

**Graduate Seminar  
FS 790  
Spring 2016**

**Instructor:** Nick Harrison  
**Contact:** nicholas.harrison@chaminade.edu  
**Office:** Henry Hall 3  
**Office Hours:** MWF 0900-1000, Th 0900-1200, or by appointment

**Time:** 1130-1220  
**Days:** Friday  
**Room:** HHOA 102

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Discussion and presentation of current issues in forensic sciences. One oral presentation by each participant required.

**OBJECTIVES:**

A major part of any career in the forensic sciences involves oral presentations in court, at the workplace, or during professional meetings. This course is designed to provide you with some background in the formal presentation of research findings. You are required to deliver one presentation this semester. This will be a presentation of approximately 40 minutes, which is typical of an invited presentation at a professional meeting.

Past themes for this course have included *ethics in the forensic sciences* and *quality assurance in the forensic sciences*. The theme this semester is *historical figures and/or famous cases in the forensic sciences*. Each student is required to research a person that made a significant contribution to the field of forensic science, or a case involving forensics that has garnered a relatively high degree of attention, or both, and present on their findings.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Research a forensic science topic for presentation
2. Prepare and deliver an oral presentation for a professional meeting
3. Assess oral presentations delivered by peers

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance is mandatory. Students will be required to sign a sign-in sheet at the beginning of each class. When not presenting, students will be expected to actively participate in the presentations of their peers by asking questions and making constructive comments; participation will be graded. Repeated absences will be reported to counseling and will result in possible removal from the course, as per the CUH Student Handbook. Under emergency and/or extenuating circumstances, absences may be excused if

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documentation is provided or if approved prior to the class period. The determination of an excused and unexcused absence is at the discretion of the instructor.

### **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. **Cell phones must be either turned off or put on silent mode during seminar.** If I see your phone out during a peer's presentation, you will receive a zero for the participation portion of your grade. If there is a legitimate reason to have your phone on, please see me prior to class.

### **COMPUTERS:**

Please be respectful of the presenters and do not use your computer during seminar.

### **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](http://www.chaminade.edu/student_life/sss/counseling_services.php)

### **STUDENT ASSESSMENT:**

Your grade in this class is based on your oral presentation, attendance, and participation. Each oral presentation is worth 25 points and will be graded by the instructor using the rubric posted on Canvas. An attendance sheet will be provided at the beginning of each class; unexcused absences earn you zero points for that session. Participation will be evaluated in four ways: 1) each student will complete a rubric/comment sheet for each presenter; 2) each student will formally introduce one of their fellow students during the latter's presentation; 3) each student will have the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters following each presentation; and 4) each student will partake in an impromptu speaking exercise.

Final grades for the course will be totaled using the following weighting:

Oral Presentation: **50%**

Attendance: **40%**

Participation: **10%**

-Rubrics/Comments: 5%

-Speaker Introduction by Peer: 1%

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- Questions for Speaker: 2%
- Impromptu Speaking Exercise: 2%

**GRADING SCALE:**

- 90 - 100% A
- 80 - <90% B
- 70 - <80% C
- 60 - <70% D
- <60% F

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

- Jan 15: **NO CLASS (Marianist Founders' Day Mass - 11:30 classes cancelled)**
- Jan 22: Syllabus & Introduction to Presentations
- Jan 29: Impromptu Speaking Exercise
- Feb 5: Sample Presentation - Guest Speaker Dr. David Carter
- Feb 12: Sample Presentation - Guest Speaker Kolby Spiker
- Feb 19: Student Presentation
- Feb 26: Student Presentation
- Mar 4: Student Presentation
- Mar 11: Student Presentation
- Mar 18: Student Presentation
- Mar 25: **NO CLASS (Good Friday, Spring Recess)**
- Apr 1: Student Presentation
- Apr 8: Student Presentation
- Apr 15: Student Presentation
- Apr 22: Student Presentation
- Apr 29: Student Presentation

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