

**Department of Justice Studies**  
**FS 169 Senior Seminar**  
**CRN 45724, Fall 2019**

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Jodie Warren
	-924-XXXX
<b>Office Location and Hours</b>	Health Building rm 214 Drop in: <i>M</i> 10:30a 1:30a <i>W</i> 10:30a-11:30a, <i>OR</i> by appointment
<b>Canvas Course Website</b>	<a href="https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1314980">https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1314980</a> Login using your Tower ID Card and Password Courses FS 169
<b>Lecture Days/Time</b>	Mondays/Wednesdays 12-1:15p, Rm SH 434
<b>Prerequisites</b>	

## **Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives (LO)**

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

**LO1** Identify and analyze sources of error in crime scene investigation and forensic science.

**LO2** Identify and analyze professional resources for forensic scientists.

**LO3** Evaluate quality assurance mechanisms in crime scene investigation and forensic science, and identify areas that require improvement.

**LO4** Critique progress of NIJ and PCAST recommendations for improving forensic science; devise strategies for combatting error.

**LO5** Prepare for a career in forensic science by creating a clear and mechanically correct resume and cover letter, and identifying jobsites and resources for networking.

## **Required Texts/Readings**

Koen, W. C. & Bowers, M. (2017). Forensic Science Reform. Elsevier ISBN-13:

## Assignments

1. **Notes and quiz** (15%): Weekly Reading notes including vocabulary quiz. (LO1-4)
2. **Group Presentation** (20%): Each group will create and upload a PowerPoint Presentation on one criminal case in which forensic evidence played a critical role in wrongful conviction and present it to the class. (LO1-4,)
3. **Individual Papers and P**

the same thing as an internship, job, or student organization; it is a professional *membership*.

2. Portfolio: Students may turn in a neat and organized 3-ring binder (portfolio) at the end of the semester containing all work completed in the class. Copies of group assignments are acceptable. This should be professional quality (for example, you would bring it to an interview to display your work).
3. Tour a crime lab and write a 2-page, typed, double-spaced synopsis of the experience. Santa Clara has monthly tours, and San Mateo has an annual tour in October.
4. Read and critique a current journal article from the forensic science disciplines. Discuss its relevance to forensic science and how it contributes to the advancement the field.

### **Class Protocol and Policies**

All assignments are to be done in a professional manner. All assignments are to be done in a professional manner.

## **Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1

## **Important Dates This Semester**

**University Calendar:** \* <http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar4/index.html>

**Aug 21-Sept 10:** Late Registration for Spring 2019. Registration via MySJSU starting after 7am

**Sept 3:** Last Day to Drop Without a “W” grade

**Sept 10:** Last Day to Add a Course, Last Day to Request CR/NC

**Nov 11:** Veterans Day

**Nov 15:** Last Day to Submit Late Drop/Withdrawal Request <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/forms/>

**Dec 9:** Last day of Instruction

\*Late add fees apply. See above website.

## **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	Assignments & Readings
1	08/21	Introductions, course overview,	Read “A Time of Transformation” <b>Take notes as you read (article is posted on canvas)</b>
2	08/26 & 08/28	form groups, brainstorm types & sources of error in CSI & FS Primary research, variables, testing hypotheses, Writing mechanics review  research project format APA format <i>Discussion of readings</i>	Read NAS Report, Preface and Ch 1 Introduction (skip “Summary”), read to p. 53, <b>Take notes as you read</b>  <i>Develop research topics and questions</i> Read NAS Report Ch 2, 3, & 4 (p. 55-125) <b>Take notes as you read</b>
3	09/02 & 09/04	Labor day Holiday  academic and scientific writing <i>Discussion of readings</i>	Read NAS Report Ch 5 (p. 126-182) Read “Confirmation Bias” Read “New Application of Psychology to Forensic Science” <b>Take notes as you read</b>
4	09/09 & 09/11	Preliminary research topic and questions due, workshop Discussion of readings <b>Group presentations Round 1</b>	Read NAS Report Ch 6 & 7 (p. 183-215), Read “Adopting a Research Culture” <b>Take notes as you read</b>
5	09/16 & 09/18	Research workshop: Intro, lit review, and annotated bibliography  Research Methodology (bring laptops)	Read NAS Report Ch 8, 9, 10 & 11 (p. 216-286) <b>Take notes as you read</b>
6	09/23 & 09/25	<b>Group presentations Round 2</b>  <b>APA Quiz</b>	Read “Uncertainty Ahead: A Shift in How Federal Experts Testify” & “Communicating Forensic Science” <b>Take notes as you read</b>
7	09/30 & <b>10/02</b>	Individual Methodology meetings	Read FSR Preface, Forward, Ch 1&2 Read “Not Guilty, Probably” <b>Take notes as you read</b>
8	10/07		

Read FSR Ch 9,10,11

**Take notes as you read**

Read “Wrongful Convictions and DNA Exonerations: Understanding the Role of Forensic Science”

**Take notes as you read**

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