

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 2:30PM –
5:00PM or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

FS 230 Forensic Sciences (3)

Scientific methods applied to the gathering and preservation of physical evidence.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Forensic science is the natural science branch of the justice system. The forensic sciences are concerned with interpreting physical evidence. Investigations proceed by using physical evidence and testimonial evidence to reconstruct past events. Victims, suspects, and witnesses provide testimonial evidence. While forensic science is used to resolve civil, criminal, and regulatory matters, this course will focus on criminal investigation. Not surprisingly, forensic science comprises several disparate fields of study. This course provides an introduction to the use of physical evidence in the criminal justice system.

Each student will finish this class with the ability to:

- Define forensic science and the value of physical evidence in a criminal investigation
- Describe the legal framework in which forensic science is conducted
- Discuss the value of common and recently developed forms of physical evidence
- Discuss the importance of ethics in forensic science

REQUIRED TEXTS

Houck MM, Siegel JA (2010) Fundamentals of Forensic Science. 2nd Edition. Academic Press, Burlington, MA.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Chapter	Subject	Notes
1	12 Jan		Class Cancelled	OSAC
			Class Cancelled	OSAC
			Class Cancelled	OSAC
2	19 Jan		Class Cancelled	MLK Day
			Introduction	Ownership Document
		1	Criminal Justice and Forensic Science	
3	26 Jan	23	Legal Aspects of Forensic Science	
		3	Admissibility and Testimony	Ownership Document Due
			Ethics, Professional Practice	
4	2 Feb		ZAM TIME 1	
		2, 4, 5	Crime Scene Investigation	
		19	Friction Ridge Examination	
5	9 Feb		Guest lecturer	Nicholas Harrison, MFS
		21	Firearms	
		21,22	Toolmarks, Footmarks, Tiremarks	
6	16 Feb		Classes Cancelled	Presidents' Day
			Classes Cancelled	AAFS
			Classes Cancelled	AAFS
7	23 Feb	20	Questioned Documents	
		10	Bloodstain Pattern Analysis	
		10	Bloodstain Pattern Analysis	
8	2 Mar		Guest lecturer	Wilson Sullivan, MA
			ZAM TIME 2	
		6	The Crime Laboratory	
9	9 Mar	10,11	Serology & Genetic Analysis	
			Guest lecturer	Joan Kuh, PhD
		7	Pathology	
10	16 Mar	9	Taphonomy	
		9	Entomology	
		8	Anthropology	
11	23 Mar		Classes Cancelled	Spring Break
			Classes Cancelled	Spring Break
			Classes Cancelled	Spring Break
12	30 Mar	8	Odontology	
			Guest lecturer	Charlotte Carter, MFS
			Classes Cancelled	Good Friday
13	6 Apr		ZAM TIME 3	
		6	Forensic Chemistry and Trace Evidence	
		13	Controlled Substances	
14	13 Apr	14	Toxicology	
		12	Hair	
		15	Fibers	
15	20 Apr	16	Paint	
		17	Soil	
		17	Glass	
16	27 Apr		ZAM TIME 4	
17	5 May		ETERNAL ZAMNATION	11:00AM – 1:00PM

EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE***Examinations***

Assessment is based on the completion of the Ownership Document at the beginning of the semester along with five oral examinations. The initial four examinations (Zam Time!!!) will cover discrete components of the content and be delivered as oral examinations. The final examination (Eternal Zamnation) will be a cumulative examination delivered as a multiple-choice examination with 100 questions.

Ownership Document

You are also required to complete an Ownership Agreement that is designed to encourage you to think about your future and the reason why you are pursuing a career in forensic science. You are required to complete one Ownership Agreement worth 100 points.

Activity	Points
Ownership Document	100
Exams: Zam Time!	200 @ 50 exam ⁻¹
Eternal Zamnation	100
Total	400

The grading scale is:

100% - 90%	A
89% - 80%	B
79% - 70%	C
69% - 60%	D
≤ 59%	F

REMINDERS OF IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY-WIDE POLICIES

The following policies are summarized from the Student Handbook. Please be sure that you have reviewed these and the other policies that your Handbook contains.

Attendance

You will be treated as a forensic science professional employed at a forensic science agency. This means that you are expected to attend and participate in every class period. Like a professional, you must contact the instructor if you know that you will miss a future class. Absences can be excused for medical treatment and legal issues. Some personal issues can be excused, but that decision is completely at the discretion of the instructor. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if you have missed class and were unable to communicate before the absence.

Academic Dishonesty

All confirmed academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the class.

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