

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences/Department of Justice Studies**  
**FS 164 Crime Scene and Evidence Photography, CRN 27179 & 27180**  
**Fall 2021**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Eric Kwong
Email:	eric.kwong@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	After class or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	M/W 1430-1630
Classroom:	HB 207
Prerequisites:	FS 11, JS, or FS Major/Minor, Upper Division Standing. JS Students may substitute JS 10 for FS 11.
Library Liaison:	Nyle Monday nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu
FS/JS Lib Guide:	<a href="https://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&amp;p=1526987">https://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230074&amp;p=1526987</a>

**Course Format**

Apart from the first month of the course, we will meet on Wednesdays for lecture and project critique-review. Attendance on Wednesdays is required. Students will use Mondays 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](http://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:

CLO1 Demonstrate understanding of digital photographic equipment function and care.

CLO2 Articulate understanding of technical photography and evidence photography concepts and terms.

CLO3 Articulate understanding of court requirements of photographic evidence, issues that may arise in court, and testimony regarding photographic evidence.

CLO4 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 purchased 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 or equivalent; with manual controls, normal lens (50mm), tripod, removable flash unit, flashlight, cable release (remote trigger), 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-dslrs>

Academic Technology Equipment Loaning: <https://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/academic-tech/equipment-loaning/index.php>

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%): may include Composition, Lighting, Depth of Field, Exposure, Flash Photography, Nighttime Photography, Lighting Problems, Elements of the Crime, Evidence Documentation, Photographing Victims and Suspects, Image Manipulation, and more. Students will present each project in a class critique-review format. (CLO4)
2. Exams and Quizzes (40%): Periodic quizzes on reading, lectures, and projects. Cumulative final exam. (CLO1-3)
3. Chapter Review Questions (10%): Students will complete the chapter review questions at the back of each assigned chapter. (CLO2)
4. Participation in project review (10%): Student projects will be chosen randomly for review on project review days. Attendance and discussion are required. (CLO4)

## 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%. Opportunities include:

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 reduced credit. A 10% deduction will occur for each week that it is late, starting with the due date.
- Make-ups for exams will generally not be possible unless extraordinary, documented circumstances exist.

### Recording Class

- 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.

### 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.

Important dates this semester: <https://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/fall-2021.php>

## Tips for Online Learning

- If you are new to Canvas, please visit the Canvas Guide for Students: [https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student\\_resources/index.html](https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources/index.html)
- Download the Canvas mobile app to your smartphone so that you will have access to the course if you are away from a computer
- Login to class every other day so that you do not miss important announcements and assignment deadlines, and set reminders on your phone
- Bookmark frequently visited course sites and resources so that you can revisit them to study for tests

## Academic Integrity

Students are expected to pursue their studies with honesty and integrity. When students have a person other than themselves take a test or complete an assignment; cut and paste writing from a source into their paper without giving proper credit; accept, buy, or copy the work of another; share or sell their own work; lie, cheat, or otherwise misrepresent their work product, they have committed the serious offense of *academic dishonesty*. If you cheat, copy, or misrepresent your work in this class in any way, including citation “errors,” you will receive a 0 on the assignment and the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. You are expected, in all classes, to do your own thinking and writing, and turn in your best original work.

## Forensic Science Student Group (FSS)

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 extra-curricular activities. Contact [sjsu.fss@gmail.com](mailto:sjsu.fss@gmail.com) or visit their website <https://sites.google.com/site/forensicsciencestudents/home> for more information and to apply

## 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.

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## Instructor

Eric Kwong is an alum of SJSU’s Forensic Science program, earning his BS in Forensic Science – Chemistry. He then went on to complete an MSc in Forensic Science from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. While at SJSU he was the President of the Forensic Science Students group and worked as a student assistant in the Department of Justice Studies. During his time at SJSU he photographed the Department of Justice Studies convocations and senior portraits. He specializes in portrait and event coverage photography.

# FS 164 Crime Scene and Evidence Photography Fall 2021 Course Schedule

Schedule subject to change with fair notice via canvas

Week	Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments
2	8/23	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 Start Project 0
	8/25	Lecture: The Camera - Getting Started, Shutter System	
3	8/30	Lecture: Shutter Speed, Digital file types	Read Ch 10, 2, 5
	9/1	Lecture: The Sensor, Film Plane, Distortion & Angles, Depth of Field, Lenses	
4	9/6	<b>Labor Day – No Class</b>	Read Ch 4 Project 0
	9/8	Lecture: Exposure	
5	9/13	Lecture: Focus & Composition Project 1	Project 1 Read Ch 6
	9/15	Project 1 Review <b>Quiz 1</b>	
6	9/20	Lecture: Quality of Light	Canvas
	9/22	Lecture: Flash Photography	
7	9/27	Project 2	Project 2
	9/29	Project 2 Review Lecture: Nighttime Photography	
8	10/4	Project 3	Read Ch 3 Project 3
	10/6	Project 3 Review Lecture: Crime Scene Documentation, Types of Crime Scene Photos, Capturing Elements of the Crime <b>Quiz 2</b>	
9	10/11	Project 4	Project 4
	10/13	Project 4 Review Lecture: Evidence & Scale Photography	
10	10/18	Project 5	Read Ch 9.2 Project 5
	10/20	Project 5 Review Lecture: Photographing Victims, Suspects Injuries <b>Quiz 3</b>	
11	10/25	Project 6	Read Ch 9.5 & 9.8 Project 6
	10/27	Project 6 Review Lecture: Crimes Against Property, Accidents, Vehicles as Crime Scenes & Photographic Documentation of Shooting Incidents	

Week	Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments
12	11/1	Project 7	Read Ch 7 + pg. 500 of 9.3 Project 7
	11/3	Project 7 Review Lecture: UV, IR, Fluorescence, Luminol Photography	
13	11/8	Project 8 (In-Class)	Read Ch 9.3 Project 8
	11/10	Project 8 Review Lecture: Photographing Evidence in the Lab	
14	11/15	Project 9 (In-Class)	Project 9 Read Ch 12
	11/17	Project 9 Review <b>Quiz 4</b>	
15	11/22	Lecture: Legal Issues Related to Digital Images	Project 10 (RE-DO)
	11/24	<b>No Class – Non-Instructional Day</b>	
16	11/29	Project 10 (RE-DO)	Project 10 (RE-DO)
	12/1	Lecture: Manipulation of Images, Ethics, Admissibility, Court Testimony <b>Quiz 5 - Terms</b>	
17	12/6	Project 10 Review Review for Final	Study for Final
<b>Final Exam</b>		<b>Monday, 12/13, 1215-1430</b>	

See Canvas for assignments, due dates, and additional readings