

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
FS 164 Crime Scene and Evidence Photography, Fall 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Eric Kwong
Email:	eric.kwong@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	After class or by appointment
Zoom Link:	https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/2504908575
Class Days/Time:	T/TH 1500-1700
Classroom:	Online
Prerequisites:	FS 11, JS or FS Major/Minor, Upper Division Standing. JS Students may substitute JS 10 for FS 11.

Course Format

This course will meet on Thursdays for lecture and project critique-review. Attendance on Thursdays is required. Students will use Tuesdays to complete projects. Most projects will require that students demonstrate a specific problem in photography and then correct it. Students should be able to explain their process during project review.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas/your email on one.sjsu.edu to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Practical use of photography in documenting crime scenes and evidence. Topics will include 35mm camera operation, lenses, focus, exposure, depth of field, lighting, composition, flash, injury documentation, digital cameras and video, and court presentation of photographic evidence.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

LO1 Demonstrate understanding of digital photographic equipment function and care.

LO2 Articulate understanding of technical photography and evidence photography concepts and terms.

LO3 Articulate understanding of court requirements of photographic evidence, issues that may arise in court, and testimony regarding photographic evidence.

LO4 Demonstrate integration and mastery of technical photography principles and skills through practical exercises. Demonstrate ability to solve special problems in photography by using appropriate equipment, technique, angle, or manipulation.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook (Required)

Robinson, E. M. (2010). *Crime scene photography, 3/E*. Boston: Elsevier. ISBN: 9780128027646
May be purchases from the bookstore, direct from Elsevier, Amazon.com, or other websites.

Other Readings

Recommended Texts:

Staggs, S. (2014). *Crime scene and evidence photography, 2nd Edition*. Steven Staggs Publishing.

Jones, P. (2011). *Practical forensic digital imaging: Applications and techniques*. Boca Raton: CRC Press.

Miller, L. S. & McEvoy, R. T. (2011). *Police photography, 6/E*. Elsevier.

Additional readings and resources will be posted on Canvas.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Required: DSLR (Digital Single-lens reflex) camera with manual controls, normal lens (50mm), tripod, removable flash unit, flashlight, cable release, neck strap or sling and memory card(s).

Recommended: Camera case/bag, lens cloth/lens cleaning pen, USB card reader, laptop

This equipment may be rented or purchased, and/or shared with a classmate.

Camera Suggestions: <https://www.dpreview.com/reviews/buying-guide-best-easy-to-use-cameras>

Rentals: <https://www.borrowlenses.com/> or <https://www.sanjosecamera.com/>

Purchase: eBay, Amazon, B&H, Adorama, your local electronics retailer (Frys, Best Buy, etc.) or your local camera store.

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Photography Projects (40%): Composition, Lighting, Depth of Field, Exposure, Flash Photography, Nighttime Photography, Lighting Problems, Elements of the Crime, Evidence Documentation, Photographing Victims and Suspects, Luminol, Image Manipulation, and more. Students will present each project in a class critique-review format. (LO4)
2. Exams and Quizzes (40%): Periodic quizzes on reading, lectures, and projects. Some quizzes will be announced, others not. Cumulative final exam. (LO1, LO2, LO3)
3. Homework (10%): Review questions and term sheets will be assigned periodically. (LO2)
4. Participation in project review (10%): Student projects will be chosen randomly for review on review days. Attendance and discussion are required. (LO4)

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 practical.

Grading Information

Grading Scale for All Assignments

A+	97-100	B+	87-89.9	C+	77-79.9	D+	67-69.9	F	<60
A	94-96.9	B	84-86.9	C	74-76.9	D	64-66.9		
A-	90-93.9	B-	80-83.9	C-	70-73.9	D-	60-63.9		

Determination of Grades

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

Extra credit

Extra credit opportunities may be available throughout the semester and will be used to augment the final grade up to 3%.

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.
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.

Penalty for late or missed work

- Late work may be submitted for half credit within one week of due date.
- Make-ups for exams will generally not be possible unless extraordinary, documented circumstances exist.

Recording Zoom Classes

- This course or portions of this course (i.e., lectures, discussions, student presentations) will be recorded for instructional or educational purposes. The recordings will only be shared with students enrolled in the class through Canvas. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the semester. If, however, you would prefer to remain anonymous during these recordings, then please speak with the instructor about possible accommodations (e.g., temporarily turning off identifying information from the Zoom session, including student name and picture, prior to recording).
- Students are not allowed to record without instructor permission
Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy ([S12-7](#)) 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.

Zoom Classroom Etiquette

- **Mute Your Microphone:** To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- **Be Mindful of Background Noise and Distractions:** Find a quiet place to “attend” class, to the greatest extent possible.
- **Avoid video setups** where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc.
- **Avoid activities** that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.
- **Position Your Camera Properly:** Be sure your webcam is in a stable position and focused at eye level.
- **Limit Your Distractions/Avoid Multitasking:** You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).

- Use Appropriate Virtual Backgrounds: If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning. University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> Make sure to review these university policies and resources.

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.

ACCESS Success Center

The Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in the Social Sciences (ACCESS) provides General Education advising for undergraduate students majoring or intending to major in any of the departments in the College of Social Sciences (CoSS). ACCESS Academic Advisors are committed to helping you develop a clear path to graduation and supporting your academic success.

Fall 2020 Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Friday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM.

You can schedule an appointment and find more information at sjsu.edu/access.

FS 164 Crime Scene and Evidence Photography Fall 2020

Course Schedule

Schedule subject to change with fair notice via canvas

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments
1	8/20	Introductions and course overview Lecture: History of Police Photography, Rules of Technical Photography	Read Intro, Ch 1, 11 Read your camera manual, get familiar with your camera's settings and functions Photo Learning Projects assigned
2	8/25	Lecture: The Camera - Getting Started, Shutter System	Read Ch 10, 2, 5
	8/27	Lecture: Shutter Speed, Digital file types	
3	9/1	Lecture: The Sensor, Film Plane, Distortion & Angles, Depth of Field, Lenses	Read Ch 4 Project 1
	9/3	Lecture: Composition, Focus & Exposure	
4	9/8	Focus & Exposure Lab: Project 1	Read Ch 6
	9/10	Project 1 Review, Quiz 1	
5	9/15	Lecture: Quality of Light	http://www.crime-scene- investigator.net/nighttime.html Link will be posted on canvas Project 2
	9/17	Lecture: Flash Photography	
6	9/22	Lab: Project 2	Project 3
	9/24	Project 2 Review Lecture: Nighttime Photography	
7	9/29	Lab: Project 3	Read Ch 3
	10/1	Project 3 Review, Quiz 2	
8	10/6	Lecture: Crime Scene Documentation* Types of Crime Scene Photos, Capturing Elements of the Crime	Project 4
	10/8	Lecture: Crime Scene Documentation* Types of Crime Scene Photos, Capturing Elements of the Crime	
9	10/13	Lab: Project 4	Read Ch 9.2 Project 5
	10/15	Project 4 Review Lecture: Evidence & Scale Photography	
10	10/20	Lab: Project 5	Read Ch 9.5 & 9.8 Project 6
	10/22	Project 5 Review Lecture: Photographing Victims, Suspects Injuries, Quiz 3	
11	10/27	Lab Project 6	

Week	Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments
	10/29	Project 6 Review Lecture: Crimes Against Property, Accidents, Vehicles as Crime Scenes	Read Ch 7 + pg. 500 of 9.3 Project 7
12	11/3	Lab: Project 7	
	11/5	Project 7 Review Lecture: UV, IR, Fluorescence, Luminol Photography	Read Ch 9.3 Project 8
13	11/10	Lab: Project 8 (In-Class)	
	11/12	Project 8 Review Lecture: Photographing Evidence in the Lab	Project 9 Read Ch 12
14	11/17	Lab: Project 9 (In-Class)	
	11/19	Project 9 Review Lecture: Legal Issues Related to Digital Images	Project 10 (RE-DO)
15	11/24	Lecture: Manipulation of Images, Ethics, Admissibility, Court Testimony	
	11/26	No Class - Thanksgiving Day	
16	12/1	Lab: Project 10 (RE-DO)	Study for Final
	12/3	Project 10 Review Review for Final	
Final Exam	12/11	Canvas Final Exam 1445-1700	