

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences/Department of Justice Studies**  
**FS 164 Crime Scene and Evidence Photography, CRN 27179 & 27180**  
**Spring 2021**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Eric Kwong
Email:	eric.kwong@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	By appointment only
Class Days/Time:	Asynchronous (no required class meetings)
Classroom:	Online
Prerequisites:	FS 11, JS or FS Major/Minor, Upper Division Standing. JS Students may substitute JS 10 for FS 11.
Library Liaison:	Nyle Monday nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu
FS/JS Lib Guide:	<a href="https://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&amp;p=1526987">https://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&amp;p=1526987</a>

**Course Format**

In the interest of safety (due to COVID-19), this class has been moved online for Spring 2021. It is scheduled as an asynchronous class, meaning that it has no required meetings. However, I will either hold optional-attendance weekly meetings to go over material in depth, and/or post video lectures which you will need to view.

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas/your email on [one.sjsu.edu](http://one.sjsu.edu) to learn of any updates.

**Course Description**

Practical use of photography in documenting crime scenes and evidence. Topics will include 35mm camera operation, lenses, focus, exposure, depth of field, lighting, composition, flash, injury documentation, digital cameras and video, and court presentation of photographic evidence.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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

CLO1 Demonstrate understanding of digital photographic equipment function and care.

CLO2 Articulate understanding of technical photography and evidence photography concepts and terms.

CLO3 Articulate understanding of court requirements of photographic evidence, issues that may arise in court, and testimony regarding photographic evidence.

CLO4 Demonstrate integration and mastery of technical photography principles and skills through

practical exercises. Demonstrate ability to solve special problems in photography by using appropriate equipment, technique, angle, or manipulation.

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbook (Required)

Robinson, E. M. (2010). *Crime scene photography, 3/E*. Boston: Elsevier. ISBN: 9780128027646  
May be purchased from the bookstore, direct from Elsevier, Amazon.com, or other websites.

### Other Readings

Recommended Texts:

Staggs, S. (2014). *Crime scene and evidence photography, 2nd Edition*. Steven Staggs Publishing.

Jones, P. (2011). *Practical forensic digital imaging: Applications and techniques*. Boca Raton: CRC Press.

Miller, L. S. & McEvoy, R. T. (2011). *Police photography, 6/E*. Elsevier.

Additional readings and resources will be posted on Canvas.

### Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Required: DSLR (Digital Single-lens reflex) camera with manual controls, normal lens (50mm), tripod, removable flash unit, flashlight, cable release, neck strap or sling and memory card(s).

Recommended: Camera case/bag, lens cloth/lens cleaning pen, USB card reader, laptop

This equipment may be rented or purchased, and/or shared with a classmate.

Camera Suggestions: <https://www.dpreview.com/reviews/buying-guide-best-easy-to-use-cameras>

Rentals: <https://www.borrowlenses.com/> or <https://www.sanjosecamera.com/>

Purchase: eBay, Amazon, B&H, Adorama, your local electronics retailer (Frys, Best Buy, etc.) or your local camera store.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Photography Projects (40%): may include Composition, Lighting, Depth of Field, Exposure, Flash Photography, Nighttime Photography, Lighting Problems, Elements of the Crime, Evidence Documentation, Photographing Victims and Suspects, Image Manipulation, and more. Students will present each project in a class critique-review format. (CLO4)
2. Exams and Quizzes (40%): Periodic quizzes on reading, lectures, and projects. Cumulative final exam. (CLO1-3)
3. Chapter Review Questions (10%): Students will complete the chapter review questions at the back of each assigned chapter. (CLO2)
4. Participation in project review (10%): Student projects will be chosen randomly for review via canvas discussion board. Participation in the discussion is required. (CLO4)

## Grading Information

### Grading Scale for All Assignments

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

## Determination of Grades

All assignments are graded based on adherence to directions, thoroughness, thoughtfulness, clarity, and logic.

## Penalty for late or missed work

- Late work may be submitted for reduced credit, -10% for each week that it is late.
- Make-ups for exams will generally not be possible unless extraordinary, documented circumstances exist.

## Recording Zoom Classes

- This course or portions of this course (i.e., lectures, discussions, student presentations) will be recorded for instructional or educational purposes. The recordings will only be shared with students enrolled in the class through Canvas. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the semester. If, however, you would prefer to remain anonymous during these recordings, then please speak with the instructor about possible accommodations (e.g., temporarily turning off identifying information from the Zoom session, including student name and picture, prior to recording).
- Students are not allowed to record without instructor permission  
Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy ([S12-7](#)) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

## Zoom Classroom Etiquette

- **Mute Your Microphone:** To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- **Be Mindful of Background Noise and Distractions:** Find a quiet place to “attend” class, to the greatest extent possible.
- **Avoid video setups** where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc.
- **Avoid activities** that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.
- **Position Your Camera Properly:** Be sure your webcam is in a stable position and focused at eye level.
- **Limit Your Distractions/Avoid Multitasking:** You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).
- **Use Appropriate Virtual Backgrounds:** If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning.

## 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/> Make sure to review these university policies and resources.

Important dates this semester: <https://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/Spring-2021.php>

## Tips for Online Learning

- If you are new to Canvas, please visit the Canvas Guide for Students: [https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student\\_resources/index.html](https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources/index.html)
- Download the Canvas mobile app to your smartphone so that you will have access to the course if you are away from a computer
- Login to class every other day so that you do not miss important announcements and assignment deadlines, and set reminders on your phone
- Bookmark frequently visited course sites and resources so that you can revisit them to study for tests

## Academic Integrity

Students are expected to pursue their studies with honesty and integrity. When students have a person other than themselves take a test or complete an assignment; cut and paste writing from a source into their paper without giving proper credit; accept, buy, or copy the work of another; share or sell their own work; lie, cheat, or otherwise misrepresent their work product, they have committed the serious offense of *academic dishonesty*. If you cheat, copy, or misrepresent your work in this class in any way, including citation "errors," you will receive a 0 on the assignment and the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. You are expected, in all classes, to do your own thinking and writing, and turn in your best original work.

## 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. Contact [sjsu.fss@gmail.com](mailto:sjsu.fss@gmail.com) or visit their website <https://sites.google.com/site/forensicsciencestudents/home> for more information and to apply

## 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.

# FS 164 Crime Scene and Evidence Photography Spring 2021 Course Schedule

Schedule subject to change with fair notice via canvas

Weeks	Dates	Topics and Assignments	Readings
1-4	01/27-02/21	<p>Introductions and course overview</p> <p><b>Module I:</b> The Camera</p> <p><b>Topics:</b> The Camera – Getting started, Shutter System, Shutter Speed, Digital file types, The Sensor, Film Plane, Distortion &amp; Angles, Depth of Field, Lenses, Composition, Focus and Exposure</p> <p><b>Photo projects:</b> Photo Learning Project, Composition, DoF, Exposure</p> <p><b>Quizzes/Tests: Quiz 1</b></p>	<p>Intro, Chapters 1,2,4,5,10, and 11</p> <p>Read your camera manual, get familiar with your camera's settings and functions</p> <p>See Canvas for assignments, due dates, and additional readings</p>
5-7	02/22-03/14	<p><b>Module II:</b> Light</p> <p><b>Topics:</b> Quality of Light, Flash Photography, Nighttime Photography</p> <p><b>Photo projects:</b> Flash and Lighting, Nighttime Photography</p> <p><b>Quizzes/Tests: Quiz 2</b></p>	<p>Chapters 3 and 6</p> <p>See Canvas for assignments, due dates, and additional readings</p>
8-9, 11	03/15-04/11	<p><b>Module III:</b> Crime Scene Photography</p> <p><b>Topics:</b> Crime Scene Documentation, Types of Crime Scene Photos, Capturing Elements of the Crime, Evidence &amp; Scale Photography</p> <p><b>Photo projects:</b> Crime Scene photography, Evidence Photography</p> <p><b>Quizzes/Tests: Quiz 3</b></p>	<p>Chapters 9.2, 9.5 and 9.8</p> <p>See Canvas for assignments, due dates, and additional readings</p>
10	<b>03/29-04/02 Spring Recess – No Classes</b>		
12-14	4/12-05/02	<p><b>Module IV:</b> Photographic Situations</p> <p><b>Topics:</b> Photographing Victims, Suspects, Injuries, Crimes Against Property, Accidents, Vehicles as Crime Scenes, UV, IR, Fluorescence, Luminol</p> <p><b>Photo projects:</b> Photographing Victims, Vehicle Crime Scenes, Photographing Evidence "in the Lab"</p> <p><b>Quizzes/Tests: Quiz 4</b></p>	<p>Chapters 7, 9.3 and 12</p> <p>See Canvas for assignments, due dates, and additional readings</p>
15-17	05/03-05/17	<p><b>Module V:</b> Legal</p> <p><b>Topics:</b> Legal Issues Related to Digital Images, Manipulation of Images, Ethics, Admissibility, Court Testimony</p> <p><b>Photo projects:</b> RE-DO any previous project</p> <p><b>Quizzes/Tests:</b> Terms Quiz</p>	<p>Canvas</p>
Final Exam	<b>Friday, 05/21, 1715-1930</b>		