

San José State University
CoSS/Justice Studies Department
FS 161 Crime Scene Investigation, CRN 30202/03
SPRING 2023

Instructor:	Mary Juno
Campus Office Location:	Health Building 127
Email:	mary.juno@sjsu.edu
Zoom Office Hours:	Tues & Thurs, 11-12, on Zoom (drop in/no appointment needed) https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/93007422140
Class Days/Time:	Tues & Thurs 0830-1030, on campus HB 207
Prerequisites:	Upper-Division Standing, FS 11 or FS 12 (for FS majors/minors), JS 10 (for JS majors/minors)
Library Liaison:	Nyle Monday nyle.monday@sjsu.edu
FS/JS Lib Guide:	http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&p=1526987

Course Catalogue Description

Fundamental theories of physical evidence practically applied and the legal considerations involved in its recognition, collection, preservation and presentation in court. Topics include securing the scene and documenting evidence using photos, diagrams, and notes; collecting evidence; maintaining the chain of custody, and scene reconstruction.

FS 161 is a required course in the FS major and minor. It also satisfies 3 units in the Methodologies Area of the JS major. The course is recommended for anyone who plans to pursue a career in investigations.

Course Format

This class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays in HB 207 for lectures and activities. Assignments will include readings, chapter review questions, discussion board posts, quizzes, group work, and crime scene exercises.

Course Learning Objectives

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

CLO 1 Utilize appropriate methods to document, collect, and preserve commonly encountered evidence in a variety of crime scene exercises.

CLO 2 Distinguish CSI fact from CSI fiction.

CLO 3 Explain key principles, terms, and concepts involved in crime scene investigation.

CLO 4 Reconstruct crime scenes using the scientific method and evidence-based logic.

CLO 5 Analyze types and sources of potential error at the crime scene.

Course Materials

- Required Text: *Crime Scene Science and Practice* (2023)
 - Obtain From Instructor in class on 8/31
- Links to films, websites, and articles will be posted on Canvas.
- Optional/Recommended Texts (not required):

- Ogle, R. & Plotkin, S. (2017). *Crime Scene Investigation and Reconstruction*, 4th Ed. Pearson Education.
- Miller, M.T. & Massey, P. (2019). *The Crime Scene: A Visual Guide*, 2nd Ed. Academic Press/Elsevier.

Assignment Groups and Weights

40% Quizzes and Exams (2 midterms, 1 final, occasional quizzes, both announced and unannounced)

30% Crime Scene Exercises: Diagrams, photography, report/descriptions, blood spatter, fingerprints, crime scene reconstruction, and mock crime scenes.

20% Chapter Review Questions & Discussion Board: Complete chapter activities and questions, and respond to discussion board prompts.

10% Group Presentation: Various topics.

All assignments are graded based on adherence to directions, thoroughness, thoughtfulness/effort, clarity, logic, accuracy, and writing mechanics.

Final Grade Scale

Grade	Percentage
<i>A plus</i>	98 to 100%
<i>A</i>	93 to 97.99%
<i>A minus</i>	90 to 92.99%
<i>B plus</i>	88 to 89.99 %
<i>B</i>	83 to 87.99%
<i>B minus</i>	80 to 82.99%
<i>C plus</i>	78 to 79.99%
<i>C</i>	73 to 77.99%
<i>C minus</i>	70 to 72.99%
<i>D plus</i>	68 to 69.99%
<i>D</i>	63 to 67.99%
<i>D minus</i>	60 to 62.99%

Class Policies and Protocol

- Attendance is required for success in this class; some assignments (particularly group work) cannot be made up if missed.
- Some assignments may be submitted for reduced credit, -10% for each week (or any portion thereof) that it is late (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. (See below under Academic Integrity.)
- Exams 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 exams.
- Please be respectful of each other in class (Zoom or live) and in writing 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.
- **Students are prohibited from recording class activities** (including photos, audio, or video of Zoom class lectures and/or in-person lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing

recordings, or posting recordings. Recording without instructor permission is a violation of university policy and state law.

- Materials created by the instructor for the course (textbook, syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, PowerPoints, presentations, assignments, exams and quizzes, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor and may not be used or distributed without written permission from 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

- Read the text closely and take copious notes during lecture.
- Follow all assignment directions closely. Make certain your work completely and accurately addresses the assignment. Don't hesitate to ask clarifying questions.
- 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. Read all announcements promptly.
- Bookmark frequently visited websites/resources so that you can revisit them to study for tests.
- Get in contact with your groupmates early.
- 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/spring-2023.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 respond within 48 hours, M-F.
- Zoom Office Hours: T/Th 11-12 (drop in) <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/93007422140>
 - Or in-person: Just talk to me after class!

FS 161 Crime Scene Investigation SPRING 2023 Course Schedule

*The instructor reserves the right to alter this schedule with notice. Please check Canvas for additional information and assignments, and read all announcements so you do not miss any important changes.

Week	Date	In-Class Topics	Due @ 0830	Readings, Assignments (Next Week)
1	1/26	Class overview, Intro, CSI Fact vs Fiction Bring \$30 for text Probative Value of Evidence, Categories of Evidence, Elements of a Crime		Read Chapters 1-4, complete chapter activities and review questions
2	1/31 2/2	Scientific Thinking, Principles of Logic & Reasoning (LE, OR, PLE), Facts & Opinions Important Considerations: Safety and Legality Major Cases Steps 1-7	Chapters 1-4	Read Chapter 5, complete chapter activities and review questions
3	2/7 2/9	Scene Search Methods Documentation: Diagrams: You will need ¼" graph paper & a pencil for this exercise	Chapter 5	
4	2/14 2/16	Documentation: Photography CSE #1 & 2 Diagrams & Photos (and notes)		Read Chapter 6, complete chapter activities and review questions, complete CSEs
5	2/21 2/23	Documentation: Notes/Report Writing CSE #3 Scene Description/Quiz Packaging and Preserving Evidence, Chain of Custody	Chapter 6 CSE #1&2	Study for midterm/take midterm! ----- Read Chapter 7, complete chapter activities and review questions (Chapter 7 is not on midterm)
Midterm 1 (on Canvas)				
6	2/28 3/2	Commonly Encountered Evidence: Fingerprints CSE #4	Chapter 7	Read FSS Fingerprints Read FSS: Firearms, Footwear, Tire Tracks
7	3/7 3/9	Commonly Encountered Evidence: Firearms, Impression/Pattern Commonly Encountered Evidence: Digital Evidence (FSS & NIJ readings on Canvas), take DE Quiz	CSE #4 Chapter 7	Read Chapter 8, complete chapter activities and review questions Read FSS Blood Spatter Read NIJ: Death Investigation
8	3/14 3/16	Commonly Encountered Evidence: Blood/DNA CSE#5 Commonly Encountered Crime Scenes: Burglary, Robbery, Assault, Deaths, OPD cases	CSE#5 Chapter 8	Read Chapters 9, 10, & 11, complete chapter activities and review questions
9	3/21 3/23	Court Testimony & Ethics Maintaining Mental Health MCSE PREP	Chapters 9-11	Study for midterm/take midterm! MCSE Prep
Midterm 2 (on Canvas)				
SPRING BREAK WEEK 10 MARCH 27-31				
11	4/4 4/6	MCSE I (1-3) MCSE I (4-6)		Complete MCSE I Read Job Lab
12	4/11 4/13	Getting a Job, Part I: Job Announcements, Applications, Resumes, Cover Letters	MCSE I	
13	4/18 4/20	Crime Scene Reconstruction, in class/group assignments, completed in class CSE #6 & #7		
14	4/25 4/27	Getting a Job, Part II: Interviews Work on group presentations		MCSE Prep
15	5/2	MCSE II (1-3)		Finish MCSE II

Week	Date	In-Class Topics	Due @ 0830	Readings, Assignments (Next Week)
	5/4	MCSE II (4-6)		Finish group presentation
16	5/9 5/11	Group Presentations Final Exam Review	MCSE II	
	5/17	<u>FINAL EXAM</u>		Enjoy the summer!