

San José State University
CASA/Department of Justice Studies
FS 161 Crime Scene Investigation, CRN 49341 & 49342,
Fall 2017

Instructor	Mary Juno
Office Location	MacQuarrie Hall 511
Instructor Email	mary.juno@sjsu.edu
Canvas Website	https://sjsu.instructure.com/
Office Hours	Drop in Monday 0800-0900, Weds 1730-1830
Class Days, Times, & Location	M/W 0900-1130 MH 520
Prerequisites	UPPER DIVISION STANDING JS MAJOR OR MINOR: JS 10; FS MAJOR OR MINOR: FS 11
JS & FS Library Liaison	Silke Higgins silke.higgins@sjsu.edu
FS LibGuide	http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&p=1526987

Course Catalogue Description

Fundamental theories of physical evidence practically applied and the legal considerations involved in its recognition, collection, preservation and presentation in court. Topics include securing and recording the crime scene, collecting evidence, maintaining the chain of custody and scene reconstruction.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

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

LO1 Document crime scenes using reports, photography, and diagrams, and demonstrate this knowledge in practical exercises.

LO2 Demonstrate practical knowledge in processing specific types of evidence including fingerprints, blood spatter, firearms, glass, impression, and trace evidence.

LO3 Demonstrate understanding of crime scene hazards and corresponding safety measures, search warrants and the 4th Amendment, chain of custody, court testimony, the Locard Exchange Principle, and other critical terms and concepts.

LO4 Recognize, collect, handle, package and preserve physical evidence using safe and appropriate methods, and demonstrate and articulate this knowledge.

LO5 Analyze and critically evaluate the CSI Effect.

Texts/Readings

- Reader: Available from Instructor
- <http://www.forensicsciencesimplified.org/>
- Links to additional readings will be posted on the Canvas class website. It is the student's responsibility to check the website frequently for new postings, and download and print documents as needed in class.

Assignments

1. Crime Scene Exercises (40%): Practical lab exercises in searching, scene diagrams, photography, report writing, developing and lifting latent fingerprints, blood spatter interpretation, impression evidence, and glass reconstruction. (LO1)
2. Exams (40%): Two midterms, one final exam, and periodic (unannounced) reading quizzes. Format may include multiple choice, fill-in, short answer, short essay, and diagrams. (LO2)
3. Discussion Questions (20%): Answer questions in reader (found throughout each section and at the end of each section). Complete online exercises and in-class worksheets as assigned. (LO 2, 3, 4)

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.

Extra Credit

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.
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. Assemble a professional quality portfolio containing all of your work during the semester and turn it in at the end of the semester.

Class Policies

- No cell phones in class: Turn them off and put them away.
- Laptop use is not permitted in class; exceptions are possible but users must sit in the front row.
- Plagiarized work will result in severe disciplinary action.
- Late work may be submitted for half credit within one week of due date.

- Make-ups for exams will generally not be possible unless extraordinary, documented circumstances exist.
- Lab exercises cannot be made up, so don't miss them.
- Handle personal business before you begin an exam. A student who leaves the classroom *for any reason* during an exam will be presumed finished with the exam.

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

Sept 6: Last Day to Drop Without a W

Sept 13: Last Day to Add a Course, Last Day to Submit [C/NC Request](#)

Nov 16: Last Day to Submit Late Drop/[Withdrawal Request](#)

Dec 11: Last day of Instruction

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.

FS 161 Crime Scene Investigation F17 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

Week	Date	In-Class Topics	Due	Readings, Assignments
1	8/23	Introduction and class overview CSI Reality vs Fantasy, CSI Effect, CSI Career		Forensic TV Assignment Read Chapters 1&2, complete DQ
2	8/28 8/30	Scientific Thinking, Logic & Reason, Occam's Razor, Sherlock (in class) Value of Physical Evidence, Probative Value, Elements of a Crime	Chapters 1&2 Forensic TV	Read Chapters 3&4, complete DQ
3	9/4 9/6	Labor Day~ No Class Important Scene Considerations, Steps of CSI, Search Methods	Chapters 3&4	Read Chapter 5, complete discussion questions
4	9/11 9/13	Documentation: Notes/Reports CSE 1: Scene Description	Chapter 5	Complete CSE
5	9/18 9/20	Documentation: Diagrams Documentation: Photos	CSE 1	
6	9/25 9/27	In class: CSE 2 & 3 Diagrams and Photos Packaging and Preserving Evidence, Chain of Custody		Complete CSE Study for midterm
7	10/2 10/4	Midterm 1 CSE Review	CSE 2&3	Read Chapter 6, complete DQ, Read FSS Fingerprints
8	10/9 10/11	Commonly Encountered Evidence: Fingerprints In-class: CSE 4	Chapter 6 CSE 4	Read Chapter 7, complete DQ Read FSS Blood Spatter
9	10/16 10/18	Commonly Encountered Evidence: Blood In-class: CSE 5	Chapter 7 CSE 5	Read Chapter 8, complete DQ, Read FSS Footwear & Tire Treads
10	10/23 10/25	Commonly Encountered Evidence: Firearms, Impression Evidence In class: CSE 6	Chapter 8 CSE 6	Read Chapter 9&10, complete DQ Read NIJ: Death Investigation
11	10/30 11/1	Commonly Encountered Crime Scenes: Burglaries, Vehicles, ADW, Sexual Assaults, Arson, Deaths	Chapters 9&10	Study for midterm
12	11/6 11/8	Midterm 2 Report Writing		Read Chapter 11, complete DQ
13	11/13 11/15	Report Writing In class CSE 7	Chapter 11 CSE 7	Prep for MCSE
14	11/20 11/22	Mock Crime Scene Prep Thanksgiving Break ~ No class		Complete MCSE Read Chapter 12, complete DQ
15	11/27 11/29	Mock Crime Scene Exercise teams 1-3 Mock Crime Scene Exercise teams 4-6	Chapter 12	
16	12/4 12/6	Mental Health Practice Final Exam	MCSE, evaluation	Study for final, prep portfolio
17	12/11	In-class Final Exam	Analysis, Portfolio	
18		Canvas Final Exam		Happy Holidays!