

### INSTRUCTOR

David O. Carter, PhD

Director and Associate Professor of Forensic Sciences

Office: 5 Henry Hall  
Mailbox: 115 Wesselkamper Science Center  
Telephone: + 1 (808) 739 8352  
email: [david.carter@chaminade.edu](mailto:david.carter@chaminade.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
10:00AM – 12:00PM, or by appointment.



### COURSE DESCRIPTION

#### FS 490 Forensic Sciences Seminar (1)

Discussion and presentation of current issues in forensic science. One oral presentation by each participant required. *Prerequisites: FS 340/L.*

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completion of this class you will be able to

- Identify, develop, and deliver an oral presentation on a topic relevant to forensic sciences.
- Actively observe oral presentations delivered by your peers.
- Use your observations to improve your oral presentation skills.

### REQUIRED TEXT

None.

### EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

#### *Oral Presentations*

This semester you are required to give 3 oral presentations. All presentations are required to be between 15 and 20 minutes in duration.

**Presentation 1** – A topic and presentation date will be allocated to you. You will present and receive oral and written feedback.

**Presentation 2** – A presentation date will be assigned to you. You will use the oral and written feedback to improve and deliver Presentation 1 again.

**Presentation 3** – A presentation date will be assigned to you. You will choose a forensic science topic and deliver a 15 – 20 minute presentation using your experience and feedback from Presentations 1 and 2. All topics must be approved by the instructor.

Presentation 1 is worth 50 points while Presentations 2 and 3 are each worth 100 points. This equals a total of 250 points possible in this class.

The letter grade scale is:

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

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Notes
1	1 Sep	Introduction & Syllabus Review	
2	8 Sep	What makes a good presentation?	
3	15 Sep	Topic Allocation & Scheduling	
4	22 Sep	Presentation 1	
5	29 Sep	Presentation 1	
6	6 Oct	Presentation 1	
7	13 Oct	Presentation 2	Presentation 3 topics due
8	20 Oct	Presentation 2	
9	27 Oct	Presentation 2	
10	3 Nov	Presentation 3	
11	10 Nov	<b>Veterans Day</b>	No Class
12	17 Nov	Presentation 3	
13	24 Nov	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	No Class
14	1 Dec	Presentation 3	
15	8 Dec	Exit Assessment	
16		<b>Finals Week</b>	No Class

**ADDITIONAL DIVISIONAL AND UNIVERSITY POLICES***Academic Integrity*

You are expected to follow the Forensic Sciences Code of Conduct. In addition, students are expected to read and abide by the Student Rules of Conduct which are available in your copy of the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated.

*Absences*

- Each unexcused absence on a presentation day will result in 0 points for your presentation.
- Unexcused absences for two consecutive weeks may result in being withdrawn from the course by the instructor.
- An unplanned, excusable absence must be communicated to the instructor within one week of the missed class. Necessary arrangements will be made to meet student learning objectives.
  - Excused absences include but are not limited to
    - Documented illness
    - Accident
    - Documented family emergency – parent or guardian communication required
    - Determination of other valid excuses for missed classes is at the sole discretion of the instructor.
- A planned, excused absence must be communicated to the instructor at least one week prior to class. Necessary arrangements will be made to meet student learning objectives.

*ADAA Statement*

Pursuant to several federal and state laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all qualified students with disabilities are protected from discrimination on basis of disability and are eligible for reasonable accommodations or modifications in the academic environment to enable them to enjoy equal access to academic programs, services, or activities. If a student would like to determine if they meet the criteria for accommodations, they should contact the Counseling Center at 808-735-4845 for further information.

*Policy on Communication*

The University provides a Chaminade email address for all students. Official Chaminade communications will be sent to the students' Chaminade email address and instructors will use this email to communicate with students. It is the responsibility of the student to check their email frequently. Report email-related problems to the Helpdesk at 808-735-4855 or [helpdesk@chaminade.edu](mailto:helpdesk@chaminade.edu).

*Title IX Declaration*

Chaminade University of Honolulu recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and

promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated at CUH. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you want to speak to a confidential source you may contact the Chaminade Counseling Center at (808) 735-4845.

*Electronic Devices*

Use of music devices is prohibited during all Natural Science and Mathematics classes at Chaminade, unless specifically permitted by your instructor. Use of music devices in laboratories is a safety issue. In addition, use of music devices in any class is discourteous and may lead to suspicion of academic misconduct. Students who cannot comply with this rule will be asked to leave class and may be subject to laboratory safety violation fines. You will be asked to leave class and marked absent if you do not comply. This will negatively affect your grade. Please refer any questions to the Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

The instructor may modify elements of this syllabus according to the operational needs of the class.