

Crime Scene Investigation Laboratory
FS 340L/540L
Fall 2015

Instructor: Nick Harrison
Contact: nicholas.harrison@chaminade.edu
Office: Henry Hall 3
Office Hours: MWF 0900-1000, TTh 0900-1030, or by appointment

Time: 1330-1620
Days: Wednesday
Room: Henry Lab 6

This is an undergraduate/graduate-level laboratory course designed to accompany FS 340/540, the Crime Scene Investigation lecture course. During this course, students will gain practical experience in the various techniques used in processing a crime scene through a series of laboratory exercises and mock crime scenes.

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 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:

Since you will be submitting assignments at the end of each laboratory session for credit towards your final grade, attending class is highly advised. No points will be awarded for

Syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion

unsubmitted assignments, obviously, and you will not be able to complete the assignments if you are not in class. Under extenuating/emergency circumstances, absences may be excused if documentation is provided or if approved prior to the class period. In such cases, I will do my best to accommodate alternate arrangements for completing assignments, but I can make NO GUARANTEES. Repeated absences will be reported to counseling and will result in possible removal from the course as per the CUH Student Handbook.

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

DRESS CODE:

This course is conducted in a laboratory. The following dress code and rules apply while in the lab:

1. Closed-toe shoes
2. Lab coat
3. Safety glasses/gloves when instructed
4. No eating, drinking, or gum chewing

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During outdoor and Crime Scene House laboratory exercises, students must abide by the following:

1. Wear closed-toe shoes
2. Hats, sunscreen, and water are suggested for working in the sun
3. There is no eating or drinking within crime scene boundaries, but you may have something to drink outside those boundaries

Any additional requisite safety gear for a particular process or piece of equipment must be worn at all times during the process or while operating the equipment.

FOOD:

No food or beverages are allowed in the laboratory or within the boundaries of the mock crime scenes.

GRADING:

Final grades for the laboratory course will be determined as follows:

- Laboratory Assignments: 25%
- Practical Exam #1 = 25%
- Practical Exam #2 = 25%
- Practical Exam #3 = 25%

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.

SCHEDULE:

- Aug 26: Syllabus, Laboratory Safety, & Optional Tour of Crime Scene House
- Sept 2: Characterizing Physical Evidence
- Sept 9: Search Methods and Notes
- Sept 16: Sketches

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- Sept 23: Scale Diagram
- Sept 30: Photography
- Oct 7: **PRACTICAL EXAM #1 [Search, Notes, Sketch, Photo]**
- Oct 14: Fingerprinting / Latent Print Processing
- Oct 21: Latent Print Processing
- Oct 28: Impression / Pattern Evidence
- Nov 4: **PRACTICAL EXAM #2 [Fingerprint, Latent Print, Pattern Evidence]**
- Nov 11: **NO CLASS (Veterans' Day)**
- Nov 18: Blood Evidence / Bloodstain Pattern Documentation
- Nov 25: Bloodstain Pattern Analysis / (Trace) Evidence Collection and Alternate Light Source

At some point near the 15th week of classes, the School of Nursing conducts a simulation exercise (meth lab explosion) on a Friday in which Crime Scene Investigation students are invited and encouraged to volunteer to process the scene in coordination with the Nursing students. Further details to follow.

- Dec 2: **PRACTICAL EXAM #3 [Blood, Collection, ALS]**

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