

Crime Scene Investigation
FS 340/540
Fall 2014

Instructor: Nick Harrison
Contact: nicholas.harrison@chaminade.edu
Office: Henry Hall 3
Office Hours: MWF 0900-1000, T 0900-1200, or by appointment

Time: 1030-1120
Days: MWF
Room: Henry 109

This is an undergraduate/graduate-level course designed to encompass all aspects of crime scene investigation. It must be taken concurrently with FS 340L/540L, the Crime Scene Investigation Laboratory course. Prerequisites: FS 333, or FS 333L, or consent of instructor.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course and the accompanying laboratory, students will be able to:

1. Approach a crime scene safely and methodically
2. Recognize, collect, and preserve different types of evidence
3. Document crime scenes completely and accurately
4. Understand the entire sequence of protocols involved in an investigation, from entry to the crime scene until the case is completed

TEXT:

Gardner, RM. Practical crime scene processing and investigation. 2nd ed. Boca Raton: CRC Press; 2012. 498 p.
ISBN: 9781439853023

This book is required for the course and reading it is your responsibility. Material from this text will be used for both lecture examination and laboratory purposes.

Optional Text:

Sullivan, WT. Crime scene analysis: practical procedures and techniques. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall; 2007. 327 p.
ISBN: 0-13-119131-4

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to be in class and to be on time. Repeated absences will be reported to counseling and will result in possible removal from the course, as per the Chaminade Student Handbook.

Syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion

CELL PHONES AND MUSIC DEVICES:

Unless specifically permitted by your instructor, use of cell phones and music devices is prohibited during all Natural Science and Mathematics classes at Chaminade, as it is discourteous and may lead to suspicion of academic misconduct. I would ask that cell phones be either turned off or put on silent mode while in the classroom. I am not necessarily opposed to you periodically checking your phone as long as it is not disruptive to your fellow classmates or me. If it becomes disruptive, I will ask you to turn off your phone. Students unable to comply with the instructor's requests will be asked to leave class. Use of cell phones is strictly prohibited during examinations.

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students with special needs who meet the criteria for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions must provide written documentation of the need for accommodations from CUH Counseling Center (Dr. June Yasuhara, 735-4845) 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 the procedures at www.chaminade.edu/student_life/sss/counseling_services.php

COMPUTERS:

The use of computers in this class is encouraged, provided they are used for the class. Doing other things on the computer such as other class work or surfing the internet is not acceptable.

GRADING:

Final grades for the lecture course will be totaled using the following weighting:

Midterm Exam #1: 30%
Midterm Exam #2: 35%
Final Exam: 35%

GRADING SCALE:

90 - 100% A
80 - <90% B
70 - <80% C
60 - <70% D
<60% F

Numerical grades containing decimal points **will not** be rounded up during the conversion to letter grades.

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SCHEDULE:

- Aug 25: Course Introduction & Syllabus
- Aug 27: Introduction [Chapter 1]
- Aug 29: The Nature of Physical Evidence (Part 1) [Chapter 2]
- Sept 1: **NO CLASS (Labor Day)**
- Sept 3: The Nature of Physical Evidence (Part 2)
- Sept 5: First Responders & (Specialized) Personnel [Chapter 3]
- Sept 8: Assessing and Searching the Scene [Chapter 5]
- Sept 10: Initial Observations and Notes [Chapter 8, page 223-228]
- Sept 12: Processing Methodology [Chapter 4]
- Sept 15: Sketches (Part 1) [Chapter 7]
- Sept 17: Sketches (Part 2)
- Sept 19: Photography (Part 1) [Chapter 6, page 135-155 & 172-181]
- Sept 22: **MIDTERM EXAM #1 [Chapters 1-5]**
- Sept 24: “Hands-on” Photography Practice (no formal lecture)
- Sept 26: Photography (Part 2)
- Sept 29: Photography (Part 3)
- Oct 1: “Hands-on” Photography Practice (no formal lecture)
- Oct 3: Light Technology [Chapter 9, page 239-253]
- Oct 6: Fingerprints (Part 1) [Chapter 9, page 254-278]
- Oct 8: Fingerprints (Part 2)
- Oct 10: Fingerprints (Part 3)
- Oct 13: **NO CLASS (Discoverers’ Day)**

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- Oct 15: Fingerprints (Part 4)
- Oct 17: ABIS Demonstration
- Oct 20: Impression Evidence (Part 1) [Chapter 9, page 278-298]
- Oct 22: Impression Evidence (Part 2)
- Oct 24: Firearms Evidence (Part 1) [Chapter 2, page 44-50; Handout]
- Oct 27: Firearms Evidence (Part 2)
- Oct 29: Shooting Scene Documentation and Reconstruction [Chapter 10]
- Oct 31: Crime Scene Reports [Chapter 8 page 228-237]
- Nov 3: Review
- Nov 5: **MIDTERM EXAM #2 [Chapters 6-10]**
- Nov 7: Biological Evidence [Chapter 2, pg. 30-37; Chapter 11, pg. 353-358]
- Nov 10: [Video - 48 Hours: Hollywood Secrets](#)
- Nov 12: Bloodstain Pattern Analysis [Chapter 11]
- Nov 14: Bloodstain Pattern Documentation [Chapter 6, pg. 156-172]
- Nov 17: The Body as a Crime Scene (Part 1) [Chapter 12]
- Nov 19: The Body as a Crime Scene (Part 2)
- Nov 21: Fire Scenes [Chapter 13, page 383-394]
- Nov 24: Buried and Scattered Remains [Chapter 13, page 394-406]
- Nov 26: Entomological Evidence [Chapter 13, page 407-408]
- Nov 28: **NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)**
- Dec 1: Crime Scene Analysis and Reconstruction [Chapter 14]
- Dec 3: Legal Considerations [Handout]

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Dec 5: Review

Dec 11: **FINAL EXAM:** 1100-1300 hrs

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