

FS-11 Sec81

Survey of Forensic Science

Fall 2021

Mon 11am-12pm; Wed 4pm-6pm; Thr 3pm-6pm; Online only (Zoom):
<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/6339297906> (no need to book, just drop)

Class Days/Time: This course is delivered entirely online without a dedicated meeting time (asynchronously)

Canvas Course Website: <https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1433964> Login using your Tower ID Card
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FS Library Liaison: Nyle Monday: Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu

FS Lib Guide: <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/content.php?pid=57768&sid=2450175>

FS Program Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/degrees/program/>

Note: FS 11 is required for the successful completion of the FS biology and chemistry majors, as well as the FS minor. It is recommended for JS majors. However, it is open to any student with a general interest in the subject.

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 9703](#) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with [AEC](#) to establish a record of their disability.

Course Description

This is an introductory course to forensic science, which is the application of science to criminal and civil laws that is enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system. The scope of this course includes the history of forensic science and its subdisciplines; recognition, documentation, collection, preservation, and analysis of physical evidence; analytical techniques for organic and inorganic materials; biological, chemical and physical types of forensic evidence and its analysis; capabilities and limitations of forensic trace analysis and its representation in court.

This course is delivered completely online via a.b0b-4.6 (a) .7 (l)(l)-2Td (-)Tj 0.005 Tc -0.005 Tl1ed (-)i0a.vw cIY (l)(i)-2 Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during class. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible to determine an alternative. See [Learn Anywhere](#) website for current Wi-Fi options on campus.

FS-11- Survey of Forensic Science Office Hours:

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Disclaimer: This is an adult level course that may cover graphic materials related to criminal cases. Most of the course material will not be censored. Students are prohibited from recording and distributing class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.). Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S127) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives (CLOs)

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

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Course Assignments and Grading Policy

Students' progress in the course will be assessed through 4 assessment tasks:

1. Five quizzes, 10% each (50% total): individual task. Addressing CLOs 4-
Each quiz will consist of responses to approximately twenty multiple choice, matching, true/false or short answer questions. The questions will cover the content learned in the lectures, required readings and online materials. The marking criteria for the quizzes will be based on the number of correct answers, reflecting an understanding of key concepts, question interpretation and problem solving.
2. Virtual Labs, Reading and Review Questions (4%): individual task. Addressing CLOs 1-4.
Chapter reading and revindeda(v)10.9 (i)-4.6.7 (d)1.6 (r)-1 (t)-4.6n (l)6.2 ((s)8.6 ()6.2 (ng)10.9 ((l)6.2 (l)-4.

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- Professional skills (35%)
Understanding and explanation of underlying scientific principles of the topic
- Communication skills (15%)
Presentation of information (proper usage of professional language, lack of grammatical mistakes, well structured and easy-to-comprehend presentation)
Use of digital media principles such as layout design, fonts, color, graphics and video principles to enhance communication of the topic
- Enquiry and innovation (15%)
Creativity (how presentation approach enhances topic)
Presentation uses efficient ways to engage the audience

Overall assessment of this task will be performed jointly by students (20% of the total mark) and course coordinator (80% of the total mark), accounting together for 30% of the final course grade.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Extra credit opportunities may be available throughout the semester and may be used to augment your final grade up to 5%. These opportunities will also be announced on the Canvas course site and documentation will need to be uploaded and/or submitted online.

Examples include the following:

1. Complete a short professional development course in forensic science (in any forensic discipline) offered by the National Institute of Justice marked "extra credit" in the Forensic Science module and submit your certificate of completion by the deadline (check Canvas). Successful completion of this assessment task will add 1% to the final grade.
2. Students can write a research paper about their future career that is of interest to the student or about a forensic science controversy. The paper should be either in CSE or APA format and contain an introduction, a body of

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ideas without giving proper credit). Plagiarism detection software such as Turnitin or other methods to detect plagiarism will be used to check your work. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University.

The University Academic Integrity Policy S07 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07df> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>

Student Resources

Forensic Science Student Group (FSS)

[SJSU 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 extracurricular 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