

INSTRUCTORS

Charlotte Carter, MS, F-ABMDI

Classroom: 120 Wesselkamper

Class time: Monday 5:30-8:20 pm

Office Hours: By appointment only

Email: charlotte.carter@chaminade.edu

Telephone: 440-4204 (for emergencies you may call my personal cell phone 227-3075; DO NOT call the Medical Examiner's Office to contact me)



COURSE DESCRIPTION

FS 455 Medicolegal Death Investigation (3)

Covers the operations of medicolegal death investigation including field and morgue duties, relationships with law enforcement, hospitals, emergency services, and health systems. Students will be responsible for learning medical terminology, common medicines, medical procedures (particularly emergency medical intervention), decomposition, and the recognition and documentation of medical paraphernalia related to procedures. Also covered will be scene interview techniques, evidence recovery, photography, and postmortem fingerprinting.

Prerequisites: FS 340/L

Required Text:

Medicolegal Death Investigator: A Systematic Training Program for the Professional Death Investigator, by Steven C. Clark, Mary Fran Ernst, William Haglund, and Jeffrey Jentzen, Occupational Research and Assessment, Inc, 1996

Optional Texts:

Death Investigator's Handbook, Vol. 3, by Louis N. Eliopulos, Paladin Press, 2007

Forensic Pathology, by Vincent DiMaio and Dominic DiMaio, CRC Press, Second Edition, 2001

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this class students will be able to:

- Interact professionally and ethically in a forensic community/context
- Demonstrate reason and rationale for why medicolegal death investigations are conducted
- Use medical and anatomical terminology in written reports and oral communication
- Apply knowledge of various forensic disciplines and how they can be used in specific types of death investigations
- Investigate a basic death scene

EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Attendance & Participation	120 (5 points attendance/5 points participation per class)
Homework/Quizzes	80
Midterm Exam #1	100
Midterm Exam #2	100
Practical Exam	200
Total	600

The grading scale is:

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

TENTATIVE TIMELINE AND COURSE CONTENT

Week	Date	Topic	Notes
1	15 January	No Class	MLK Holiday
2	22 January	Syllabus review Introduction	Sections 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, & 37
3	29 January	Communication	Sections 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
4	5 February	Interactions with Families	Sections 9, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, & 26
5	12 February	Taking the “First Call”	Sections 3, 4, & 6
6	19 February	No Class	President’s Day
7	26 February	Scene Preparation	Sections 27, 28, 29, & 30
8	5 March	Scene Response & Documentation	Sections 31, 33, 35, & 38
9	12 March	Midterm EXAM 1 Begin Scientific Knowledge	Sections 32, 35, 36, 37, 48, 49, & 50
10	19 March	Scientific Knowledge	Sections 32, 35, 36, 37, 48, 49, & 50
11	26 March	No Class	Spring Recess
12	02 April	Evidence and Property	Sections 39, 40, & 41
13	09 April	Report Writing	Sections 13, 14, 34, & 37
14	16 April	Other	Sections 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 51, & 52
15	23 April	Midterm Exam 2 Finish up/Practical Preparation	
16	30 April	Practical Exam	

ADDITIONAL DIVISIONAL AND UNIVERSITY 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
- 0 points for participation

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 class. 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 class. 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.

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.

The instructors may post images or products from this class to social media. Please inform the instructor in the first week of the class if you do not want to appear in these communications.

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.