

FS 680L Special Topics in Physical Evidence Laboratory

Wednesdays, 2:30PM – 5:20PM

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Office Hours

Monday 2:30PM – 4:30PM,
Wednesday 11:00AM – 12:30PM, or
By Appointment

Oftentimes discovered in small (or trace) quantities, physical evidence can serve as a valuable means to trace the movement of a person or an object. Anything can serve as evidence but some traditional forms are hair, fiber, soils, glass, and paint. Please note that several other forms of physical evidence such as pollen, insects, building materials, liquids, and plastics are also used as trace evidence, although they will not be the focus of this class.

Measurable Learning Objectives

By participating in this class, each student will be able to:

- Identify and discuss the values and ethics required for effective physical evidence analysis,
- Develop protocols for the collection, preparation, analysis, and preservation of trace evidence,
- Generate examination quality slides, photographs, and photomicrographs of trace evidence, and
- Present the results as components of The Chaminade Protocols

Required Text

This class does not require you to purchase a textbook. However, readings from the following sources will be provided:

Houck MM (2001) *Mute Witnesses*. Academic Press, San Diego, CA.
Kirk PL (1953) *Crime Investigation*. John Wiley and Sons, San Francisco, CA.
Saferstein R (2013) *Forensic Science: From the Crime Scene to the Crime Lab*. 2nd Edition. Pearson, Boston, MA.
Siegel JA and Houck MM (2010) *Fundamentals of Forensic Science*. 2nd Edition. Academic Press, San Diego, CA

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Tentative Class Schedule

Week (Dates)	Topic	Notes
1 (27 August)	Introduction, values & ethics	
2 (3 September)	Laboratory Setup	
3 (17 September)	Soil Survey & Collection	
4 (24 September)	Soil Preparation & Imaging	
5 (1 October)	Soil Presentation	
6 (8 October)	Glass Survey & Collection	
7 (15 October)	Glass Preparation & Imaging	
8 (22 October)	Glass Presentation	
9 (29 October)	Hair Survey & Collection	
10 (5 November)	Hair Preparation & Imaging	
11 (12 November)	Hair Presentation	
12 (19 November)	Fiber Survey & Collection	
13 (26 November)	Fiber Preparation & Imaging	Thanksgiving
14 (3 December)	Fiber Presentation	SHSU Seminar
15 (10 December)	Final Project Submission	
16 (Finals Week)	No Scheduled Laboratory	

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Evaluation/Assessment

Your grade for this class will be the result of participation and the production of a volume for The Chaminade Protocols. Each student will be assigned a topic for inclusion in this educational resource. Book subjects will include:

- Soils
- Human hairs
- Non-human hairs
- Organic fibers
- Synthetic fibers
- Latent fingerprints
- Bloodstain patterns

Assignment	Points Possible
The Chaminade Protocols	100
Total Points	100

The grading scale for this class is as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	≥ 90
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	≤ 59

ADA Accommodation

Students who meet the criteria for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) must provide written documentation of their needs to the Chaminade University of Honolulu Counseling Center by the end of the 3rd week of class. Failure to provide this documentation will exempt you from ADA accommodations. Please direct any questions to the Dean of Students at www.chaminade.edu/student_life/ssc/counseling_services.php

Dress Code

This class will take place in the lecture hall, laboratory and outside. Please dress accordingly. Close-toed shoes, long pants, and personal protective equipment are required in the laboratory. No food or beverages is allowed in the laboratory.