



**FS 799 Directed Studies
Spring 2014
Henry Hall, Room 203**

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Lecture: Fridays, 1530 – 1620 hours

Office Hours: M & W 1100 – 1200 and T & Th 1130 – 1230
Any other time by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course the student explores a selected topic in depth through individualized research under general direction and guidance of a research committee and a committee chair, which acts as your primary research mentor.

MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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 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 TEXTS

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**:

Assignment	Points Possible
Research Evaluation	100
Research Manuscript	100
Total	200

Arrange a Monthly meeting with Dr. Purcell to turn in your Research Activity Report and to discuss your research – bring your research notebook to this meeting.

Your grade is calculated as follows:

- A = 100% - 90%
- B = 89% - 80%
- C = 79% - 70%
- F ≤ 69%

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 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 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