

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies

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)

required documentation will need to be uploaded and/or submitted on line. Examples include the
followfmsed on line. Exam

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-

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.

1/25-2/15 Module 1: Introduction to FS & CSI, Death Investigation Exam/Quiz 1(Ch 1,2,3, and 5): **2/15**

2/16-3/15 Module 2: Forensic Biology, Bloodstains and Anthro Exam/Quiz 2