



Department of Justice Studies
FS 011-02 Survey of Forensic Science
CRN 49260, Fall 2020

Instructor	Dr. Jodie Warren
Contact Information	Email: jodie.warren@sjsu.edu https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/2744634778 (zoom only for this semester)
Office Hours	Drop in: via zoom <i>M/W</i> 12-1 pm, OR by appointment
Canvas Course Website	https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1376186 Login using your Tower ID Card and Password → Courses → FS 011
Lecture Days/Time	Mondays 9- 11:45 am (attendance online is required)
Prerequisites	None
Library Liaison	Monday, Nyle Email: Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu
Lib Guide	http://libguides.sjsu.edu/content.php?pid=57768&sid=2450175

Course Format

The mode of instruction for this course is synchronous online due to Covid 19 measures. Reliable access to a computer and the internet will be required. Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone. SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during tests. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible All written assignments will be submitted via Canvas, and must be in Microsoft Word (*.doc or *.docx). If you do not currently own **Microsoft Word**, the software (both PC and Mac) is available for free to students:

<http://its.sjsu.edu/services/software/microsoft-students/index.html>

Canvas Course Page and E-mail Copies of course materials will be posted on Canvas.

You are responsible for regularly checking your e-mail and Canvas regarding announcements, reminders, and any additional course materials. The majority of course materials will be posted in Adobe PDF format; if you choose to download them, you will need Adobe Reader to view the documents. There is no cost to download Adobe Reader (<http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>). Some course materials may need to be accessed via the internet (i.e., web sites).

Any student that needs accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability should work with the Accessible Education Center (AEC), and the instructor.

E-mail Policy

Feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check several times per day); however, please adhere to the email guidelines below:

1. Please include in the “subject line” the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS189, Your Name, subject). The instructor will not respond to “no subject” e-mails, or any e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.

Survey of Forensic science, FS011-02, Fall, 2020

2. E-mailed inquiries should be relatively short in nature. Students should make an appointment to meet with me on zoom to discuss more extensive inquiries. Students will be referred to the course syllabus with respect to questions that are addressed by simply reading the syllabus.

Course Description

This survey course introduces students to the profession of forensic science. Topics include the history and sub-disciplines of forensic science, and the scientific methods and analytical instrumentation used for the recognition, documentation, collection, preservation, and analysis of physical evidence.

Disclaimer: This is an adult level course that may cover graphic criminal cases/discussions/topics. Most of the course material will not be censored. Under no circumstances are students permitted to take photos/screenshots of any of the course materials, slides or photos. Outlines will be provided/accessible via Canvas for each lecture pertaining to the topic that will be discussed. 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.

Note: This course is required for FS majors and FS minors. Recommended for JS majors, and any student with a general interest in Forensic Science.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives (LO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to [LO1-5]:

- 1. critically analyze the forensic sciences used in today's criminal justice system and explain issues that arise in our courts due to the CSI effect**
- 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 forensic sciences.**
- 3. Summarize the history of forensic science, the structure and organization of crime labs, and the sub-disciplines and contributing sciences of forensic science.**
- 4. Explain the fundamental principles and concepts of forensic science**
- 5. Describe the rules of evidence**

Required Texts/Readings:

Required Readings (ISBN: 9780135268407 (rental version)) Saferstein, R. and Roy, T. (2020). *Criminalistics: An introduction to forensic science* (13th Ed.). New York: Pearson pp.558
Students can rent an electronic copy of the textbook via
<https://www.vitalsource.com/products/criminalistics-richard-saferstein-tiffany-v9780135268407>

Additional Readings will be posted on Canvas

Assignments

- 1. MIDTERM – This will be held in the lecture time. It will be only 1.5 hours long and will be worth 25% of the total grade. It will be based on the seminars and readings and will be in the form of short answers/multiple choice/true or false.***
- 2. FINAL – This will be held during the final exam period and will cover the second part of the course, and will include all seminars and readings following the midterm. It will be three hours and worth 25% of your total grade.***
- 3. SEMINAR EXERCISES and PARTICIPATION will be assigned in class and will be worth 25% of your final grade. These exercises can range from weekly assignments to in class activities. Due to this, regular attendance is required for successful completion of this course.***
- 4. One LITERATURE REVIEW paper and OUTLINE is also required. This should be 5 pages long – no shorter and not much longer (before references), double spaced. Your paper should be on a forensic science of your choice (suggestions will be offered in class) and should focus on explaining the science (not too much on techniques). The paper is worth 15% and is due (week 15). An outline must be submitted (week 11) and is worth 10% of your mark and combined with the paper, they are worth 25% of your final grade.***

All assignments must be completed to fulfill the requirements of the course and class attendance is required (as this is a scheduled class for M at 9 am)

Grading Scale for All Assignments

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A plus (+)	97-100	C plus (+)	77-79.9	F	<60
A	94-96.9	C	74-76.9		
A minus (-)	90-93.9	C minus (-)	70-73.9		
B plus (+)	87-89.9	D plus (+)	67-69.9		
B	84-86.9	D	64-66.9		
B minus (-)	80-83.9	D minus (-)	60-63.9		

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

Note: **A grade of C or better is required for all Justice Studies major and minor coursework**

Class Protocol and Policies

- Late assignments submitted will NOT be accepted and results in an automatic fail unless extraordinary documented circumstances exist or a doctor's note is presented. Avoid missing labs. Make-up sessions may not be available. Should you know in advance of any extenuating circumstances that conflict with such sessions, it is your responsibility to inform your professor. The possibility for submitting an alternative assignment may be granted at the discretion of the professor, but be advised that such undertaking will be quite demanding. If there is any doubt about the requirements for an assignment, or due dates/times, re-read the directions of the assignment and/or schedule. If your question(s) remains unanswered, contact your professor for clarification.
- Attendance and class participation is expected. It is essential that you log in to class prepared. Therefore, it is your responsibility to stay on top of your readings, complete assignments on time, and participate in class discussions. Lack of adequate participation *will* result in pop quizzes, which *will* count toward your final grade.
- Academic Dishonesty- Students who are suspected of cheating during an exam will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office and depending on the severity of the conduct, will receive a zero on the assignment or a grade of F in the course. Grade Forgiveness does not apply to courses for which the original grade was the result of a finding of academic dishonesty.

Student Resources

Student Technology Resources

Computers are 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.

Technical glitches (especially during an exam)

Contact the SJSU technical support for Canvas: Technical Support for Canvas Email: ecampus@sjsu.edu Phone: (408) 924-2337 <https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/support/>

Internet connection issues: Canvas autosaves responses a few times per minute as long as there is an internet connection. If your internet connection is lost, Canvas will warn you but allow you to continue working on your exam. A brief loss of internet connection is unlikely to cause you to lose your work. However, a longer loss of connectivity or weak/unstable connection may jeopardize your exam.

Other technical difficulties: Immediately email the instructor a current copy of the state of your exam and explain the problem you are facing. Your instructor may not be able to respond immediately or provide technical support. However, the copy of your exam and email will provide a record of the situation.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center 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. <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center located in Room 126 in Clark Hall 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. <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>

CHHS Student Success Center

The Student Success Center in the College of Health and Human Sciences 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. Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MQH) 533. Contact information: [408.924.2910](tel:408.924.2910) Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/chhs/ssc/>. The CHHS Student Success Center also provides study space and laptops for checkout.

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/>

University Calendar: *

Wednesday, Aug. 19	First Day of Instruction Late Registration Begins on MySJSU after 7am (Ends Sep. 8)
Monday, Aug. 31	Last Day to Drop Classes without a W grade
Monday, Sep. 7	Labor Day - Campus Closed
Tuesday, Sep. 1	Late Drop Petition Required
Tuesday, Sep. 8	Last Day to Add Classes via MySJSU Last Day to Submit Audit Credit/No-Credit Option Request [pdf] Last Day to Submit Instructor Drops
Wednesday, Sep. 9	Late Add Pre-Census Request requirement begins, see Forms' page for request form
Wednesday, Sep. 16	Enrollment Census Date
Thursday, Sep. 17	Late Add Post Census Request [pdf] Required
Monday, Oct. 5	Graduation Application Deadline - Undergrads for Priority Registration
Wednesday, Nov. 11	Veterans Day - Campus Closed
Friday, Nov. 13	Semester Withdrawal Deadline (AARS' Withdrawal Request) Late Enrollment Post Census [pdf] Ends
Thu - Fri, Nov. 26 - 27	Thanksgiving Holidays - Campus Closed
Monday, Dec. 7	Last Day of Instruction & Last day to complete Coursework for "Incomplete Grades"
Wed-Fri, Mon-Tue, Dec. 9-15	Final Exams

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.

Instructor

Dr. Jodie Warren obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Simon Fraser University (SFU) and volunteered in this institution's cutting-edge forensic entomology laboratory where she first began taking forensic cases on-call. While attending autopsies and crime scenes as the forensic entomologist, Dr. Warren completed an Advanced Specialty Certificate in Forensic Science and Technology with honors at British Columbia Institute of Technology. She then went on to complete a M.A. in Criminology at SFU where she specialized in constant and fluctuating temperature effects in forensic entomology. During her Ph.D. studies, also at SFU, Dr. Warren developed innovative techniques to advance current techniques used at crime scenes to age developing insects on decomposing remains. For this research, she was awarded the prestigious Dean's Convocation Gold Medal.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Date	In-Class Topics	Readings (should be done before class)
1	08/24	Course and instructor introduction	Examine syllabus and canvas
2	08/31	Introduction to Forensic Sciences and the NAS report	Saferstein, R. 2020. Criminalistics. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey. Ch. 3. Physical Evidence Skim The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report (2009) Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward (Canvas)
3	09/07	Labour Day Holiday Enjoy your long weekend!	
4	09/14	Identification of human remains	Saferstein, R. 2020. Criminalistics. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey. Ch5 (pgs 115-123) Forensic Anthropology Wayne Williams (Canvas)
5	09/21	Individualization- Confirmation of Identity	Saferstein, R. 2020. Ch. 6 Fingerprints
6	09/28	Time Since Death	Saferstein, R. 2020. Ch. 5 Death investigation
7	10/05	Coroner/Medical examiner death investigation	TBA on Canvas
8	10/12	Midterm Exam	No readings
9	10/19	Firearms/ Tool Marks	Saferstein, R. 2020. Criminalistics. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey. Ch. 9 Firearms, toolmarks and other impressions
10	10/26	Questioned Documents	Saferstein, R. 2020. Criminalistics. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey. Ch. 18. Document examination.
11	11/02	Crime Scene/Crime Scene Officer/ blood spatter	Saferstein, R. 2020. Criminalistics. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey. Ch. 2. The Crime Scene
12	11/09	Forensic Biology <i>Lit review due at 11:59 pm</i>	Saferstein, R. 2020. Criminalistics. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey. Ch. 11. Hair and Fibers, only up to Fibers, Ch. 16: DNA: The Indispensable Forensic Science Tool.
13	11/16	Forensic Chemistry	Ch. 11. Hair and Fibers, from Fibers onwards, Ch. 17, Forensic Aspects of Fire and Explosion investigation

14	11/23	Forensic Toxicology <i>Lit review due at 11:59 pm</i>	Saferstein, R. 2020. Criminalistics. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey Ch 12 Drugs and Ch 13 Forensic Toxicology.
15	11/30	Digital Forensics	Saferstein, R. 2020. Criminalistics. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey Ch. 19. Computer Forensics and Ch 20. Mobile Device Forensics.
16	12/07	Forensic Entomology	TBA on canvas
17	12/15	Final exam (see schedule for day and time) 07:00-9:15 (not my choice)	