



**FS 625L - TRACE EVIDENCE LAB
SPRING 2012**

Instructor: Dr. Shari Forbes

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Office: HENR 2

Office Hours: Open Door Policy

Lab: Wednesday 13:30-16:50

Room: HENR L5

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

This is a graduate-level laboratory course designed to accompany the FS 625 Trace Evidence lecture course. During this course, students will receive practical experience in the various techniques used for collecting and analyzing trace evidence. The focus of this course will be in the recognition, collection and analyses of different categories of trace evidence including paint, glass, hairs, fibers, soils, and other microscopic evidence. There will be an extensive use of different types of microscopy during this course. This will involve a series of laboratory exercises and mock crime scenes.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate:

1. an understanding of the different categories of trace evidence commonly encountered in scene investigations;
2. an understanding of the methods for recognition and collection of trace evidence;
3. an understanding of the different **microscopic** and **spectroscopic** techniques involved in analysis of trace evidence;
4. an understanding of the documentation required for the submission of trace evidence reports for trial purposes.

TEXT:

Blackledge, Robert D., Forensic Analysis on the Cutting Edge: New Methods for Trace Evidence Analysis, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, NJ; 2007

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory and repeated absences will be reported to counseling and will result in possible removal from the course, as per the CUH Student Handbook. Absences may be excused if documentation is provided, or if approved prior to the class period. Repeated tardiness and/or absences will be reflected in the "participation" portion of your grade.

MUSIC DEVICES AND CELL PHONES:

Cell phones will either be off or on silent while in the laboratory. If I see your phone out during the lab period, you will receive a zero for the participation portion of your grade. If there is a legitimate reason for you to have your phone on, please see me prior to class. Unless specifically permitted by your instructor, use of music devices and cell phones is prohibited during all Natural Science and Mathematics classes at Chaminade, as it is discourteous and may lead to suspicion of academic misconduct. Students unable to comply will be asked to leave class.

COMPUTERS:

The use of computers in the laboratory is encouraged, provided they are used for the lab. Using computers for other purposes such as other class work or surfing the Internet is not acceptable, and will consequently be reflected in the "participation" portion of your grade.

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students with special needs who meet criteria for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions must provide written documentation of the need for accommodations from CUH Counseling Center by the end of the third week of classes. Failure to provide written documentation will prevent your instructor from making necessary accommodations. Please refer any questions to the Dean of Students and review procedures at www.chaminade.edu/student_life/ssc/counseling_services.php

DRESS CODE:

This course is conducted in a laboratory. **Close-toed shoes and long pants are required** for entry into a laboratory environment. The requisite safety gear must be worn at all times.

During outdoor laboratory exercises, students must abide by the following rules:

1. Wear close-toed shoes
2. Wear clothing appropriate for actual crime-scene processing. No bare shoulders, mid-riff or clothing above the knee
3. Hats, sunscreen and water are suggested for working in the sun
4. There is no eating or drinking within crime scene boundaries, but you may have something to drink outside those boundaries.

FOOD:

No food or beverages are allowed in the laboratory or within the boundaries of the mock crime scenes.

GRADING:

Class Participation	15%
Modules 2-4 (each)	
Assignment	10%
Scientist Report	7%
Case File	3%
Final Exam	25%

The grading scale is as follows:

90% +	=	A
80-89%	=	B
70-79%	=	C
< 69%	=	F

SCHEDULE:

Jan 18	NO LAB
Jan 25	Laboratory safety and syllabus
Feb 1	Module 1 - Microscopy (revision)
Feb 8	Module 2 - Hit and Run (scene)
Feb 15	Module 2 - Hit and Run (lab)
Feb 22	NO LAB
Feb 29	Module 2 - Hit and Run (lab)
Mar 7	Module 2 - Hit and Run (lab)
Mar 14	Module 3 - Physical Assault (scene)
Mar 21	Module 3 - Physical Assault (lab)
Mar 28	NO LAB
Apr 4	Module 3 - Physical Assault (lab)
Apr 11	Module 4 - Suspicious Death (scene/lab)
Apr 18	Module 4 - Suspicious Death (lab)
Apr 25	Module 4 - Suspicious Death (trace evidence lab)
May 2	LAB EXAM
May 9	NO LAB