San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
FS 11 Survey of Forensic Science, Section 82, Course number 46825,

Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Steven B. Lee
Office Location:	MQH 528
Telephone:	408-924-2948
Email:	steven.lee@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	**Fridays 8:00-09:00 am online.** Setting up appointments by email is preferred however you may contact me during in person hours listed above. Note that hours may be moved to accommodate meetings and students will be notified by posting. Preferred to set by appointment via email to steven.lee@sjsu.edu with subject "office hour request" as this way you won't need to wait for meetings with other students. Post general class questions to the Discussion Board under the "HELPME" discussion board or email me private questions.
Class Days/Time:	Our course meets entirely online, asynchronously, on Canvas. You will have assignments, readings, videos, discussions, and deadlines with all being posted on the Canvas site and the majority due on Mondays by 11:59 pm. There are five content modules in the course, plus one welcome module. Modules begin officially at the beginning of each week (the week before they are due but will be open earlier for those interested in getting started sooner). There will be one non-cumulative test/quiz at the end of each module.
Classroom:	Canvas : https://sjsu.instructure.com/ https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1432999

Course Format

On Line- A synchronous via Canvas

This course is delivered completely on-line though Canvas. You will need a computer with reliable internet access. Success in the course requires active participation by logging in *daily* for updates, to complete assignments, and to receive important and timely messages. Use the following Canvas login , enter your ID and Password. Here is a video guide to logging into your account.

For those new to canvas or needing more help with Canvas, see the guides and resources below.

Canvas Student Guide and Resources

What Makes a Successful Online Student?

Course Materials Canvas Web Page

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System course login website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking on the Canvas course page to learn of updates.

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. 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 Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
CLO1 Understand the roles of forensic and investigative personnel, their separate duties and how they work together.
CLO2 Articulate a realistic perspective of the field of forensic science, the nature of the work, its limits, challenges, and successes.
CLO3 Define important terms, concepts and principles such as: "CSI Effect", 4th Amendment, chain of custody, scientific method, pattern evidence, identification evidence, individualized evidence, class and individual characteristics, probative value, and the Locard Exchange Principle.
CLO4 Demonstrate understanding of genetic principles such as inheritance, DNA, STRs, alleles, genotype, phenotype, and PCR. Explain the history of DNA profiling.
CLO5 Display foundational knowledge in the history of forensic science, the structure and organization of crime labs, the analytical processes and procedures used, the sub-disciplines and contributing sciences of forensic science, and the types of evidence encountered.

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

Textbook

James, S., Nordby, J., & Bell, S. (2014). *Forensic Science: An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques, 4/E.* Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press/Taylor & Francis ISBN-13: 978-1439853832. The textbook is available for purchase in hard copy at the bookstore or can be accessed for free on-line by clicking here
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https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=01CALS_ALMA71478650520002901&context=L&vid=01CALS_SJO&lang=en_US&search_scope=EVERYTHING&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=everything&query=any,contains,Forensic%20Science:%20An%20Introduction%20to%20Scientific%20and%20Investigative%20Techniques&offset=0
or
https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/lib/sjsu/detail.action?docID=1543303

Many additional readings, tutorials, videos, and links will be posted on Canvas. Many additional readings, tutorials, videos, and links will be posted on Canvas.

Library Liaison

Nyle Monday Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

Assignments

1. **Exams/Quizzes (75 %):** There will be five non-cumulative exams/quizzes (15% each) in this class (one for each module 1-5) which includes the final quiz. Format will include multiple choice, matching, true/false, and short answer. Each exam will be administered on canvas. The last and 5th exam/quiz will be your final exam/quiz and will be available on the date scheduled for your final Wednesday December 15th, 2021. See the Final Exam Schedule for Fall 2021.Your 5 exams/quizzes will be due on 11:59pm of each of the following Fridays: **September 17th, October 15th, November 12th, December 3rd and December 15th** (CLO1-5)

2. **Answers to Chapter Questions (5%):** There will be a total of five dates that your chapter review questions will be due. Answers to chapter review questions will be required to be completed by the following **due dates on Fridays: September 17th, October 15th, November 12th, December 3rd and December 15th** by submission to our canvas course site, you will answer the questions and upload to the canvas site by 11:59 PST on each of those dates. (CLO1-5)

3. **Discussion Board (5%):** Access the Discussion Board through the links on the left side menu on Canvas. The purpose of the discussion board is to discuss concepts, ideas, techniques, etc. There will be 5 sets of discussion questions that will be based on required readings, websites or videos. Your responses to the sets of discussion questions will be **due on: September 17th, October 15th, November 12th, December 3rd and December 15th.** For each set of discussion questions, students must post at least one substantive response to the question, and one substantive response to a classmate's post. A substantive post is one that is meaningful and specific and moves the conversation forward. A non-substantive post is one that is vague, simply repeats or restates what someone else has already said, or just agrees with or compliments someone else ("I like the way you said that!" for example, is not substantive). No credit will be given for non-substantive posts. (CLO1-5).

4. **Team activities (15%)** There will be **three on line team activities assigned. Your team responses will be due September 17th, October 28th and November 12th (5% each)** Additional activities may be scheduled and will be provided with notice. During these sessions topics such as team activities, crime scene documentation and measurements, demonstrations, team assignments and pop-quizzes, careers in forensic science (FS), guest lecturers/instructors on specific sub disciplines such as cyber forensics and bloodstain pattern analyses, updates on hot topics in FS, student led reviews and debates, FS in human rights investigations, forensic DNA phenotype profiling, Forensic DNA databases, privacy and familial searching (e.g. The Golden State Killer case) and the importance of ethics and confirmation bias in forensic science. These sessions will be graded (5 points for each of the 3 sessions) and will count toward your grade. Dates with topics and details will be posted on the Canvas course site. (LO1- 5).

Please review the following policies

- University Syllabus Policy S16-9 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf.
- Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

"Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus."

Final Examination /Quiz/ Evaluation

The date of your 5th exam/quiz is **Wednesday December 15th** and will be delivered on the Canvas course site. You will need to submit your answers to our canvas course site by 11:59 PST on December 15th.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Extra credit opportunities may be available throughout the semester and may be used to augment your final grade up to 3% (1% each). These opportunities will also be announced on the Canvas course site and required documentation will need to be uploaded and/or submitted on line. Examples include the following:

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. Note: a professional organization is one that holds conferences and/or produces a periodic journal. This is not the same thing as an internship, job, or student organization; it is a professional *membership*.
2. Attend a Forensic Science or Justice Studies seminar (Forensic Science Seminar Series or Ann Lucas Lecture Series) and write a two-page, double-spaced, typewritten paper that includes a synopsis of the seminar/lecture and your reaction/response. Your paper is due within one week of the event.
3. Complete the short course offered by the National Institute of Justice marked "extra credit" during the Forensic Bio module and submit your certificate of completion by the end of that module.

Late Work and Make Ups

Real life has deadlines and so do college classes. With this in mind, manage your time responsibly with the knowledge that late work will generally not be accepted,

If you know ahead of time that you will be offline when an assignment is due, complete it early. Make-ups will generally not be given unless extraordinary, documented circumstances exist.

Certainly, if you have a genuine problem, contact me and I will gladly do all I can to help you. If you are in any doubt about the requirements of an assignment, or due dates/times, please re-read the assignment and/or schedule. If your question is still unanswered, contact me for clarification.

Grading Information - Grading Scale for All Assignments

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

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

Determination of Grades

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Exams/Quizzes (75 %) – Five exams/quizzes each at 15% = 75 points

- Chapter questions (5%)- Five sets of chapter questions at 1% each = 5 points
- Discussion board (5%)- Five sets of discussion board responses at 1% each = 5 points
- Team activities (15%)- Three activities at 5% each = 15 points
- Total points for exams, questions, DB and activities = 100 points

Extra credit if completed successfully may be added up to 3% = 3 points
These extra credit points will be added to your total points above to calculate your final grade.

Classroom Protocol and Tips for Success in the Course

1) Online classes are self-motivated, so it is up to you to keep up with the reading and posting. Set aside a certain time every day to login to the class website and participate. Don't let yourself fall behind. Post early on the chapter review questions and discussion board and check back in to the discussion throughout the week.
2) Create a folder on your browser toolbar titled "FS 11". Bookmark all the sites you visit during the class and keep them in that folder. That way, you'll have quick access to them when you revisit a topic or study for an exam.
3) If you have a question regarding course material or requirements, post it on the class site under the Discussion Board topic "HELPME." If you have a private problem or issue, email me. Don't wait until it's too late to do anything about it!
4) Join the FSS. 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 with this group.

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.

Department's 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.

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, CSIcamps, 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 wisechoices 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 volumeannually in May in hardcopy and is hosted online at Scholarworks. Researchers the world over have downloaded and cited 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 180-04) as an associate editor, and/or to submit an original paper for consideration in our next volume (deadline January 31).

ACCESS

The Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in the Social Sciences provides **General Education advising for undergraduate students majoring or intending to major in any of the departments in the College of Social Sciences (CoSS).** We are committed to helping you develop a clear path to graduation and supporting your academic success.

Services Offered

- General Education Advising
- Academic Planning
- Graduation Planning
- Mandatory Freshman Advising
- Probation Advising
- Reinstatement and Former Student Returning (FSR) Advising
- Career Counseling
- Tutoring (Statistics & Writing)
- Virtual Advising hours

Fall 2021
Zoom Appointments: TBD
Go to the webpage for more information

FS 11 Survey of Forensic Science Fall 2021 Course Schedule

Schedule for Chapter Readings, On line Quizzes/Exams and Final Exam

Note that the scheduling details of all the readings, assignments and deadlines are posted on the Canvas Course site. This schedule is a general guideline for completing chapter readings and quiz/exam dates.

Four quizzes will be due: **September 17th, October 15th, November 12th, December 3rd and December 15th**

8/20-8/27 Module 0: Getting Started – Note take the 'Syllabus quiz' which won't be counted toward grades.

8/27-9/17 Module 1: Introduction to FS & CSI, Death Investigation **Exam/Quiz 1**(Ch 1,2,3, and 5): **9/17**

9/17-10/15 Module 2: Forensic Biology, Bloodstains and Anthro **Exam/Quiz 2** (Ch 4,6,8 and 9): **Quiz 2 10/15**

10/15-11/12 Module 3: Forensic Chemistry, Trace, **Exam/Quiz 3** (Ch 10,11,12, 16, 17):**11/12**

11/12-12/03 Module 4: Pattern Evidence, Fingerprints, Firearms Shoeprints **Exam/ Q4** (Ch 13, 14, 15): **12/03**

12/03- 12/15 Module 5: Error, Science, and the Future of FS, **Final Exam/Quiz 5** (Ch 20, 21) **Weds 12/15**