

**Spring 2014**  
F 1530 – 1620  
120 Wesselkamper Science Center

**INSTRUCTOR**

Dale Purcell; PhD, D-ABC  
Assistant Professor of Forensic Sciences

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**FS 799 Directed Studies (3)**

Explores a selected topic in depth through individualized research under general direction of a faculty member. Coordinated with the topic for FS 790, Forensic Sciences Graduate Seminar. *Concurrent registration in FS 790 required.*

**MEASURABLE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

This course is designed to provide an opportunity to explore a selected topic in depth through individualized research under the direction of a research committee. The research committee must approve the research topic. The topic can be coordinated with FS 790 Forensic Sciences Graduate Seminar. The aim of FS 799 Directed Studies is to provide you with an opportunity to conduct research of the type commonly encountered in forensic investigations.

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

1. Communicate issues in quality assurance and ethics that are related to research,
2. Describe the relationship of their field of research to the field of forensic science,
3. Design an experiment,
4. Prepare and submit a research proposal and manuscript

**REQUIRED TEXT**

You are not required to purchase a textbook. Reading material will be provided. The following research tools should be used regularly:

1. Journal of Forensic Sciences Guide for Authors
2. Google Scholar
3. Web of Knowledge
4. Forensic Science magazines
  - a. Forensic Magazine, Evidence Technology
5. Forensic Science Journals
  - a. Journal of Forensic Sciences, Forensic Science International, Journal of Forensic Identification
6. Forensic science employment websites
7. NIJ website <http://www.nij.gov/>

**CLASS TOPICS**

1. Scientific method: empirical versus experimental, quality assurance, ethics
2. Literature search: Web of Science, Google Scholar, Forensic Magazine, Evidence Technology
3. Forensic Science Journals: JFS, FSI, JFI, IJLM, FSMP
4. Proposal and Manuscript Guidelines
5. Employment Websites & online training

**ASSESSMENT**

Your grade represents your progress toward meeting the course objectives. These objectives are met by completing the following assignments, which are **all due on the Friday before Finals Week**:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>
Research Evaluation	100
Research Manuscript	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>

Your grade is calculated as follows:

A = 100% - 90%

B = 89% - 80%

C = 79% - 70

D = 69% - 60

F = 50% - 0%

### **REMINDERS OF IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY-WIDE POLICIES**

The following policies are summarized from the 2010-2011 Student Handbook. Please be sure that you have reviewed 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 DEPARTMENT**

- 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 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)