

INSTRUCTOR

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Lecturer of Forensic Sciences

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 9:30AM – 10:20AM, Friday 11:30AM – 1 PM or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an undergraduate course designed to encompass all aspects of crime scene investigation. It must be taken concurrently with FS 340L, the Crime Scene Investigation Laboratory course. Prerequisites: FS 333 or FS 333L.

Introduction to techniques of crime scene investigation. Emphasis will be on search techniques, scene diagramming, photography, proper documentation, recover and preservation of different categories of evidence. Aspects of chain of custody of materials collected and other problems related to admissibility of evidence will be discussed. *Prerequisites: FS 333 or FS 333L. Concurrent registration in FS 340L is required.*

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Each student will finish this class with the ability 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. Demonstrate the entire sequence of protocols involved in an investigation, from entry to the crime scene until the case is completed

Required Text:

- Gardner, RM. *Practical crime scene processing and investigation*. 2nd ed. Boca Raton: CRC Press; 2012. 498 p. ISBN: 9781439853023

- Saferstein, R., *Criminalistics, An Introduction to Forensic Science*, 12th edition, Pearson; 2018. ISBN- 9780134477596

These books are required for the course and reading it is your responsibility. Material from this text will be used for both lecture examination and laboratory purposes.

Recommended Text:

- Fisher, B.A.J., Fisher, D.R., *Techniques of Crime Scene Investigation*, 8th edition, CRC Press; 2012. ISBN 9781439810057

Syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion

ATTENDANCE:

Is mandatory, and the students are expected to be in class and to be on time.

EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

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

Points for assistance and participation: 100 points = 25%

Midterm Exam #1: 100 points = 25%

Midterm Exam #2: 100 points = 25%

Final Exam: 100 points = 25%

Total: 400 points = 100%

GRADING SCALE:

90 - 100% A

80 - <90% B

70 - <80% C

60 - <70% D

<60% F

KEY POINTS FOR SUCCESS

1. The maintenance of your personal protective equipment (PPE) is your responsibility. Please inform us immediately if you have issues with your PPE.
2. Attendance and participation is crucial for success in this class and subsequent Forensic Sciences classes.
3. Assigned book chapters must be read before the relevant block.
4. Adhere to the Forensic Sciences Code of Conduct.
5. Check your email and Canvas regularly.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

| Block | Class | Date | Chapter | Subject | Notes |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|--|--------------|
| 1 | 1 | 17 Jan | | Course Introduction & Syllabus | |
| | 2 | 19 Jan | 1 | Introduction [Chapter 1] | |
| 2 | 3 | 22 Jan | 2 | The Nature of Physical Evidence [Chapter 2] | |
| | 4 | 24 Jan | 3 | First Responders and Specialized Personnel [Chapter 3] | |
| | 5 | 26 Jan | | Real Case: The puzzle of Hans Pozo | |
| 3 | 6 | 29 Jan | 5 | Assessing and Searching the Scene [Chapter 5] | |
| | 7 | 31 Jan | 8 | Initial Observations and Notes [Chapter 8, page 223-228] | |
| | 8 | 2 Feb | 4 | Processing Methodology [Chapter 4] | |
| 4 | 9 | 5 Feb | 7 | Sketches [Chapter 7] | |
| | 10 | 7 Feb | 7 | Forensic Taphonomy | |

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| | 11 | 9 Feb | 6 | Photography (Part 1) [Chapter 6] | |
| 5 | 12 | 12 Feb | 6 | Photography (Part 2) [Chapter 6] | |
| | 13 | 14 Feb | 6 | Photography (Part 3) [Chapter 6]), Mid term exam #1 Review | |
| | 14 | 16 Feb | 1,2,3,4,5, 6,7,8 | MIDTERM EXAM #1 [Chapters 1-8] | |
| 6 | | 19 Feb | | No Class | Presidents' Day |
| | | 21 Feb | | No Class | AAFS Annual Meeting |
| | | 23 Feb | | No Class | AAFS Annual Meeting |
| 7 | 15 | 26 Feb | 9 | Fingerprints (Part 1 & 2) [Chapter 9, page 254-278] | |
| | 16 | 28 Feb | 9 | Fingerprints (Part 3 & 4) | |
| | 17 | 2 Mar | 13 | Forensic Anthropology Buried and Scattered Remains [Chapter 13, page 394-406] | |
| 8 | 18 | 5 Mar | | Forensic Microanthropology | |
| | 19 | 7 Mar | 9 | Impression Evidence (Part 1) [Chapter 9, page 278-298] | |
| | 20 | 9 Mar | 9 | Impression Evidence (Part 2) | |
| 9 | 21 | 12 Mar | 13 | Forensic Entomology [Chapter 13, page 407-408] | |
| | 22 | 14 Mar | 9 | Light Technology [Chapter 9, page 239-253] | |
| | 23 | 16 Mar | | Real Case: Identification Process of remains founded in a lake (El Maule Lake, Chile 2013) | |
| 10 | 24 | 19 Mar | 2 | Firearms Evidence (Part 1) [Chapter 2, page 44-50; Handout] | |
| | 25 | 21 Mar | 2 | Firearms Evidence (Part 2) | |
| | 26 | 23 Mar | 10 | Shooting Scene Documentation and Reconstruction [Chapter 10] | |
| 11 | | 26 Mar | | No Class | Spring Recess |
| | | 28 Mar | | No Class | Spring Recess |
| | | 30 Mar | | No Class | Spring Recess |
| 12 | 29 | 2 April | | Real Case: Identification Process in Mass disaster (earthquake and tsunami, Chile 2010) | |
| | 27 | 4 April | 8 | Crime Scene Reports [Chapter 8 page 228-237], Mid term exam # 2 Review | |
| | 28 | 6 April | | MIDTERM EXAM #2 [Chapters 2,6, 8,9,10,13] | |
| 13 | 30 | 9 April | 2 | Biological Evidence [Chapter 2, pg. 30- | |

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| | | | | 37; Chapter 11, pg. 353-358] | |
| | 31 | 11 April | 11 | Bloodstain Pattern Analysis [Chapter 11] | |
| | 32 | 13 April | 6 | Bloodstain Pattern Documentation [Chapter 6, pg. 156-172] | |
| 14 | 33 | 16 April | 12 | The Body as a Crime Scene (Part 1) [Chapter 12] | |
| | 34 | 18 April | 12 | The Body as a Crime Scene (Part 2) | |
| | 35 | 20 April | 13 | Fire Scenes [Chapter 13, page 383-394] | |
| 15 | 36 | 23 April | | Real Case: Identification process in Fire, Hostel of Horror, Punta Arenas Case | |
| | 37 | 25 April | 14 | Crime Scene Analysis and Reconstruction [Chapter 14] | |
| | 38 | 27 April | | Legal Considerations (Handout) | |
| 16 | 39 | 30 April | | Cases Presentations (5 students) | |
| | 40 | 2 May | | Cases Presentations (5 students) | |
| | 42 | 4 May | | Cases Presentations (5 students) | |
| 17 | 43 | 10 May | | FINAL EXAM: 11:00 am -1 pm. Cases Presentations (10 students) | |

ADDITIONAL POLICES

Academic Integrity

You are required to sign and follow the Forensic Sciences Code of Conduct. Violation of the Code of Conduct will result in a hearing in front of the Forensic Sciences Ethics Committee. 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. Cheating in the form of plagiarism, collusion, deception and will not be tolerated.

Absences

Each unexcused absence will result in:

- 0 points for attendance

Unexcused absences for two consecutive weeks may result in being withdrawn from the course by the instructor.

A planned, excused absence must be communicated to the instructor at least one week prior to the laboratory. Necessary arrangements will be made to meet student learning objectives.

An unplanned, excused absence must be communicated to the instructor within one week of the missed laboratory. Necessary arrangements will be made to meet student learning objectives.

Determination of valid excuses for missed classes is at the sole discretion of the instructor.

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Laboratory Safety Information

The following guidelines are established to provide instructions in maintaining safety for students, staff, and faculty while using any of the science laboratories at Chaminade University. Students are required to sign a safety contract. In addition to adhering to the safety contract, students are required to follow these two rules:

1. Lab coats, closed-toed shoes, and goggles are required at all times within the laboratory.
2. The maintenance of your personal protective equipment (PPE) is your responsibility. Please inform us immediately if you have issues with your PPE.

The Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM), along with the University Environmental Safety Office are responsible for enforcing the regulations set forth in the current Student Handbook. Queries should be addressed to: Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (808) 440-4204; Environmental Safety Officer (808) 739-4811

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.

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

Syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion

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.

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