

**San José State University**  
**CASA/Department of Justice Studies**  
**FS 11 Survey of Forensic Science, CRN 49296**  
**Fall 2018**

<b>Instructor</b>	Mary Juno
<b>Instructor Email</b>	<a href="mailto:mary.juno@sjsu.edu">mary.juno@sjsu.edu</a>
<b><u>Canvas Website</u></b>	<a href="https://sjsu.instructure.com/">https://sjsu.instructure.com/</a>
<b>Office Location</b>	127 Health Building
<b>Office Hours</b>	1330-1500 Mondays, drop-in, or by arrangement
<b>Class Days, Times, &amp; Location</b>	Asynchronous, on Canvas
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None
<b>JS &amp; FS Library Liaison</b>	Silke Higgins <a href="mailto:silke.higgins@sjsu.edu">silke.higgins@sjsu.edu</a>
<b><u>FS LibGuide</u></b>	<a href="http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&amp;p=1526987">http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&amp;p=1526987</a>

**Course Catalogue Description**

This survey course introduces students to the fields of crime scene investigation and forensic science. Topics include the myths and realities of CSI, history and sub-disciplines of forensic science, types of evidence and analysis, and types and sources of error.

Note: This course is required for FS majors and FS minors. It is recommended for JS majors, and open to 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:

SLO 1 Summarize the history of forensic science, the structure and organization of crime labs, and the sub-disciplines and contributing sciences of forensic science.

SLO 2 Differentiate and explain 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.

SLO 3 Select the appropriate methods of analysis used for biological, chemical, and pattern evidence, and execute appropriate techniques in lab exercises.

SLO 4 Evaluate the criteria for admission of scientific evidence in court and expert testimony and the types and sources of error in forensic science.

**Texts/Readings**

- James, S. & Nordby, J., and Bell, S. (2014). *Forensic Science: An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques, 4/E*. CRC Press. ISBN 9781439853832
- Links to additional readings will be posted on the Canvas class website. It is your responsibility to check the website frequently for new postings.

**Course Format**

Our course meets entirely online, asynchronously, on Canvas. Even though we will not meet at a specified time, the work is not self-paced. You will have assignments, readings, videos,

discussions, and deadlines every week. You should plan to log in every other day to keep up with the material.

There are five content modules in the course, running 2-4 weeks each. There will be one non-cumulative test at the end of each module.

### **Fall 2018 Course Schedule**

Specific assignment due dates are posted on Canvas, but will follow this general outline:

#### **Module 0: Welcome to FS 11**

Log in, get familiar with Canvas, post a greeting and say hello to your classmates!

#### **Module 1: Aug 26 – Sept 22, History of FS, Intro to Forensic Evidence & CSI**

Textbook Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 5

Module 1 Exam Sept 22

#### **Module 2: Sept 23 – Oct 13, Crime Lab: Forensic Biology**

Textbook Chapters 4, 6, 8 & 9

Module 2 Exam Oct 13

#### **Module 3: Oct 14 – Nov 10, Crime Lab: Forensic Chemistry**

Textbook Chapters 10, 11, 12, & 16

Module 3 Exam Nov 10

#### **Module 4: Nov 11- Nov 24, Crime Lab: Pattern Evidence**

Textbook Chapters 13, 14, & 15

Module 4 Exam Nov 24

#### **Module 5: Nov 25 – Dec 15, Scientific Evidence in Court, Forensic Error**

Textbook Chapter 21

Module 5 Exam Dec 15

### **Assignments**

1. **Tests/Quizzes (40%)**: There will be four exams in this class, one at the end of each module (except pattern evidence). The final exam will not be cumulative. Format may include multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer, and short essay.
2. **Reading and Review Questions (25%)**: Chapter reading and review questions are assigned in every module (3-5 chapters per week for an accelerated summer course). Late work (turned in after the module has ended) will be marked down 10% for each week that it is late.
3. **Discussion Questions (25%)**: The discussion board is where you demonstrate your understanding of material, articulate your thoughts in writing, and interact with your classmates. There will be 3-5 discussion questions posted each week. It is wise to read through threads and to take note of instructor comments (particularly the end-of-discussion summary), as these may reinforce particular ideas or trains of thought. **Students must respond substantively to every discussion question, and to at least one classmate's post, per question.** A substantive post is one that moves the discussion forward, adds a new idea, poses a thoughtful question, etc. Simply *liking* a post or *agreeing with* a classmate is not substantive and will *not* receive discussion

credit. No late discussion posts are permitted, since the purpose of the discussion is not simply to post, but to *discuss* questions and ideas with your classmates.

4. **Final Assessment: Case Project & Presentation (10%):** Students will create and present a PowerPoint on one criminal case in which a major forensic error occurred. Guidelines for this assignment will be distributed at the beginning of Module 5.

### **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, accuracy, 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 offers a really fun open-house tour every October.

### **Student Resources**

Consult the [Canvas Student Guide](#) for answers to common questions.

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

[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](mailto:help@help.sjsu.edu) Hours: Mon – Thur 8am - 9:45pm, Fri 8:00am – 4:45pm.

**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

**CASA Student Success Center** is located in MacQuarrie Hall 533, and provides GE advising for undergraduate students majoring or interested in majoring in programs offered by CASA Departments. The Student Success Center also provides assistance with changing majors, answers to academic policy related questions, meetings with peer advisors and/or various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. Students are welcome to study in the CASA Center during open hours.

**Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC)** is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center and 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.

**SJSU Writing Center** is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall and 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.

**Forensic Science Student Group (FSS)** is a campus group open to all students interested in forensic science. The group meets biweekly during the fall and spring semesters 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](mailto:sjsu.fss@gmail.com) for more information, or to get an application for membership.

### **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](#).

### **Tips for Success in This Course**

- Online classes are not self-paced. Assignments are due several times each week and deadlines are firm. It is up to you to keep up with the reading and posting. Set aside a certain time **every day** (or at least every other day) to login to the class and participate. Don't let yourself fall behind.
- 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.

- Speaking of exams, students tend to underestimate the level of difficulty of exams. I strongly suggest that you take my advice and **study before each test**. What to study? Powerpoints, discussions, websites, and videos. I don't test from the book, so it will not be a good study guide.
- If you have a question regarding course material or requirements, post it on the Q&A board. If you have a private problem or issue, email me. Don't wait until it's too late to do anything about it!
- Join the FSS during the fall or spring semester. 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 in this group! They schedule many fun events during the semester.

### **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. She has conducted research at the NYPD Latent Fingerprint Lab, and is currently the co-coordinator of the FS program at SJSU. Her office is 127 HB.

**Good luck this semester!**