

San José State University
CASA/Department of Justice Studies
JS/FS 100W Forensic Science Writing Workshop
CRN 49212 Fall 2019

Instructor	Mary Juno
Instructor Email	mary.juno@sjsu.edu
<u>Canvas Website</u>	https://sjsu.instructure.com/
Office Location	127 Health Building
Office Hours	T/Th 1330-1500
Class Days, Times, & Location	T/Th 1200-1315, Engineering Building 301
Prerequisites	FS 11, GE Area 3, WST, upper division standing, FS or JS declared major.
JS & FS Library Liaison	Nyle Monday nyle.monday@sjsu.edu
<u>FS LibGuide</u>	http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&p=1526987

Course Catalogue Description

Effective written communication skills are vital to success in any career, and are particularly important to the criminal justice professional. This is an integrated writing and research course designed to develop advanced communication skills, both written and oral, with emphasis on laboratory and crime scene report writing, and court testimony. A scholarly paper, written in APA format and informed by research, is also required. Students must earn a grade of “C” or better to pass this course. Satisfies SJSU Studies Area Z. Declared major: FS or JS. Note: Must be passed with C or better to satisfy GWAR.

General Education Learning Objectives (GELO), Area Z

GELO1: Students shall be able to produce discipline-specific written work that demonstrates upper-division proficiency in:

- language use
- grammar
- clarity of expression

GELO2: Students shall be able to explain, analyze, develop, and criticize ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse

GELO3: Students shall be able to organize and develop essays and documents for both professional and general audiences

GELO4: Students shall be able to organize and develop essays and documents according to appropriate editorial and citation standards

GELO5: Students shall be able to locate, organize, and synthesize information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and to communicate that purpose in writing

Course Learning Objectives

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

CLO1: Produce clear, accurate, and grammatically correct crime lab and crime scene reports that utilize terminology, style, and conventions appropriate to the forensic science profession.

CLO2: Explain the rules of evidence and case law governing expert and lay witness court testimony.

CLO3: Articulate methodology and scientific basis of statements made in reports, and defend conclusions in direct- and cross-examination simulations.

CLO4: Synthesize ideas encountered in peer reviewed research to construct an effective, informed, and well organized argument or inquiry.

CLO5: Demonstrate proficiency in APA citation formatting.

Texts/Readings

- Gilpin, A. A. & Patchet-Golubev, P. (2000). *A guide to writing in the sciences*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Feder, H. A. & Houck, M. M. (2008). *Succeeding as an expert witness*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.
- NIJ Legal Guide for the Forensic Expert
- 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 for class.

Assignments

1. Report writing exercises (25%): Students will write scientific/lab reports and crime scene reports that use appropriate terminology and style, are clear and free from mechanical error, and that meet the standards of the profession. (CLO1)
2. Mock court and expert testimony (25%): Students will analyze rules of testimony, develop critical questions for cross examination, and participate in mock court exercises. (CLO2,3)
3. Research paper (25%): Students will write a research paper in APA format on a forensic science topic. (CLO4,5)
4. Exams/quizzes (25%): There will be one quiz for each major component of the course (crime scene reports, lab reports, court testimony, and research/APA). (CLO1-5)

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, effort, 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%.

- Attend a workshop or private tutoring session at the Writing Center (126 Clark Hall) and provide proof of attendance.

Class Policies

- No cell phones in class: Turn them off and put them away. If you must use your phone during class, please step outside of the room to do it.
- Plagiarized work and/or cheating on assessments will result in a 0 grade on the assignment, and the incident will be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct](#).
- Late work will be marked down 10% every week that it is late.
- Make-ups for exams will generally not be possible unless extraordinary, documented circumstances exist.
- 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 Info and Resources

**See your major advisor for major advice. See a GE advisor for GE advice.
Follow your major's graduation roadmap.**

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

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.

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.

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

[CHHS Student Success Center](#)

The Student Success Center in the College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) provides advising for undergraduate students majoring or wanting to major in programs offered in CHHS Departments and Schools. All CHHS students and students who would like to be in CHHS 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 CHHS Student Success Center. Locations: MacQuarrie Hall (MQH) 533 and bottom floor of the Health Building. Contact information: [408.924.2910](tel:408.924.2910) The CHHS Student Success Center also provides study space and laptops for checkout.

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 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.

Important Dates This Semester:

Sept 3: Last Day to Drop Without a W

Sept 10: Last Day to Add a Course, Last Day to Request CR/NC

Nov 15: Last Day to Submit Late Drop/Withdrawal Request <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/forms/>

Dec 9: Last day of Instruction

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 currently co-coordinates the FS program, teaches JS and FS courses, and advises FS majors and minors. Her office is 127 Health Building.

FS 100W Forensic Science Writing Workshop Fall 2019 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

Week	Date		In-Class Topics	Readings, Assignments
1	8/22		Introductions, class overview Research paper assignment overview Types, purpose, audience, sections, style of forensic reports	Read GWS Ch 5 Review docs on Canvas Start thinking about research topic
2	8/27 8/29	Crime Scene Reports	Crime report types (face pages, continuation pages, etc.), Note-taking and observations Report writing rules: first person, past tense, active voice, Facts, opinions, inferences Report writing rules	Research topic and research question Extra credit: Grammar worksheets
3	9/3 9/5		Content and format of evidence lists, scene descriptions, and narrative summaries Practical exercises Review research topic and research questions	Submit tentative research topics and questions Extra credit: Grammar worksheets
4	9/10 9/12		Practical exercises Quiz #1	Extra credit: Grammar worksheets
5	9/17 9/19		Lab Reports	Science, protocols & methodology, notes Admissibility of scientific evidence (case law: <i>Frye, Daubert, Kumho Tire</i>)
6	9/24 9/26	Ethical issues: Certainty, uncertainty competency, bias, selective reporting, error objectivity vs. subjectivity Practical exercises		Read "Minimizing Contextual Bias in Forensic Casework" Quiz #2 Finalize research topic and research question
7	10/1 10/3	Court Testimony	Court players, processes, and terminology Types of witnesses, Federal Rules of Evidence	Feder & Houck readings FRE 701-706
8	10/8 10/10		Subpoenas, pre-trial and evidentiary meetings and hearings, preparing court exhibits Court room demeanor, credibility and competence, direct and cross examinations, do's and don't of testifying No Class Meeting 10/10	Feder & Houck readings Read "Defense Challenge to Fingerprints" Canvas: Locate videos of forensic science expert and crime scene testimony
9	10/15 10/17		Critique forensic testimony: overconfidence (Michael West) and uncertainty, misspeaking, weighting evidence, truthfulness and perjury	Feder & Houck readings Prepare defense questions
10	10/22 10/24		Mock court exercise: Student presentations Quiz #3	Feder & Houck readings
11	10/29 10/31	Research	Role and purpose of research in forensic science, APA format Annotated bibliography Thesis statements	Read GWS Ch 2 & 3 Read "Importance of Research Culture in FS" Locate and read articles on your research topic: Complete CRAAP sheets and annotated bibliography)
12	11/5 11/7		Due: AB & CRAAP sheets Thesis statement workshop Writing a literature review Writing and introduction and conclusion	Refine thesis statement Complete first draft of lit review

Week	Date		In-Class Topics	Readings, Assignments
13	11/12 11/14		Thesis statement workshop Lit review workshop	Complete first draft (intro, thesis, lit review, conclusion) in APA format
14	11/19 11/21		Introductions and conclusions workshop APA Quiz Peer review exercise (first draft)	Complete abstract
15	11/26 11/28		Abstract due, peer review exercise (abstract) No Class - Thanksgiving	Complete final paper
16	12/3 12/5		Individual meetings Quiz #4 Final paper due	Happy holidays!