

**San José State University**  
**CoSS/Justice Studies Department**  
**FS 11-61 Survey of Forensic Science, CRN 10276**  
**WINTER 2022**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Mary Juno
<b>Office Location:</b>	Health Building 127
<b>Email:</b>	mary.juno@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wednesdays, 10:00am-12:00pm on Zoom, drop-in <a href="https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/93007422140">https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/93007422140</a>
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Canvas, January 3-Jan 21, Asynchronous (no meetings)
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Library Liaison:</b>	Nyle Monday <a href="mailto:nyle.monday@sjsu.edu">nyle.monday@sjsu.edu</a>
<b>FS/JS Lib Guide:</b>	<a href="http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&amp;p=1526987">http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&amp;p=1526987</a>

### **Course 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 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 and the types and sources of error in forensic science.

### **Texts/Readings**

***Our book is available free as an ebook from SJSU*** (the link is provided on our Canvas course home page): Bell, S. (2019). *Forensic science: An introduction to scientific and investigative techniques*, 5/E. CRC Press.

### **Course Format**

This is a highly accelerated course (16 weeks of material crammed into 3)! You must login every day (including weekends) to view lectures and videos, complete assigned readings (about a chapter a day!), and respond to the discussion board in order to stay on top of the workload.

## Winter 2022 Course Schedule

You will notice that there is one day of overlap between each module, and one extra day to take each module quiz. The purpose of the overlap is both to provide flexibility and keep to our tight schedule!

### Module 1: Introduction to Forensic Science & CSI (Jan 3-7)

Text Chapters 1,2,3,5 ~ Module 1 Quiz Jan 7/8

### Module 2: Biological Evidence (Jan 6-10)

Text Chapters 4,6,8,9 ~ Module 2 Quiz Jan 10/11

### Module 3: Trace and Chemical Evidence (Jan 9-13)

Text Chapters 10,11,12,16 ~ Module 3 Quiz Jan 13/14

### Module 4: Pattern Evidence (Jan 12-16)

Text Chapters 13,14,15 ~ Module 4 Quiz Jan 16/17

### Module 5: Scientific Evidence in Court & Forensic Error (Jan 15-19)

Text Chapter 21 + additional readings ~ Module 5 Quiz Jan 19/20

### Module 6: Special Topics (Jan 18-21)

No assigned readings ~Module 6 Quiz Jan 20/21

## Assignment Groups and Weights

**50%** Tests: There will be six tests in this class (Canvas calls them quizzes), one for each module.

Format may include multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer, and short essay.

**20%** 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 and original response to each prompt, *and* at least one substantive response to a classmate in order to receive credit for a discussion.

**10%** Chapter Review Questions: Students will complete the questions found at the back of assigned textbook chapters.

**10%** Case Project & Presentation: Individually, students will create and present a PowerPoint on one criminal case in which a major error occurred involving physical/forensic evidence. Details of this assignment will be provided.

**10%** Presentation of Subtopic: In Module 6, students will research a subfield of forensic science (one that was not covered in the class), and create and present a PowerPoint on the topic. Details of this assignment 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>

## Grading Policies

- All assignments are graded based on adherence to directions, thoroughness, thoughtfulness/effort, clarity, logic, accuracy, and writing mechanics.
- Plagiarized work will result in a 0 grade on the assignment and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. See below for more information on academic integrity.
- Late work may be submitted **within 3 days of the original due date**, -10% for each day that it is late.
- Quizzes will be open for a 30-hour window in order to maximize flexibility. You are expected to take the quiz 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 quizzes.
- Please read and follow the directions of each assignment. Students will not be permitted to resubmit work if directions were not followed the first time.

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

## 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/>

## 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](mailto: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 volume annually in May in hardcopy and [online at Scholarworks](#). Researchers the world over have downloaded and cited the work of 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](mailto: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).

**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 Studies Minor and teaches FS and JS courses at SJSU.

**How to Contact Me**

- Email me [mary.juno@sjsu](mailto:mary.juno@sjsu). I will respond within 48 hours, M-F.
- Zoom Office Appointment: Let me know if you want to meet and we'll set something up!