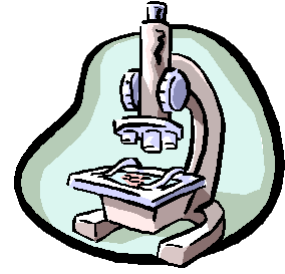


JS113 Introduction to Forensic Science Spring 2011

Instructor: Mary Juno
Office: MQH 527
Class Hours: T/TH 1030-1145

Email: mary.juno@sjsu.edu
Office Hrs: T/TH 1230-1430
Room: MQH 523



Class Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/mary.juno/courses/js113/>

Course Description

Introduction to the scientific concepts, methods, practice and analytical instrumentation utilized by forensic scientists for the identification, comparison and analysis of physical evidence. Topics include evidence interpretation and testimony, professional requirements, standards, training, ethics and quality assurance. **Prerequisite: upper division standing. Suggested preparation: JS 112.**

Course Text and Materials

Required Texts:

- *Forensic Science: An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques, 3rd Edition.* Stuart H. James, Jon J. Nordby. Taylor & Francis. ISBN 978-1-4200-6493-3
- *Ethics and the Practice of Forensic Science.* Robin T. Bowen. CRC Press. ISBN 978-1-4200-8893-9
- *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 (45%)** Two written exams and one practical exam 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.**
- **DNA Mass Disaster Paper (10%)** Each student will determine familial relationships between and among disarticulated body parts by correctly interpreting DNA results, and write their findings in a 3-5 page report.
- **Power Point Presentation (10%)** Students will give a power point presentation on a chapter from the text not covered in class, or a subtopic assigned by the instructor. Students will present in pairs. Students will also submit five review questions from the chapter they are presenting.
- **Notebook (5%)** Every student will keep an *organized* notebook containing *all* lectures notes, homework, quizzes, exams, and all 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.
- **Laboratory Exercises (20%)** There will be several lab exercises during the semester. These will include Microscopy & Trace Evidence, Questioned Documents, Bite Mark Analysis, and Presumptive Tests for Blood & Semen.

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. In general, the following is considered:

- 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 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.

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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 DNA Mass Disaster 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: 3754810 PW: ScienceSP11**

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



Instructor

Mary Juno earned her MS in Forensic Science from the University of Strathclyde (Glasgow, Scotland), and her BA in Forensic Anthropology from San Francisco State University. Juno worked for many years as a CSI at the Oakland Police Department where she processed hundreds of major crime scenes. She has taught in the Oakland Police Academy and currently teaches at Cabrillo College. She likes cookies (chocolate chip with nuts), Brother Thelonious beer, Giants baseball, and San Francisco.