

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
FS 11 Survey of Forensic Science, Section 02, Course
number 45914, Fall 2017

Course Contact Information

Instructor	Dr. Steven B. Lee
Office Location	On line and in MH 509: For appointments set by email
Instructor Email	steven.lee@sjsu.edu
Office Hours	Fridays in person or on line 2:30-400pm: By appointment in person or on line as requested and set up by email. Office hours may be moved to accommodate meetings with email notification of alternate days. Post questions on the class to the Discussion Board under “HELPME”, or Email me private questions.
Canvas Website	FS 11 canvas site: https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1242634 Login with SJSU Tower ID and Password
Class Days/Time	On line/hybrid- Course will be open starting first Friday of classes 08/25/17 – Fridays 4-6pm for in person sessions in MQH 520
Prerequisites	None
FS Library Liaison	Silke Higgins silke.higgins@sjsu.edu
FS Lib Guide	Forensic Science Library Guide 1 http://libguides.sjsu.edu/content.php?pid=57768&sid=2450175 Forensic Science Library Guide 2 http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&p=1526987

Course Format and Delivery

This course is delivered as a hybrid with some in person and some online though Canvas. You will need a computer with reliable internet access. Success in the course requires active participation by logging in *daily* for updates, to complete assignments, and to receive important and timely messages. In person sessions may occur throughout the semester and **the currently scheduled in person classes will occur on September 1st, October 6th and December 8th**

[Canvas login](#)

[Canvas Student Guide and Resources](#)

[What Makes a Successful Online Student?](#)

Netiquette:

Please visit the following [site](#) for communication rules and guidelines that we will follow in our course.

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 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

LO2 Articulate a realistic perspective of the field of forensic science, the nature of the work, its limits, challenges, and successes.

LO3 Define important terms, concepts and principles such as: “CSI Effect”, 4th Amendment, chain of custody, scientific method, pattern evidence, identification evidence, individualized evidence, 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. Explain the history of DNA profiling.

LO5 Display foundational knowledge in the history of forensic science, the structure and organization of crime labs, the analytical processes and procedures used, the sub-disciplines and contributing sciences of forensic science, and the types of evidence encountered.

Required Texts/Readings

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

Many additional readings, tutorials, videos, and links will be posted on Canvas.

Assignments

1. Exams/Quizzes (75 %): There will be five non-cumulative exams/quizzes (15% each) in this class (one for each module 1-5). Format will include multiple choice, matching, true/false, and short answer. Each exam will be administered on canvas. The last exam will be your final exam/quiz and will be available on December 15th (LO1-5)
2. Chapter Review Questions/Worksheets (10%): Chapter review questions can be found at the end of each chapter. Upload your responses to the first 10 questions for each chapter to Canvas by the due date. Worksheets on videos, or other topics may also be distributed. (LO1-5)
3. Discussion Board (10%): Access the DB through the links on the left side menu on Canvas. The purpose of the discussion board is to discuss concepts, ideas, techniques, etc. Some discussion questions will be based on required readings or videos. For every discussion question, students must post 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 (“I like the way you said that!” for example, is not substantive). No credit will be given for non-substantive posts. (LO1-5)
4. In class activities (5%) There will be three in class sessions to be held September 1st, October 6th and December 8th. Additional in class sessions may be scheduled and will be provided with advance notice. In person sessions will include student led reviews and debates, activities such as crime scene documentation and measurements, hands-on demonstrations and moot court exercises. (LO1- 5)

Credit Hour Policy

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty- five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Extra credit opportunities may be available throughout the semester and will be used to augment your final grade up to 3% (1% each).

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. Note: 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. Attend a Forensic Science or Justice Studies seminar (Forensic Science Seminar Series or Ann Lucas Lecture Series) and write a two-page, double-spaced, typewritten paper that includes a synopsis of the seminar/lecture and your reaction/response. Your paper is due within one week of the tour.
3. Complete the short course offered by the National Institute of Justice marked “extra credit” during the Forensic Bio module and submit your certificate of completion by the end of that module.

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,

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+ 97-100	A 94-96.9	A- 90-93.9
B+ 87-89.9	B 84-86.9	B- 80-83.9
C+ 77-79.9	C 74-76.9	C- 70-73.9
D+ 67-69.9	D 64-66.9	D- 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.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Department's 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.

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 - top floor of MacQuarrie Hall. 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.

FSS Peer Mentors

The Forensic Science Students Peer Mentor Center is located on the 5th floor of MacQuarrie Hall. The purpose of the FSS Peer Mentor Group is to provide a forum to assist forensic science students in navigating the major, understanding requirements and prerequisites, and making wise choices in their college careers. FSS Peer Mentors may also offer limited tutoring, and facilitate educational and professional opportunities. Peer Mentor services are free and available to active members of the FSS. These services may be offered in Spring 2017. Please contact sjsu.fss@gmail.com for more information.

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.

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, 8am-midnight, on the last Friday of each module. There is one exam for each module – no cumulative final.

On line Quizzes/Exams- and Final Exam

8/25-9/15	Module 1: Introduction to FS & CSI	Quiz 1: 9/15
9/22-10/06	Module 2: Forensic Biology	Quiz 2: 10/06
10/13-10/27	Module 3: Forensic Chemistry	Quiz 3: 10/27
11/03-11/17	Module 4: Pattern Evidence	Quiz 4: 11/17
11/24-12/15	Module 5: Error, Science, and the Future of FS	Quiz 5: 12/15

Important Dates This Semester

<http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/2174/index.html>

Instructor

Professor Lee holds an a BS from SUNY Binghamton in Biology, MS from NYU and PhD from University of California, Berkeley in Molecular Biology. Lee holds several concurrent positions including consulting positions for several biotech companies, Visiting Scholar at UC Berkeley, and an adjunct professor appointment in Chemistry at Florida International University and in Biological Sciences at San Francisco State 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, directed the development, validation and implementation of new technologies and, conducted DNA training courses. He is a full member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the California Association of Criminalists, a Fellow of the Criminalistics Division of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, , and is an American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board certified inspector. He also served on the FBI Technical Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods group from 1994-2000. He has taught courses in molecular biology at SFSU (1996-1998), Forensic genetics at UC Davis (1997), and most recently forensic DNA Typing of STRs at FIU (2003).

Tips for Success in This Course

- 1) 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 in to the discussion throughout the week.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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!
- 4) Join the FSS. 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 :Forensic Science Students (FSS) 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.

University Help Desk is the first point of contact for service and support to help you with password resets, login issues, email support and account requests. University Help Desk is located in Clark Hall, Room 102. Phone: 408.924.2377 Email: help@help.sjsu.edu Hours: Mon – Thur 8am - 9:45pm, Fri 8:00am – 4:45pm <http://www.sjsu.edu/helpdesk/>

A.S. Computer Services Center has a computer lab with 100 computers that provided most major operating systems available from recently released versions of Microsoft Windows, to Linux, and Macintosh. Located in the Student Union on the 3rd floor. Phone: 408.924.6976 Hours: Mon - Thurs 8:00am – 10:00pm; Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm <http://as.sjsu.edu/asesc/index.js>

