

San José State University
CASA/Department of Justice Studies
FS 11 Survey of Forensic Science, CRN 46349, Fall 2016

Instructor	Mary Juno
Office Location	MacQuarrie Hall 511
Instructor Email	mary.juno@sjsu.edu
Course Website	https://sjsu.instructure.com/
Office Hours	Drop in TH 1000-1300
Class Days, Times, & Location	Online, asynchronous
Prerequisites	None
Library Subject Liaison	Silke Higgins silke.higgins@sjsu.edu
FS LibGuide	http://libguides.sjsu.edu/content.php?pid=57768&sid=2450175

Course Description

This survey course introduces students to the profession of forensic science. Topics include the history and sub-disciplines of forensic science, and the scientific methods and analytical instrumentation used for the recognition, documentation, collection, preservation, and analysis of physical evidence.

Note: This course is required for FS majors and FS minors. Recommended for JS majors, and any student with a general interest in Forensic Science.

Course Delivery

This course is delivered online through Canvas. You will need a computer with reliable internet access. Success in the course requires active, daily participation. Canvas login:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/> Canvas Student Guide and Resources:
http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/student_resources/index.html

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

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

LO1 Understand the roles of forensic and investigative personnel, their separate duties and how they work together, and articulate a realistic perspective of the field of forensic science, the nature of the work, its limits, challenges, and successes.

LO2 Demonstrate understanding of the types of evidence and analysis in forensic science, including identification, individualization, and physical fit, and the broader categories of biological, chemical, and pattern evidence.

LO3 Define important terms, concepts and principles such as: “CSI Effect”, 4th Amendment, chain of custody, scientific method, class and individual characteristics, probative value, and the Locard Exchange Principle.

LO4 Demonstrate understanding of genetic principles such as inheritance, DNA, STRs, alleles, genotype, phenotype, and PCR, and the brief history of DNA profiling.

LO5 Display foundational knowledge in the history of forensic science, the structure and organization of crime labs, and the sub-disciplines and contributing sciences of forensic science.

LO6 Demonstrate understanding of the criteria for admission of scientific evidence in court and expert testimony, including important cases (*Daubert & Frye*) and Rules of Evidence, and types and sources error in forensic science.

Required Texts/Readings

1) James, S., Nordby, J., & Bell, S. (2014). *Forensic Science: An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques, 4/E*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press/Taylor & Francis.

ISBN-13: 978-1439853832

Note: this book is also required for FS 162. Keep it if you plan to continue coursework in FS.

2) Additional required readings, tutorials, videos, and links will be posted on Canvas.

Assignments

1. Exams (50%): There will be five non-cumulative exams in this class (one for each module). Format will include multiple choice, matching, true/false, and short answer. (LO1-5)
2. Case Project & Presentation (10%): Each student will create and upload a Powerpoint Presentation on one criminal case in which forensic evidence played a critical role. Additional assignment details will be posted on Canvas. (LO6)
3. Discussion Board (20%): The purpose of the discussion board is to answer questions and ideas. Some discussion questions will be based on required readings or videos. For every discussion question, students must post, at minimum, one substantive response to the question, and one substantive response to a classmate's post. A substantive post is one that is meaningful and specific, and moves the conversation forward. A non-substantive post is one that is vague, simply repeats or restates what someone else has already said, or just agrees with or compliments someone else. No credit will be given for non-substantive posts. (LO1-5)
4. Chapter Review Questions/Worksheets (20%): Chapter review questions can be found at the end of each chapter. Upload your responses to Canvas by the due date. Worksheets on videos, or other topics may also be distributed. (LO 1-5)

Extra Credit Opportunities

Extra credit opportunities may be available throughout the semester and will be used to augment the final grade up to 3%.

1. Join a professional organization (CAC, AAFS, IAI, *etc.*) that is of specific interest to *you* and supply proof of membership before the end of the semester. A professional organization is one that holds conferences and/or produces a periodic journal. This is not the same thing as an internship, job, or student organization; it is a professional *membership*.
2. Tour a crime lab and write a 2-page, typed, double-spaced synopsis of the experience. Santa Clara has monthly tours, and San Mateo has an annual tour in October.
3. Attend a forensic science seminar and write a 2-page, typed, double-spaced synopsis of the experience.

Late Work and Make Ups

Real life has deadlines and so do college classes. With this in mind, manage your time responsibly with the knowledge that late work will generally not be accepted, or may be given half credit in some instances; time allotted to respond to discussion questions will not be extended for any reason (since the purpose of the DB is to *discuss* with your classmates, not simply to post). If you know ahead of time that you will be offline when an assignment is due, complete it early.

Make-ups will generally not be given unless extraordinary, documented circumstances exist. Certainly, if you have a genuine problem, contact me and I will gladly help you. If you are in any doubt about the requirements of an assignment, or due dates/times, please re-read the assignment and/or schedule. If your question is still unanswered, contact me for clarification.

Grading Scale for All Assignments

A plus	97-100
A	94-96.9
A minus	90-93.9
B plus	87-89.9
B	84-86.9
B minus	80-83.9
C plus	77-79.9
C	74-76.9
C minus	70-73.9
D plus	67-69.9
D	64-66.9
D minus	60-63.9
F	<60

All assignments are graded based on adherence to directions, thoroughness, thoughtfulness, clarity, and logic. Note: A grade of C or better is required for all Justice Studies and Forensic Science major and minor coursework.

Course Schedule

Due dates for assignments, discussion board posts, quizzes, etc., can all be found on the Canvas course website. Assignments and posts are due every week, on Sundays at midnight. Exams for each module will be open for one day only, 6am-midnight, on the last day of the module. There is one exam for each module – no cumulative final. During the last week of class, students will complete their case projects.

8/25-9/17	Module 1: Introduction to FS & CSI	Exam 1: 9/18
9/19-10/8	Module 2: Forensic Biology	Exam 2: 10/9
10/10-10/29	Module 3: Forensic Chemistry	Exam 3: 10/30
10/31-11/12	Module 4: Pattern Evidence	Exam 4: 11/13
11/14-11/29	Module 5: Error, Science, and the Future of FS	Exam 5: 11/30

Tips for Success in This Course

- 1) Visit this site: <http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/studentprofile.asp>
- 2) Online classes are self-motivated, so it is up to you to keep up with the reading and posting. Set aside a certain time every day to login to the class website and participate. Don't let yourself fall behind. Post early to the DB, and check back on the discussion throughout the week.
- 3) Create a folder on your browser toolbar titled "FS 11." Bookmark all the sites you visit during the class and keep them in that folder. That way, you'll have quick access to them when you revisit a topic or study for an exam.

- 4) If you have a question regarding course material or requirements, post it on the class site under the Discussion Board topic “HELPME.” If you have a private problem or issue, email me. Don’t wait until it’s too late to do anything about it!
- 5) Join the FSS (details below). If you are a Forensic Science major or minor, this group will provide you with an instant network of peers, friends, and mentors. Even if you’re not an FS major, you will have a great time with this group.

Student Resources

Forensic Science Student Group (FSS)

Forensic Science Students is a campus group open to all students interested in forensic science. The group meets biweekly during the semester and offers friendship, forensic science-related activities, networking opportunities, and mentorship. Members of the FSS participate and assist at conferences, CSI camps, guest speaking events, and other extra-curricular activities. FSS Peer Mentors assist forensic science students in navigating the major, understanding requirements and prerequisites, and making wise choices in their college careers. Mentors may also offer limited tutoring, and facilitate educational and professional opportunities. Contact sjsu.fss@gmail.com for more information, or to get an application for membership.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and 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 digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center assists students in the development of their full academic potential and motivates them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skill assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center located in Room 126 in Clark Hall offers a variety of resources to help students become better writers, including one-on-one tutoring sessions and numerous writing workshops. All services are free for SJSU students. <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>

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. If you are looking for academic advice or even tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU, check out the CASA Student Success Center. Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MQH) 533.

Contact information: [408.924.2910](tel:408.924.2910) Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/>. The CASA Student Success Center also provides study space and laptops for checkout.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Important Dates This Semester

<http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/2164/index.html>

Sept 6: Last Day to Drop Without a W

Sept 13: Last Day to Add a Course, Last Day to Request CR/NC

Nov 17: Last Day to Submit Late Drop/Withdrawal Request <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/forms/>

Dec 9: Last day of Instruction (for this class)

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.

Instructor

Mary Juno earned her MSc in Forensic Science from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, and her BA in Biological 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 and taught in the Oakland Police Academy. She has conducted research at the NYPD Latent Fingerprint Lab, and currently teaches JS and FS courses, and advises FS majors and minors. Her office is 511 MacQuarrie Hall.

