

Crime Scene Investigation
FS 340/540
Spring 2015

Instructor: Nick Harrison
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Office: Henry Hall 3
Office Hours: MWF 0900-1000, TTh 0900-1030, or by appointment

Time: 1030-1120
Days: MWF
Room: Henry 223

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.

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 physical 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 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

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

SCHEDULE:

- Jan 12: Course Introduction & Syllabus
- Jan 14: Introduction [Chapter 1]
- Jan 16: The Nature of Physical Evidence (Part 1) [Chapter 2]
- Jan 19: **NO CLASS (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)**
- Jan 21: The Nature of Physical Evidence (Part 2)
- Jan 23: First Responders & (Specialized) Personnel [Chapter 3]
- Jan 26: Assessing and Searching the Scene [Chapter 5]
- Jan 28: Initial Observations and Notes [Chapter 8, page 223-228]
- Jan 30: Processing Methodology [Chapter 4]
- Feb 2: Sketches (Part 1) [Chapter 7]
- Feb 4: Sketches (Part 2)
- Feb 6: **MIDTERM EXAM #1 [Chapters 1-5]**
- Feb 9: Photography (Part 1) [Chapter 6, page 135-155 & 172-181]
- Feb 11: “Hands-on” Photography Practice (no formal lecture)
- Feb 13: Photography (Part 2)
- Feb 16: **NO CLASS (Presidents’ Day)**
- Feb 18: Photography (Part 3)
- Feb 20: Light Technology [Chapter 9, page 239-253]
- Feb 23: Fingerprints (Part 1) [Chapter 9, page 254-278]
- Feb 25: Fingerprints (Part 2)

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Feb 27: Fingerprints (Part 3)

Mar 2: Fingerprints (Part 4)

Mar 4: ABIS Demonstration

Mar 6: Impression Evidence (Part 1) [Chapter 9, page 278-298]

Mar 9: Impression Evidence (Part 2)

Mar 11: Firearms Evidence (Part 1) [Chapter 2, page 44-50; Handout]

Mar 13: Firearms Evidence (Part 2)

Mar 16: Shooting Scene Documentation and Reconstruction [Chapter 10]

Mar 18: Crime Scene Reports [Chapter 8 page 228-237]

Mar 20: **MIDTERM EXAM #2 [Chapters 6-10]**

Mar 23: **NO CLASS (Spring Recess)**

Mar 25: **NO CLASS (Spring Recess)**

Mar 27: **NO CLASS (Spring Recess)**

Mar 30: [Video - 48 Hours: Hollywood Secrets](#)

Apr 1: Biological Evidence [Chapter 2, pg. 30-37; Chapter 11, pg. 353-358]

Apr 3: **NO CLASS (Good Friday)**

Apr 6: Bloodstain Pattern Analysis [Chapter 11]

Apr 8: Bloodstain Pattern Documentation [Chapter 6, pg. 156-172]

Apr 10: The Body as a Crime Scene (Part 1) [Chapter 12]

Apr 13: The Body as a Crime Scene (Part 2)

Apr 15: Fire Scenes [Chapter 13, page 383-394]

Apr 17: Buried and Scattered Remains [Chapter 13, page 394-406]

Apr 20: Entomological Evidence [Chapter 13, page 407-408]

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Apr 22: [Video - RCMP Training Unit: Forensic Entomology](#)

Apr 24: Crime Scene Analysis and Reconstruction [Chapter 14]

Apr 27: Legal Considerations [Handout]

Apr 29: Review

May 1: **NO CLASS**

May 7: **FINAL EXAM [Chapters 11-14]: 1100-1300 hrs**

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