

San José State University
CASA/Department of Justice Studies
FS 11 Survey of Forensic Science, CRN 30331
Spring 2019

Instructor	Mary Juno
Instructor Email	mary.juno@sjsu.edu
Canvas Website	https://sjsu.instructure.com/
Office Location	127 Health Building
Office Hours	1330-1600 Thursdays (drop-in)
Class Days, Times, & Location	Thursdays 1630-1915
Prerequisites	None
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

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 once each week on Thursdays, and is tech-enhanced on Canvas. This means that you will need to access Canvas to complete some assignments (view videos, visit websites, take quizzes, participate in some discussions, and upload homework).

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.

Spring 2019 Course Schedule

Specific assignment due dates are posted on Canvas. We will follow this general outline:

Module 1: Jan 24 – Feb 14, History of FS, Intro to Forensic Evidence & CSI

Textbook Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 5

Module 1 Exam Feb 15

Module 2: Feb 18 – March 7, Crime Lab: Forensic Biology

Textbook Chapters 4, 6, 8 & 9

Module 2 Exam March 8

Module 3: March 11 – March 28, Crime Lab: Forensic Chemistry

Textbook Chapters 10, 11, 12, & 16

Module 3 Exam March 29

Spring Break: April 1-5

Module 4: April 8 – April 18, Crime Lab: Pattern Evidence

Textbook Chapters 13, 14, & 15

Module 4 Exam April 19

Module 5: April 22 – May 9, Scientific Evidence in Court, Forensic Error

Textbook Chapter 21

Module 5 Exam May 16

Assignments

1. **Tests/Quizzes (40%)**: There will be five exams in this class, one at the end of each module. 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. 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%)**: Discussions offer an opportunity for you to demonstrate your understanding of material, articulate your thoughts orally and/or in writing, and interact with your classmates. Some of our discussions will occur in small groups, in class. Others will occur on the Canvas discussion board. There will be 3-5 discussion questions each week.

For online discussions: 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 your 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. A professional organization is one that holds meetings or conferences and produces a scholarly journal. A professional membership is not the same as an internship, job, or a membership in a student organization. A quick google search will turn up dozens of professional orgs.
2. Tour a crime lab and write a 2-page, typed, double-spaced synopsis of the experience. Santa Clara has monthly tours, but feel free to arrange a tour of another lab.
3. Attend a Forensic Science Seminar and write up a 2-page, typed, double-spaced synopsis of the experience.

Class Protocol and Policies

- No cell phones in class: Turn them off and put them away.
- Laptop use in class is permitted only for note-taking.
- Plagiarized work and/or cheating on any assessment will result in a 0 grade on the assignment, and the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.
- Make-ups for quizzes and exams will generally not be possible unless extraordinary, documented circumstances exist.

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 CGGS 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. Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MQH) 533. 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

Feb 5: Last Day to Drop Without a W

Feb 12: Last Day to Add a Course, Last Day to Request CR/NC

Apr 25: Last Day to Submit Late Drop/Withdrawal Request <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/forms/>

May 13: 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.

Tips for Success in This Course

- Because our class is tech-enhanced, you should check Canvas every day to make sure you are not missing an assignment or reading. It is up to you to keep up with the work, and most deadlines in this class are firm.
- Students tend to underestimate the level of difficulty of online exams. I strongly suggest that you **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, bring it up in class or post it on the Q&A board. If you have a private problem or issue, come talk to me in my office hours. Don't wait until it's too late to solve the problem.
- 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.

Good luck this semester!