



Syllabus
FS 330 Forensic Sciences (3)
Spring 2014
Clarence T.C. Ching Hall, Room 250

Instructor: Dale K. Purcell, Ph.D., D-ABC
Assistant Professor of Forensic Sciences
Office: Henry Hall 2
Telephone: 808-440-4209
email: dale.purcell@chaminade.edu

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, Fridays, 0930 – 1020 hours

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays, 1130 – 1230 hours (walk-in)
Any other time by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to survey major disciplines that fall under the umbrella of forensic sciences. The primary tools in the investigation of civil and criminal cases are the same, which include recognition, preservation, documentation, collection, examination, and the interpretation of physical evidence. In order for a forensic science laboratory to be used efficiently and effectively, it is necessary for all personnel within the justice system be sufficiently well instructed in the elements of criminalistics to enable them to appreciate the value of the contributions forensic science has in legal investigations. Physical evidence is demonstrative and testamentary information using the techniques of science and the use of scientific methods to assist the trier of fact to understand events which may explain what, where, how, when, who, and ultimately, but rarely, why a series of events happened, which is the objective of an adversarial trial system.

MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Reasoning

- ① One purpose of the course is to encourage students to interact with their peers and foster collegiality.
- ② Discuss the legal framework in which criminalistics is conducted under the umbrella of forensic science.
- ③ Discuss the value of common forms of physical evidence in the reconstruction of past events.
- ④ Discuss and explain the importance and responsibility of a forensic scientist to understand, practice and work according to ethical guidelines.

Knowledge

- ✍ Become familiar with current forensic science topics in order to develop a deeper understanding of the underlying issues under debate, and form an evidence (factual) based opinion about subject matter; Synthesize related scientific literature.
- ✍ Evaluate currently used scientific procedures and methodologies for a variety of forensic science disciplines.

Practical skills

- ✍ Apply knowledge of current events and related topics to the evaluation of various analytical procedures, applications of these procedures to the appropriate types of evidence. And, to identify research in the analysis of various evidence and subjects associated with forensic evidence.
- ✍ Produce exemplary presentation of scientific subject matter in order to effectively communicate research design, which includes proper evidence controls (positive and negative), use of standards (SRMs, CRMs, etc.), proper use of the scientific method, presentation of data obtained through proper interpretation, and what constitutes a scientific opinion.

Communication

- ✍ Present scientific facts and opinions in a clear and logical oral and written manner;
- ✍ Become more confident and comfortable with subject material in order to participate and disseminate scientific information to other scientists and "juries" by delineating analytical procedures, results, discussions and interpretations.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Houck MM, Siegel JA (2010) Fundamentals of Forensic Science. 2nd Edition. Academic Press, Burlington, MA.

The foundation of this course is based on becoming familiar with the literature and the "state of the science" associated with various topics, and effective communication of issues related to these topics.

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Chapt er	Lecture Topics – Subject to Change
1	13 Jan 15 Jan 17 Jan	1 23	Introduction – Syllabus and Course Requirements Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences Legal Aspects of Forensic Science
2	20 Jan 22 Jan 24 Jan	23 1	No Classes Admissibility and Testimony Ethics, Professional Practice
3	27 Jan 29 Jan 31 Jan	3 2 6	Physical Evidence Crime Scene Investigation Separation Methods (“Ownership Document” due)
4	03 Feb 05 Feb 07 Feb	4 6	Microscopy Separation Methods EXAM 1
5	10 Feb 12 Feb 14 Feb	21 21	Firearms Friction Ridge Examination AFIS/Retinal Scan
6	17 Feb 19 Feb 21 Feb		American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington
7	24 Feb 26 Feb 28 Feb	21 22 22	Tool Mark Impressions Footwear Impressions Tire Track Impressions
8	03 Mar 05 Mar 07 Mar	20 10 11	Questioned Documents Forensic Biology Serology & Genetics
9	10 Mar 12 Mar 14 Mar	10 7	Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Pathology Taphonomy
10	17 Mar 19 Mar 21 Mar	9 8	Entomology Anthropology EXAM 2
11	24 Mar 26 Mar 28 Mar		SPRING RECESS
12	31 Mar 02 Apr 04 Apr	8 13	Odontology Forensic Chemistry and Trace Evidence Controlled Substances
13	07 Apr 09 Apr 11 Apr	14 12 15	Toxicology Hair Fiber/Textiles
14	07 Apr 09 Apr 11 Apr	16 17 17	Paint Soil Glass
15	07 Apr 09 Apr 11 Apr	18	Fires and Explosions Current Topics in Forensic Sciences Current Topics in Forensic Sciences
16	05 May		FINAL EXAMINATION 1100 – 1300 hours

EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Grading:

The final course grade is comprehensive and contributed by exams and a written, introspection, “Ownership Document” which is intended for you to think about your future; reflect on why you are pursuing forensic science as a career choice. What influenced you to pursue a degree in forensic science? What do you want to accomplish in your career? Be critically honest with yourself. This “Ownership Document” is due at the start of lecture on January 31, 2014

Activity	Points
"Ownership Document"	100
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Final Exam	200
POSSIBLE	500

Grading Scale		
100% - 90%	A	450-500
89% - 80%	B	400-499
79% - 70%	C	350-399
69% - 60%	D	300-349
≤ 59%	F	299 or less

The course grade depends solely on each student's individual performance, rather than any other personal reason. If the student misses an exam due to an emergency, a make-up exam or equivalent assignment must be requested in writing within one calendar week and must be accompanied by an official document and statement to prove the emergency; otherwise there will be no make-up exam and the grade will be zero. There is no compromise of the grade for a verifiable emergency (medical or other) situation. All students must attend the final exam. Missing the final exam will lead to either a failing grade or an incomplete, but only due to an emergency. No make-up final exam will be given.

Student Success:

In addition to attending lectures and performing laboratory experiments, students are expected to spend a considerable amount of time every week studying for this course. Students are encouraged to study in small, well organized groups. Peer-based teaching has proven to be a very valuable experience that results in a deeper understanding of course materials, which is reflected in higher individual performance and retention of course content.

Cheating:

Each student is expected to complete the laboratory work independently. Submission of identical lab report or sharing data is treated as cheating. Cheating on an exam, homework or laboratory assignment will result in a zero for that particular assignment, or lead to a stricter penalty based on official University policy.

Statement of University Policy on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotation all require proper citation to the original source.

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

It is the student's responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of

restatement, as long as the source is cited.

REMINDERS OF IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY-WIDE POLICIES

The following policies are summarized from the Student Handbook. Please remember, it is your responsibility as a student to review these and the other policies that your Handbook contains.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes. The University assumes you are mature enough to be responsible for your own behavior. Any absence of two weeks or more will be reported to the Office of the Associate Provost and the Registrar. You should notify me when illness prevents you from attending class and make arrangements to complete missed assignments. Notification may be done by calling me, or by leaving word at the Faculty Services (735-4739). Depending on your circumstances, I may modify deadlines of course requirements. Anyone who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing may receive a failing grade. Students with three or more unexcused absences will lose one letter grade.

Classroom Deportment

- You are expected to be punctual; unexcused tardiness will be considered an absence.
- Smoking and alcoholic beverages are prohibited in all classrooms, whether or not class is in session.
- No pets are allowed in class. Exceptions will be made in the case of a seeing-eye dog.
- Personal audiovisual equipment not pertinent to the class is prohibited during class.
- Follow the University's "dress code" requiring footwear and appropriate shirts to be worn during all classes, as well as in the library, cafeteria, and administrative offices.

Academic Honesty:

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty, and by reporting incidences of academic dishonesty (such as theft of tests, records, and other confidential materials, altering grades, and/or plagiarism) to their instructors.

Freedom of Expression:

Students are free to take reasoned exception to the views offered in particular courses of study. They may be required to know thoroughly the specific bodies of knowledge or interpretations or theories set by the professor, but are free to reserve personal judgment as to the truth or falsity of them.

Students are expected to maintain the standards of academic performance articulated in course syllabi, supplemental readings, assignments, and Academic and Student Affairs policies. The instructor is considered the normal and competent judge of academic work. Students have an appeals process in the rare cases of unjust grading and evaluation by the procedure detailed in the Academic Grievance section of the Student Handbook.

ADA Accommodations:

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act (2008), Chaminade University of Honolulu offers accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you would like to determine if you qualify for ADA accommodations, please contact the Counseling Center at (808) 735-4845. Once your documentation is submitted, the assessments will be reviewed and the student will be notified.

If one qualifies for ADA accommodations an ADA contract will be signed by the student. Please remember that once you have signed an ADA agreement, you need to contact the ADA coordinator each semester (including summer sessions) to identify which instructors you want notified of your accommodations. This is to ensure your privacy. Faculty will be informed of the accommodations you are to receive but not the nature of your disability. From the time that appropriate documentation is received by the ADA Coordinator, please allow 2 to 3 weeks to process your paperwork. Processing time may vary pending the volume of requests received. You can find more information at [http://www.chaminade.edu/student life/sss/counseling_services.php](http://www.chaminade.edu/student_life/sss/counseling_services.php)