

San José State University
CoSS/Justice Studies Department
FS 11 Survey of Forensic Science, CRN 30097 & 30098
SUMMER 2022

Instructor:	Mary Juno
Office Location:	Health Building 127
Email:	mary.juno@sjsu.edu
Summer Office Hours	Wednesdays by appointment (on Zoom) https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/93007422140
Class Days/Time:	Canvas, June 1-July 1, Asynchronous (no meetings)
Prerequisites:	None
Library Liaison:	Nyle Monday nyle.monday@sjsu.edu
FS/JS Lib Guide:	http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&p=1526987

Course 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 Learning Objectives

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

1. Summarize the history of forensic science, the structure and organization of crime labs, and the sub-disciplines of forensic science.
2. Differentiate and explain the roles of investigative personnel, and articulate a realistic perspective of the field.
3. Categorize types of evidence, and select appropriate methods of analysis used for each type.
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

We will be using *Forensic Science Simplified* <https://www.forensicssciencesimplified.org/> as our primary guide. Links to additional required readings, such as articles and websites, will be posted on Canvas.

Optional Text: Bell, S. (2019). *Forensic science: An introduction to scientific and investigative techniques*, 5/E. CRC Press. This book is available (free!) from SJSU library as a downloadable ebook. The link is on our Canvas page.

Course Format

This is a highly accelerated course (16 weeks of material crammed into 5)! To keep up with the assignments, you must login every day (including weekends) to view lectures and videos, complete assigned readings (about a chapter a day), and respond to the discussion board .

Summer 2022 Course Schedule

You will notice that there is one day of overlap between each module. The purpose of the overlap is both to provide flexibility and keep to our tight schedule!

Module 1: Introduction to Forensic Science & CSI (June 1-6)

Module 1 Quiz June 6

Module 2: Biological Evidence (June 6-13)

Module 2 Quiz June 13

Module 3: Trace and Chemical Evidence (June 13-20)

Module 3 Quiz June 20

Module 4: Pattern Evidence (June 20-24)

Module 4 Quiz June 24

Module 5: Scientific Evidence in Court & Forensic Error (June 24-29)

Module 5 Quiz June 29

Module 6: Special Topics (June 29-July 1)

Module 6 Quiz July 1

Assignment Groups and Weights

40% Quizzes/Exams There will be six quizzes in this class, one at the end of each module. Format may include multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer, and short essay.

30% Discussion Board The discussion board is where you demonstrate your understanding of material, and interact with your classmates. Students are required to post a substantive, complete, and original response to each prompt, *and* at least one substantive response to a classmate in order to receive full credit for a discussion.

30% Presentations Students will create presentations both individually and in small groups (recorded on Zoom). Topics will include forensic error and wrongful convictions, podcasts, forensic sub-topics (student choice), and others. Details of these assignments will be provided.

Final Grade Scale

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>98 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 97.99%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92.99%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>88 to 89.99 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 87.99%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82.99%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>78 to 79.99%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 77.99%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72.99%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>68 to 69.99%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 67.99%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62.99%</i>

Grading Policies

- All assignments are graded based on adherence to directions, thoroughness, thoughtfulness/effort, clarity, logic, accuracy, and writing mechanics.
- Plagiarized work will result in a 0 grade on the assignment and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. See below for more information on academic integrity.

- Late work may be submitted **within 3 days of the original due date**, -10% for each day that it is late. There is limited flexibility on late work due to the accelerated format of our course.
- Quizzes will be open for a 24-hour window to maximize flexibility. You are expected to take the quiz within this time frame. Make-ups may be permitted in some cases, but will be marked down for lateness (unless you experience a documented emergency). Please set reminders so that you do not miss quizzes.

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 assignments, to do your own thinking and writing, turn in your best original work, and cite all sources you consult. No exceptions.

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/>

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.

Themis: Research Journal of Justice Studies and Forensic Science

Themis is a student-run journal that publishes original SJSU student papers on a wide range of justice- and forensic science-related topics. Themis runs as a 3-unit class every spring, publishing one volume annually in May in hardcopy and [online at Scholarworks](#). Researchers the world over have downloaded and cited the work of our students. For more information about Themis, please see:

<https://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/our-department/publications/themis/index.html>

Contact mary.juno@sjsu.edu to join Themis (JS 182) as an associate editor, and/or to submit an original paper for consideration in our next volume (deadline January 31).

About the Instructor

Juno earned an MSc in Forensic Science from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, and a 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 coordinates the Forensic Studies Minor and teaches FS and JS courses at SJSU.