

**INSTRUCTOR**

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Sciences

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Office Hours: Monday 2:30PM – 4:30PM,  
Wednesday 11:00AM – 12:30PM or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**FS 230 Forensic Sciences (3)**

Scientific methods applied to the gathering and preservation of criminal evidence.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Forensic science is the natural science branch of the justice system. The forensic sciences are concerned with interpreting physical evidence. Investigations proceed by using physical evidence and testimonial evidence to reconstruct past events. Victims, suspects, and witnesses provide testimonial evidence. While forensic science is used to resolve civil, criminal, and regulatory matters, this course will focus on criminal investigation. Not surprisingly, forensic science comprises several disparate fields of study. This course provides an introduction to the use of physical evidence in the criminal justice system.

Each student will finish this class with the ability to:

- Define forensic science and the value of physical evidence in a criminal investigation
- Describe the legal framework in which forensic science is conducted
- Discuss the value of common and recently developed forms of physical evidence
- Discuss the importance of ethics in forensic science

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

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

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Chapter	Subject	Notes
1	25 Aug	-	Introduction	Ownership Document
	27 Aug	1	Criminal Justice and Forensic Science	
	29 Aug	23	Legal Aspects of Forensic Science	
2	1 Sep		<b>No Class</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>
	3 Sep	23	Admissibility and Testimony	Ownership Document Due
	5 Sep	1	Ethics, Professional Practice	
3	8 Sep	3	Physical Evidence	
	10 Sep	2	Crime Scene Investigation	
	12 Sep	5	Light, Matter, and Photography	
4	15 Sep	4	Microscopy	Dr. Dale Purcell, PhD
	17 Sep	6	Separation Methods	
	19 Sep	-	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
5	22 Sep	19	Friction Ridge Examination	Nicholas Harrison, MS
	24 Sep	21	Firearms	
	26 Sep	21	Toolmarks	
6	29 Sep	22	Footwear	
	1 Oct	22	Tire Impressions	
	3 Oct	20	Questioned Documents	
7	6 Oct	-	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
	8 Oct	10	Forensic Biology	
	10 Oct	11	Serology & Genetic Analysis	
8	13 Oct	-	<b>No Class</b>	<b>Discoverer's Day</b>
	15 Oct	10	Bloodstain Pattern Analysis	Wilson Sullivan, MS
	17 Oct	7	Pathology	
9	20 Oct	-	Taphonomy	
	22 Oct	9	Entomology	
	24 Oct	8	Anthropology	
10	27 Oct	8	Odontology	
	29 Oct	-	<b>EXAM 3</b>	
	31 Oct	-	Forensic Chemistry and Trace Evidence	
11	3 Nov	13	Controlled Substances	Dr. Dale Purcell, PhD
	5 Nov	14	Toxicology	
	7 Nov	12	Hair	
12	10 Nov	15	Fibers	
	12 Nov	16	Paint	
	14 Nov	-	No Class	
13	17 Nov	17	Soil	
	19 Nov	17	Glass	
	21 Nov	18	Fires and Explosions	
14	24 Nov	-	<b>EXAM 4</b>	
	26 Nov	-	<b>No Class</b>	
	28 Nov	-	<b>No Class</b>	
15	1 Dec	-	Eternal Zamination Review	<b>SHSU Seminar</b>
	3 Dec	-	Eternal Zamination Review	
	5 Dec	-	Eternal Zamination Review	
16	<b>9 Dec</b>		<b>ETERNAL ZAMNATION</b>	<b>Tuesday, 9 December 11:00 – 1:00</b>

**EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE*****Examinations***

Assessment is based on the completion of the Ownership Document at the beginning of the semester along with five oral examinations. The initial four examinations (Zam Time!!!) will cover discrete components of the content and be delivered as oral examinations. The final examination (Eternal Zamnation) will be a cumulative examination delivered as a multiple-choice examination with 100 questions.

***Ownership Document***

You are also required to complete an Ownership Agreement that is designed to encourage you to think about your future and the reason why you are pursuing a career in forensic science. You are required to complete one Ownership Agreement worth 100 points.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Points</b>
Ownership Document	100
Exams: Zam Time!	200 @ 50 exam <sup>-1</sup>
Eternal Zamnation	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>

The grading scale is:

100% - 90%	A
89% - 80%	B
79% - 70%	C
69% - 60%	D
≤ 59%	F

**REMINDERS OF IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY-WIDE POLICIES**

The following policies are summarized from the Student Handbook. Please be sure that you have reviewed these and the other policies that your Handbook contains.

***Attendance***

You will be treated as a forensic science professional employed at a forensic science agency. This means that you are expected to attend and participate in every class period. Like a professional, you must contact the instructor if you know that you will miss a future class. Absences can be excused for medical treatment and legal issues. Some personal issues can be excused, but that decision is completely at the discretion of the instructor. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if you have missed class and were unable to communicate before the absence.

***Academic Dishonesty***

All confirmed academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the class.

**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)