

San José State University
CoSS/Justice Studies Department
FS 11 Survey of Forensic Science, CRN 48313
FALL 2022

Instructor:	Mary Juno
Office Location:	Health Building 127
Email:	mary.juno@sjsu.edu
Office Hours	Wednesdays 11am-1pm (on Zoom) https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/93007422140
Class Days/Time:	Canvas, August 19-Dec 9, 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 Catalog 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.

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.
5. Identify types and sources of error in forensic science.

Texts/Readings

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

Optional/Non Required Text: Bell, S. (2019). *Forensic science: An introduction to scientific and investigative techniques*, 5/E. CRC Press. Available as a free ebook from SJSU library.

Course Format

Although this is a science course, a background in science is not necessary for success. All content and materials that you'll need are provided in the course. This section of FS 11 does not have any meetings, however, it is not self-paced. Modules will unlock at a specified time in an effort to keep students working on the same material and moving through the course at approximately the same pace. There are weekly assignments and weekly due dates. You should plan to login about 3 times a week so that you can stay on top of the work load and not miss important announcements. Most work will be completed individually, with some small group work and group presentations (created over Zoom).

Fall 2022 Tentative Course Schedule

- Module 1: What is Forensic Science? (Aug 21-28)
- Module 2: Science and the Scientific Method (Aug 28-Sept 4)
- Module 3: The Value of Forensic Evidence (Sept 4-Sept 11)
- Module 4: Intro to CSI and Death Investigation (Sept 11-18)
- Module 5: Forensic Biology (Sept 18-Oct 9)
- Module 6: Forensic Chemistry (Oct 9-Oct 30)
- Module 7: Pattern Evidence (Oct 30-Nov 6)
- Module 8: Scientific Evidence in Court (Nov 6-13)
- Module 9: Forensic Error (Nov 13-Nov 30)
- Thanksgiving Break (Nov 20-27)
- Module 10: Special Topics (Nov 30-Dec 9)

Assignment Groups and Weights

40% Quizzes There will be one quiz at the end of every module. Format may include multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer, and short essay.

40% 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 for each discussion in order to receive full credit.

20% 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>

Class Policies and Protocol

- Late work may be submitted for reduced credit, -10% for each week that it is late, beginning the day after it is due (so turn it in asap to avoid deep reductions).
- Plagiarized work will result in a 0 grade on the assignment and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.
- Quizzes will typically be open for at least a 24-hour window in order to maximize flexibility for students. You are expected to take the exam within this time frame. Make-ups will not be permitted unless you experience a documented emergency. Please set reminders so that you do not miss them.
- Please be respectful of each other on the discussion board. Absolutely no racist, sexist, homophobic, harassing, dismissive or other offensive, discriminating, or disrespectful language or imagery will be tolerated. Any incidents of this nature may be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

- Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, PowerPoints, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor.

Canvas

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. Canvas Student Resource page <https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/software-tools/teaching-tools/canvas/student-resources/index.php>

Campus Resources

<https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/campus-resources/index.php>

Technology Resources

<https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php>

Tips for Success

- 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 Canvas frequently so that you do not miss important announcements and assignment deadlines
- Bookmark frequently visited course sites and resources so that you can revisit them to study for tests
- Get in contact with your groupmates early in the semester
- Visit me in office hours if you have questions

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

Important University Dates

<https://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/fall-2022.php>

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 <https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>

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 spring only, publishing one volume annually in May

in hardcopy and is hosted [online at Scholarworks](#). Researchers the world over have downloaded and cited our students. For more information, please see: <https://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/current-students/themis.php>
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 Science Minor and teaches FS courses in the Justice Studies Dept. She also teaches at CCSF and SFSU.

How to Contact Me

- Email: mary.juno@sjsu. I will try to respond within 24 hours, M-F.
- Zoom Office Hours: Wednesdays 1100-1300 (drop in) <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/93007422140>