

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 185 Special Topics - Forensic Social Sciences, Section 80, Fall 2021

Welcome to JS 185 Special Topics – Forensic Social Sciences, Section 80!

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s): Stephen J. Morewitz, Ph.D.

Telephone: TBA

Email: stephen.morewitz@sjsu.edu
(Please use only the SJSU email system)

Class Days/Time: TTH, 4-5:15 PM

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/86300340213?pwd=VUdybVB BcE9aMHVKUzJ0eXJWb HdlQT09>
Password: 355282:

Online Office Hour: Mon., 11 AM-12 Noon

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/81844065213?pwd=WkZGL0V NVSs4WlhJd0JhemlhenZ Wdz09>
Password: 615903

Faculty Web Page

<https://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/our-department/faculty-and-staff/morewitz-s/index.html>

Course Description

This essential course is a clear and comprehensive introduction to the roles, careers, employment trends, context, legal regulations, ethics, and possible impact of forensic social scientists, allied professionals, and organizations in the U.S. and other countries in 1) enacting policies and laws; 2) conducting criminal and civil

investigations; 3) testifying and consulting in civil, criminal, immigration, human rights, and military court cases; 4) analyzing the justice and political systems, and 5) providing forensic social sciences expertise to media.

Subjects examined in this exciting and fast-paced course include: career information and employment trends, ethics, legal standards and regulations, forensic counseling and therapy, government testimony, forensic social sciences evidence in court cases involving suicide, medical malpractice, product liability, human factors, toxic tort, personal injury, and child custody. Other topics include neuropsychology, forensic criminology, forensic anthropology, forensic archaeology, human rights, asylum, war crimes, forensic economic damages assessments, probation officers, parole officers, correctional officers, forensic mental health professionals, and trial strategies such as jury selection, mock trials, and trial observations. The student is challenged to come to grips with the diverse roles and impact of the interdisciplinary forensic social scientists and allied professionals in the justice system and to be prepared to serve as forensic social sciences policy makers, correctional officers, probation officers, parole officers, forensic mental health professionals, justice system analysts/researchers, expert witnesses, and consultants.

Course Format

Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses

This course adopts an online, synchronous (live lectures) classroom delivery format using Zoom conferencing. Students should have Internet connectivity, camera, or other technology requirements, such as computer, special hardware devices or software apps to use Zoom conferencing technology and submit online assignments. See University Policy F13-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details. Students should submit a SJSU Helpdesk ticket if they are having difficulty with their course technology requirements.

Recordings

All Zoom class sessions will be audio recorded and posted on Canvas. Class exercises and projects may also be recorded. Students may not share these recordings with anyone outside of the class. Students may not record any class sessions or course materials without permission of the instructor.

Course Materials on Canvas

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on Spartan App Portal <http://one.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas, please go to https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources/index.html

Course Goals

Provide students with a thorough guide to the roles, careers, employment trends, context, legal regulations, ethics, and possible impact of forensic social scientists, allied professionals, and organizations in the U.S. and other countries in

- 1) assisting in enacting policies and laws
- 2) conducting criminal and civil investigations
- 3) testifying and consulting in civil, criminal, immigration, human rights, and military court cases
- 4) analyzing the justice and political systems, and
- 5) providing forensic social sciences expertise to media.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO 1 Critically evaluate the definition of forensic social sciences

CLO 2 Identify concepts, theories, methods, and ethics related to the use of forensic social sciences testimony and consulting in civil, criminal, immigration, human rights, and military law court cases

CLO 3 Critically evaluate the roles, ethics, standards, regulations, policies, and impact of forensic social scientists and allied professionals in civil and criminal investigations

CLO 4 Identify forensic social sciences concepts, theories, methods, and ethics associated with government testimony and policy making

CLO 5 Describe the roles of social sciences organizations in litigation and policy making

CLO 6 Critically assess the concepts and theories employed in investigating justice and political systems outcomes

CLO 7 Identify the impact of the media on immigration courts

CLO 8 Critically compare forensic social sciences in different countries

CLO 9 Critically assess the roles and impact of forensic social scientists and allied professionals as media experts

Required Textbook: None

Other Readings (See other links in the Course Schedule)

Teaching Methods

Class time will be devoted to lecturing, in-class exercises, debates, role plays, student-generated multiple-choice test items, student lectures, video presentations, and student small group discussion in Zoom Breakout Rooms. Other teaching methods include enrichment materials and Q and A sessions.

Course Requirements and Assignments

- 1. Midterm (Multiple-choice and True/False Test Items) (25% of total grade) (Midterm on 10.5.21)**
- 2. Forensic Social Scientist's Expert Testimony for a Government Hearing Report (Word.doc File only) (25% of total grade) (Due: 11.30.21)**
 - a. Select an actual government hearing involving testimony by a forensic social scientist
 - b. Describe the expert opinion of the forensic social scientist
 - c. Analyze the forensic social sciences theories, research methods, and findings that formed the basis of the forensic social scientist expert opinion using at least six peer-review articles and books
 - d. Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the forensic social scientist's theories, research methods, and findings used in the forensic social sciences expert testimony
 - e. Critically assess any potential ethical and policy consequences of the forensic social scientist's expert testimony
 - f. Write a 10-typed page report with the above components, double-space, title page, and list of at least six peer-review references using only the APA format for in-text citations and reference list
 - g. Each team records a Team Zoom Video of their report findings
 - h. Each student submits a student project work hours log (see Files on Canvas) containing information on the number of hours devoted to the project, e.g., dates and number of hours conducting research, writing, editing, emailing, and preparing a Google doc

CLO 1 Critically evaluate the definition of forensic social sciences

CLO 4 Identify forensic social sciences concepts, theories, methods, and ethics associated with government testimony and policy making

CLO 5 Describe the roles of social sciences organizations in litigation and policy making

CLO 6 Critically assess the concepts and theories employed in investigating justice and political systems outcomes

CLO 4 Identify forensic social sciences concepts, theories, methods, and ethics associated with government testimony and policy making

CLO 5 Describe the roles of social sciences organizations in litigation and policy making

CLO 6 Critically assess the concepts and theories employed in investigating justice and political systems outcomes

- 3. Final Exam (Multiple-choice and True/False Test Items) (25% of total grade) (12.9.21, 2:45-5 PM, per SJSU Final Exam Schedule)**

4. Weekly Class Assignments (25% of total grade)

During the semester, students complete weekly class assignments and submit their answers to the designated Discussion Forums. Assignments can include chapter exercises, test item construction, debates, diaries, presentations, quizzes, homework, and/or required responses to a Discussion Forum prompt based on the readings covered that week.

Assignments and any group work must be completed by the following Thursday by 11:30 PM, unless indicated otherwise by the instructor. In-class work will include critically analyzing information from the readings, videos, student presentations, as well as class lecture and discussion.

CLO 1 Critically evaluate the definition of forensic social sciences

CLO 2 Identify concepts, theories, methods, and ethic related to the use of forensic social sciences testimony and consulting in civil, criminal, immigration, human rights, and military law court cases

CLO 3 Critically evaluate the roles, ethics, standards, regulations, policies, and impact of forensic social scientists and allied professionals in civil and criminal investigations

CLO 4 Identify forensic social sciences concepts, theories, methods, and ethics associated with government testimony and policy making

CLO 5 Describe the roles of social sciences organizations in litigation and policy making

CLO 6 Critically assess the concepts and theories employed in investigating justice and political systems outcomes

CLO 7 Identify the impact of the media on immigration courts

CLO 8 Critically compare forensic social sciences in different countries

CLO 9 Critically assess the roles and impact of forensic social scientists and allied professionals as media experts

“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.”

Grading Information

Grading Policy

According to the Departmental policy, all recorded grades are final. The faculty member will not change any grade after it is recorded unless the faculty member has made an error in calculation. Students will not be permitted to re-submit assignments for a better grade.

Grading Rubric for Government Weekly Assignments

Students' Discussion Forum assignments will be graded on a pass-fail basis. Passing requires a timely, good faith effort in completing the assignments. Student responses should demonstrate critical thinking skills and be

easy to understand. In addition, the student responses should be accurate, detailed, comprehensive, and grammatically correct. Student will have an opportunity to correct the deficits in their analysis to receive a passing grade. Students must complete all assignments by the last class day of the semester.

Grading Rubric for Government Testimony Report

Students will be graded based on the following rubric:

Relevance to forensic social sciences related to policy making, litigation consulting, civil law, criminal law, immigration, trademark, human rights, and military law, and criminal and civil investigations (5 points)

Adequacy of the analysis of peer-review journal articles and books (20 points)

Adequacy of critically analyzing major theories and/or findings (20 points)

Creativity (5 points)

Critical Thinking Skills/Clarity/Logic/Adherence to Report Guidelines/APA Report Format, e.g., In-Text Citation Format and Reference List Format/Attention to Detail/Grammar/Six Peer-Review References/Sufficient Number of Hours Worked and documented in the Work Hours Log (50 points)

1. Passing This Course:

Passing this course requires consistent good effort to turn in all materials, use correct grammar, and know the conventions of writing in the social sciences. Poor attendance, sloppy papers, or consistently turning materials in late, usually result in lower overall points.

2. Late Assignment Penalty: All late major online assignments will lose 10 points for each class meeting that the assignment is late.

Below is the SJSU Grade Distribution

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>960 to 1000</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 959</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>860 to 899</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 859</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 659</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

For additional information, see:

- [University Grading System Policy F18-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf>)

Classroom Protocol

Participation and Attendance:

Attendance is important for student learning and success. Please do not leave class early. If you miss class, you are responsible for contacting classmates to make up the work. In addition, you must review the Canvas postings to submit your in-class assignments for the day that you missed. Please do not email the instructor to ask about missed work.

Please do not use any electronic devices in class unless you are using them for preparing assignments in class. Please do not carry on conversations with classmates unless they are related to class discussions and specific assignments.

Being on Time: Attendance and being on time is critical. If you do not have your assignment, then you can still do the assignment. While attendance cannot be graded, expect that absences and/or late arrivals could affect your grade should you miss (parts of) in-class exercises or assignments. If you miss announcements, lecture material, hand-outs, you need to be sure to review them.

Contacting Your Professor: **Please use only the SJSU email system and only send emails about personal issues that you may have. Submit all questions about the syllabus and Canvas to the Dr. Q & A Discussion Forum in Canvas.** I receive A LOT of email, so be sure to put in your SUBJECT line your course number and section number. That way I know why you are contacting me. Please sign your full name at the end of your email so that I know who you are! If you are absent from class, please do not ask me what you have missed. Please do not expect me to email you a copy of anything if I can post it on Canvas. I try to respond to email within 48 hours between Mondays and Fridays. Enjoy your weekends.

Hand-outs, Readings, and Other Learning Materials: These items are useful for your entire career at SJSU. I recommend bringing the materials and the lecture outlines to class, as I frequently explain and lecture from the materials. I post my hand-outs on Canvas.

Professor's Revisions to the Syllabus: I reserve the right to adjust assignments, material, and time schedule to fit the needs of the class. Students will be told about all changes in the syllabus.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources. For additional information, see:

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)
- [University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)

Course Schedule

No Class on 11.11.21, Veteran's Day

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Learning Outcomes
1	8.19; 8.24; 8.26	<p>Introduction to the Syllabus</p> <p>Definition of Forensic Social Sciences</p> <p>CSI Effect</p> <p>Career and Employment Information about Selected Forensic Social Scientists and Allied Professionals</p> <p>Forensic Mental Health Professionals</p> <p>Correctional Officers</p> <p>Probation Officers</p> <p>Parole Officers</p> <p>A Survey of Psychological Test Use Patterns among Forensic Psychologists</p> <p>Assessing Effort and Malingering with the Hispanic Client</p>	<p><i>CLO 1</i></p> <p><i>CLO 2</i></p> <p><i>CLO 3</i></p> <p><i>CLO 4</i></p> <p><i>CLO 8</i></p> <p><i>CLO 9</i></p>
2	8.30; 9.2	<p>Role and Impact of Forensic Social Sciences Organizations and Forensic Social Scientists in Policy Making</p>	<p><i>CLO 1</i></p> <p><i>CLO 2</i></p> <p><i>CLO 3</i></p> <p><i>CLO 4</i></p> <p><i>CLO 5</i></p> <p><i>CLO 8</i></p>
3	9.7.; 9.9; 9.14	<p>Forensic Social Sciences in Different Countries</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Sociology in France Compared to Sociology in Other Countries</p> <p>Social Sciences Testimony in Ireland</p> <p>Social Sciences in Scotland</p>	<p><i>CLO 2</i></p> <p><i>CLO 3</i></p> <p><i>CLO 5</i></p> <p><i>CLO 6</i></p>

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Learning Outcomes
		<p>Innovation Fund Denmark</p> <p>Forensic Social Scientists in Denmark Study Country's Social Policies</p> <p>Africa</p> <p>Asia</p> <p>German Forensic Social Scientists Conduct Policy-Oriented Research and Analyze Issues Related to Social Policy</p> <p>Social Science – Germany</p> <p>Forensic Social Science Testimony in Spain</p> <p>Forensic Social Scientists Assist in Criminal Investigations in France</p> <p>My Consultation in the Prison Inmates' Use of Playing Cards to Facilitate Criminal Investigations-France</p> <p>Children's Testimony in the Netherlands: A Study of Statement Validity Analysis</p> <p>Government Policy Facilitates Forensic Social Science Research in Spain</p> <p>The Social Life of Forensic Evidence</p> <hr/> <p>Forensic Social Sciences in Greece</p> <p>History of Litigant Rights in Africa</p> <p>Forensic Social Scientist Expert Witness Testimony in France</p>	

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Learning Outcomes
		<p>Forensic Social Sciences in Israel</p> <p>The role of mental health practitioners' testimony in the Israeli Supreme Court</p> <p>Forensic Social Science Testimony in Australia</p> <p>Analysis of the justice and political systems-France</p> <p>Dr. Martine Evans et al. Interventions with Violent Extremists in France</p> <p>Paris Institute of Criminology and Criminal Law</p> <p>Role and Effects of Social Scientists in Criminal and Civil Investigations</p> <p>Analysis of the justice and political systems</p> <p>Decision to Arrest Strategy for Suspected Terrorists-France</p> <p>Role and Impact of Forensic Social Scientists' and Allied Professionals' Court Testimony</p> <p>Legal Standards for Forensic Social Scientists as Expert Witnesses: <i>Daubert</i> Standard, <i>Frye</i> Standard,</p> <p>Forensic Social Scientists and Criminal Law:</p> <p>Brainwashing as Forensic Evidence, Reliability of Eyewitness Testimony</p> <p>Social Sciences Analysis of the Credibility of Expert Witnesses</p>	

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Learning Outcomes
4	9.16; 9.21	<p>Mitigation Work</p> <p>The Work of the Forensic Criminologist and Sociologist as Mitigation Expert,</p> <p>Forensic Criminologists and Sociologists as Recidivism Experts in Court Cases and Forensic Criminology Research</p> <p>Forensic Social Scientists, Criminal Law, and Military Law:</p> <p>Honor Killing in Muslim Society</p> <p>Bride Kidnapping</p> <p>Muslim World Expert Witness</p> <p>Military Courts-Martial Procedures</p> <p>War Crimes</p> <p>War Crimes and Military Courts-Martial</p>	<p><i>CLO 1</i></p> <p><i>CLO 2</i></p> <p><i>CLO 3</i></p> <p><i>CLO 5</i></p> <p><i>CLO 6</i></p> <p><i>CLO 8</i></p>
5	9.23; 9.28	<p>Ethical Issues for Forensic Anthropologists, Human Rights Specialists, and Forensic Military Experts</p> <p>Increasing Reliance on Expert Witnesses in Immigration Cases</p> <p>Expert Witnesses in U.S. Asylum Cases</p> <p>Framing Citizenship: Media Coverage of Anti-Deportation Cases Led by Undocumented Immigrant Youth Organizations</p> <p>Review for Midterm</p>	<p><i>CLO 1</i></p> <p><i>CLO 2</i></p> <p><i>CLO 3</i></p> <p><i>CLO 5</i></p> <p><i>CLO 6</i></p> <p><i>CLO 7</i></p> <p><i>CLO 8</i></p> <p><i>CLO 9</i></p>
6	9.30; 10.5	<p>Forensic Social Scientists and Competency Evaluations</p> <p>Competency to Stand Trial in Juvenile Court</p> <p>Juveniles' Competency to Stand Trial</p> <p>Competency Evaluations for Adult Defendants</p>	<p><i>CLO 1</i></p> <p><i>CLO 2</i></p> <p><i>CLO 3</i></p>

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Learning Outcomes
7	10.7; 10.1 2	<p>Child Custody, Abuse, and Neglect and the Justice System</p> <p>Children as Witnesses in Child Abuse Litigation</p> <p>Reliability of Child Testimony in Court</p> <p>Child Protection and Justice Systems’ Processing of Serious Child Abuse and Neglect Cases</p> <p>Child Sexual Abuse Litigation</p> <p>Impact of Spouse Abuse on Children and Its Relevance in Custody and Visitation Decisions in New York State</p> <p>Preventing Elder Abuse Through Education and Litigation</p>	<p><i>CLO 1</i></p> <p><i>CLO 2</i></p> <p><i>CLO 3</i></p> <p><i>CLO 4</i></p>
8	10.1 4; 10.1 9	<p>Forensic Social Scientists, Allied Professionals, and Psychological Evaluations</p> <p>PTSD-Related Litigation</p>	<p><i>CLO 1</i></p> <p><i>CLO 2</i></p> <p><i>CLO 3</i></p> <p><i>CLO 5</i></p>
9	10.2 1;10. 26	<p>Forensic Social Science Evidence and Testimony in Civil and Criminal Law</p> <p>Forensic Social Science Evidence in Wrongful Death Cases (Loss of Society)</p> <p>Loss of Society Court Case</p> <p>Medical Malpractice</p> <p>Forensic Social Science Evidence in Medical Malpractice Litigation</p>	<p><i>CLO 1</i></p> <p><i>CLO 2</i></p> <p><i>CLO 3</i></p> <p><i>CLO 6</i></p>
10	10.2 8;11. 2	<p>Forensic Social Science Evidence in Civil and Criminal Law:</p> <p>Forensic Social Science Data in Product Liability Litigation</p>	<p><i>CLO 1</i></p> <p><i>CLO 2</i></p> <p><i>CLO 3</i></p>

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Learning Outcomes
		Human Factors-Related Lawsuits Impact of Human Factors Experts on Medical Device Litigation Forensic Social Science Testimony in Employment Cases	CLO 6
11	11.4; 11.9	Forensic Social Sciences in Civil Law: Forensic Social Sciences Evidence in Education Litigation	CLO 1 CLO 3 CLO 6 CLO 7
12	11.1 1 NO CLA SS); 11.1 6	Forensic Social Science Data in Trademark Litigation Review for Expert Witness Testimony in Court Case Forensic Anthropology and Criminal Investigations Evaluating the Role of Forensic Anthropologists in Human Rights Investigations of Missing Persons	CLO 1 CLO CLO 3 CLO 4 CLO 6 CLO 8
13	11.1 6;	Forensic Archaeology in Criminal Investigations Mass Grave Investigation and Identifying Missing Persons: Challenges and Innovations in Archaeology and Anthropology Forensic Social Sciences: Forensic Economics	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 5 CLO 6 CLO 8 CLO 9
14	11.1 8	Evaluating Economic Damages in Personal Injury-Related Litigation Economic Damages in Personal Injury Cases Calculating Lost Future Earnings	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3 CLO 6

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Learning Outcomes
		Forensic Counselors and Therapists	
15	11.30	<p>Forensic Social Sciences Analysis of the Use of Forensic DNA and other Forensic Sciences Tools</p> <p>Forensic Social Sciences Analysis of the Impact of Government Funding on Forensic Sciences</p>	<p><i>CLO 1</i></p> <p><i>CLO 2</i></p> <p><i>CLO 3</i></p> <p><i>CLO 4</i></p> <p><i>CLO 5</i></p> <p><i>CLO 6</i></p> <p><i>CLO 7</i></p> <p><i>CLO 8</i></p> <p><i>CLO 9</i></p>
16	12.2	Litigation Consultants	<p><i>CLO 1</i></p> <p><i>CLO 2</i></p> <p><i>CLO 3</i></p> <p><i>CLO 4</i></p> <p><i>CLO 5</i></p> <p><i>CLO 6</i></p> <p><i>CLO 7</i></p> <p><i>CLO 8</i></p> <p><i>CLO 9</i></p>
Final Exam		Final Exam (12.11.20, 14:45-17:00 pm, per SJSU Final Exam Schedule)	