

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
49636, Survey of Forensic Science, FS11-60, Fall, 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s): Jodie Warren, Ph.D.

Office Location: HB 214

Telephone: 408-924-8451

Email: jodie.warren@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Following class plus Thursdays 1- 2 pm (zoom) or by appointment (in person/zoom)

OH zoom: <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/2744634778>

Class Days/Time: Mondays 12:00- 2:45 pm

Classroom: MQH520

Course Description

3 units

This survey course introduces students to the profession of forensic science. Topics include the field's history and sub-disciplines, the CSI Effect, the application of the scientific method to physical eviden

Required Texts/Readings (Required - Delete the word “Required” in final draft)

Textbook

Required Readings (ISBN: 9780135268407 (rental version)) Saferstein, R. and Roy, T. (2020). Criminalistics: An introduction to forensic science (13th Ed.). New York: Pearson pp.558

Students can rent an electronic copy of the textbook via <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/criminalistics-richard-saferstein-tiffany-v9780135268407>

Any Additional Readings will be posted on Canvas

Library Liaison (Delete if not applicable)

Monday, Nyle Email: Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

- 1. MIDTERM – This will be held in the lecture time. It will be only 1.5 hours long and will be worth 25% of the total grade. It will be based on the seminars and readings and will be in the form of short answers/multiple choice/true or false. The exam will happen in class on Canvas*
- 2. FINAL – This will be held during the final exam period and will cover the second part of the course and will include all seminars and readings following the midterm. It will be 2 hrs&15mins and worth 25% of your total grade. It will occur on Canvas*
- 3. SEMINAR EXERCISES and PARTICIPATION will be assigned in class and will be worth 25% of your final grade. These exercises can range from weekly assignments to in class activities. Due to this, regular attendance is required for successful completion of this course.*
- 4. One two-page OUTLINE and one five-page LITERATURE REVIEW paper is also required. This paper should be 5 pages long – no shorter and not much longer (before references), double spaced. Your paper should be on a forensic science of your choice (suggestions will be offered in class) and should focus on explaining the science (not too much on techniques). The paper is worth 15% and is due (week 14). An outline must be submitted (week 11) and is worth 10% of your mark so that combined, they are worth 25% of your final grade.*

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Final Examination or Evaluation

The culminating evaluation in this course is a final examination that will take place through the Canvas platform during the final exam schedule. It is a 2hr & 15 min exam that is scheduled in the final exam period by the university.

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Deadlines	Readings (have readings done before class)
12	Nov 7	Forensic Biology	Saferstein, R. 2020. Criminalistics. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey. Ch. 11. Hair and Fibers, or up to Fibers, Ch. 16: DNA: The Indispensable Forensic Science Tool.
13	Nov 14	Forensic Chemistry	