

Senior Seminar
FS 490
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: 1430-1520
Days: Friday
Room: WESS 120

Senior Seminar is designed to provide students with an opportunity to research, prepare, and present forensic science topics of interest to them. Reading and discussion of recent forensic techniques and applications will be part of the preparation and presentation process. One oral presentation by each student is required. Prerequisites: FS 340/L.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Research a forensic science topic for presentation
2. Prepare an abstract of the presentation
3. Prepare a professional curriculum vitae and/or cover letter
4. Recognize the appropriate and efficient use of visual aids in presentations
5. Prepare and deliver concise and professional presentations

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. Students will be required to sign a sign-in sheet at the beginning of each class. When not presenting, students will be expected to actively participate in the presentations of their peers by asking questions and making constructive comments; participation will be graded. Repeated absences will be reported to counseling and will result in possible removal from the course, as per the CUH Student Handbook. Under emergency and/or extenuating circumstances, absences may be excused if documentation is provided or if approved prior to the class period.

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. **Cell phones must be either turned off or put on silent mode during seminar.** If I see your phone out during a peer's presentation, you will receive a zero for the participation portion of your grade. If there is a legitimate reason to have your phone on, please see me prior to class.

Syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion

COMPUTERS:

Please be respectful of the presenters and do not use your computer during seminar.

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 procedures at www.chaminade.edu/student_life/sss/counseling_services.php

GRADING:

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

Attendance: 5%
Participation: 5%
Presentation: 65%
Preparation of Presentation #2: 25%

3 bonus percentage points for incorporation and discussion of an event where the actions of a forensic scientist or agency in your topic's discipline were brought into question legally or ethically.

The preparation phase of your presentation will result in a prepared bibliography of research materials, an abstract, and a curriculum vitae or cover letter. The following items are to be turned in on the day of your presentation:

Bibliography [5 points]
Abstract [10 points]
Curriculum vitae / cover letter [10 points]
Presentation (PowerPoint or other visual aids)

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 29: Syllabus & Introduction to Presentations
- Sept 5: Effective Visual Aids / Bibliographies, Abstracts, and CVs
- Sept 12: Presentation (2)
- Sept 19: Presentation (2)
- Sept 26: Presentation (2)
- Oct 3: Presentation (2)
- Oct 10: Presentation (2)
- Oct 17: Presentation (2)
- Oct 24: Presentation (2)
- Oct 31: Presentation (2)
- Nov 7: Presentation (2)
- Nov 14: Presentation (2)
- Nov 21: Presentation (2)
- Nov 28: **NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)**
- Dec 5: Reserved for extenuating circumstances
- Dec 8: FS Program Exit Examination/Survey (for those graduating)

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