

**Department of Justice Studies**  
**FS 161 Crime Scene Investigation**  
**CRNs 23240 (Lecture) & 23241 (Practical), Spring 2020**

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Shawna Bolton
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<b>Office Location and Hours</b>	Health Building rm 210A Drop in: M & W 11:30a-12:30p, OR by appointment
<b>Canvas Course Website</b>	<a href="https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1363105">https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1363105</a> Login using your Tower ID Card and Password    Courses    FS 161
<b>Lecture Days/Time</b>	Mondays/Wednesdays 9:00a-11:30a
<b>Practical Days, Time and Location</b>	Wednesdays 9:00a-11:30a Practicals will generally take place in the Health Building (C4 on SJSU Map) and the CSI Suite (Modular M2, located at 10 <sup>th</sup> and Humboldt Streets)
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Upper division standing; FS 11 (FS major/minor) OR JS 10 (JS major/minor)
<b>FS Library Liaison</b>	Nyle Monday <a href="mailto:nyle.monday@sjsu.edu">nyle.monday@sjsu.edu</a>
<b>FS Lib Guide</b>	
<b>FS Program Website</b>	<a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/degrees/fs-program/">http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/degrees/fs-program/</a>

**Course Description**

This is an introductory course to forensic science. It is intended to familiarize students with core concepts and principles, such as the scientific method, that govern the field and provide an overview of the various subfields within this discipline. Topics such as the following will be covered: the history of forensic science, its role within criminal justice, the handling of evidence, biological and chemical applications, and the use of trace and patterned evidence to assist with criminal investigations. Additional topics will include forensic anthropology, forensic scientists as expert witnesses, current practices and future prospects for the field.

***Disclaimer:*** This class is intended for mature students and may cover graphic content, such as criminal cases, discussions, and/or topics. Most of the material presented will NOT be censored. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES are students permitted to take photos of the lecture slides and/or photos. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in academic penalty.



## Grading Scale for All Assignments

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percent</i>
A plus (A+)	97-100	C plus (C+)	77-79.9	F	<60
A	94-96.9	C	74-76.9		
A minus (A-)	90-93.9	C minus (C-)	70-73.9		
B plus (B+)	87-89.9	D plus (D+)	67-69.9		
B	84-86.9	D	64-66.9		
B minus (B-)	80-83.9	D minus (D-)	60-63.9		

All assignments are graded based on adherence to directions, thoroughness, thoughtfulness, clarity, and logic.

Note: **A grade of C or better is required for all Justice Studies major and minor coursework, and desirable for students enrolled in the Forensic Science majors and/or minor.**

## Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may be available throughout the semester and will be used to augment your final grade up to **3%**. You may submit up to three extra credit assignments of your choosing. Each extra credit opportunity is given a weighted value of **10 marks**.

1. **Join a professional organization** (CAC, AAFS, IAI, *etc.*) that is of specific interest to *you* and supply proof of membership before the end of the semester. A professional organization is one that holds conferences and/or produces a periodic journal. This is not the same thing as an internship, job, or student organization; it is a professional *membership*.
2. **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.
3. **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).
4. **Read and critique a current journal article** from the forensic science discipline. Discuss its relevance to forensic science and how it contributes to the advancement the field.

## Class Protocol and Policies

- ◁ All assignments are to be completed a week after their assignment or completion of a practical. Late work **MAY NOT** be submitted **late**. Assignments submitted thereafter will **NOT** be **accepted** and results in an **automatic fail unless extraordinary, documented circumstances** exist or a **doctor's note** is presented. **AVOID MISSING PRACTICALS!** Make-up sessions may not be available. Should you know in advance of any extenuating circumstances that conflict with such sessions, it is your responsibility to inform your lecturer. The possibility for submitting an alternative assignment may be granted at discretion, but be advised that such undertaking will be quite demanding. If



## **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center located in Room 126 in Clark Hall offers a variety of resources to help

## **Justice Studies Reading and Writing**

5	02/24 & 02/26	<i>Documenting Scenes Using Photography, CSE #2 &amp; 3 Diagrams &amp; Photos (and notes)</i> <i>Packaging and Preserving Evidence, Chain of Custody, Notes &amp; Reports (CSE #4)</i>	Chapter 4 Chapter 7
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