

**INSTRUCTOR**

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30AM – 11:00AM and 3:00PM – 5:00PM, Friday 9:30AM – 11:00AM, or by appointment.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION****FS 230 Forensic Sciences (3)**

Survey of scientific methods applied to the collection, analysis and preservation of physical evidence as it is used from the crime scene to the courtroom; quality assurance, ethics, professional practice.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Forensic science is the natural science branch of the justice system that is concerned with interpreting physical evidence. Investigations proceed by using physical evidence and testimonial evidence to reconstruct past events; victims, suspects, and witnesses provide testimonial evidence. While forensic science is used to resolve civil, criminal, and regulatory matters, this course will focus on criminal investigation. Not surprisingly, forensic science comprises several disparate fields of study and the aim of this course is to provide an introduction to the use of physical evidence in the justice system.

Each student will finish this class with the ability to:

- Define the role of forensic science in civil and criminal investigations (Program Learning Outcome 3)
- Identify and define the various quality assurance strategies in the forensic sciences, including the legal system, ethical conduct, accreditation, and certification (Program Learning Outcome 2)
- Identify the value of physical evidence in a criminal investigation (Program Learning Outcome 3)
- Interpret the data generated from commonly used techniques to analyse physical evidence (Program Learning Outcome 4)

**REQUIRED TEXT**

Houck MM, Siegel JA (2015) Fundamentals of Forensic Science. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Academic Press, Burlington, MA.

**EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE***Examinations*

Assessment is based on the completion of the Ownership Document at the beginning of the semester along with four examinations. These examinations (Zam Time!!!) will cover discrete components of the content and be delivered as oral examinations.

*Ownership Document*

You are also required to complete an Ownership Agreement that is designed to encourage you to think about your future and the reason why you are pursuing a career in forensic science. You are required to complete one Ownership Agreement worth 100 points. Late submissions will be penalized one letter grade per day late.

Activity	Points
Attendance	360 (10 points per class)
Ownership Document	100
Exams: Zam Time!	400 (100 points per exam)
<b>Total</b>	<b>860</b>

The grading scale is:

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

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	15 Jan 17 Jan 19 Jan		<b>Class Cancelled</b> <b>Class Cancelled</b> <b>Class Cancelled</b>	<b>Carter @ University</b> <b>College London, UK</b>
2	22 Jan 24 Jan 26 Jan	1 3 24	Introduction, Syllabus & roster review The Nature of Evidence Legal Aspects of Forensic Science	
3	29 Jan 31 Jan 2 Feb	25 25 25	Quality Assurance Quality Assurance Ethical and Professional Issues	<b>Ownership Document Due</b>
4	5 Feb 7 Feb 9 Feb	2 2	Crime Scene Investigation Crime Scene Investigation	
5	12 Feb 14 Feb 16 Feb		<b>ZAM TIME 1</b> Friction Ridge Impressions Firearms & Toolmarks	
6	19 Feb 21 Feb 23 Feb		<b>Class Cancelled</b> <b>Class Cancelled</b> <b>Class Cancelled</b>	<b>American Academy of</b> <b>Forensic Sciences Meeting</b> <b>Seattle, WA</b>
7	26 Feb 28 Feb 2 Mar	22 22 10	Impression Evidence Impression Evidence Bloodstain Pattern Analysis	
8	5 Mar 7 Mar 9 Mar	10 10,11	Bloodstain Pattern Analysis <b>ZAM TIME 2</b> Serology & DNA Analysis	
9	12 Mar 14 Mar 16 Mar		<i>Guest Lecture – Carlos Gutierrez, MSFS</i>	<b>Carter @ OSAC</b> <b>Chicago, IL</b>
10	19 Mar 21 Mar 23 Mar	7 7 7	Medicolegal Death Investigation Medicolegal Death Investigation Pathology	
11	26 Mar 28 Mar 30 Mar		<b>Class Cancelled</b> <b>Class Cancelled</b> <b>Class Cancelled</b>	<b>Prince Kuhio Day</b> <b>Spring Recess</b> <b>Good Friday</b>
12	2 Apr 4 Apr 6 Apr	8,9 9 8	Taphonomy Entomology Anthropology	
13	9 Apr 11 Apr 13 Apr		<b>ZAM TIME 3</b> Separation Methods Trace Evidence	

14	16 Apr 18 Apr 20 Apr	14 14 12	Guest Lecturer – Kate Perrault, PhD Guest Lecturer – Kate Perrault, PhD Hairs
15	23 Apr 25 Apr 27 Apr	15 16 17	Fibers Soil and Glass Glass and Paint
16	30 Apr 2 May 4 May	1, 24  25	Admissibility: Daubert, Frye, Kumho Tire, Melendez-Diaz Expert Testimony
17	8 May		ZAM TIME 4, 11:00AM – 1:00PM FINALS WEEK

## ADDITIONAL DIVISIONAL AND UNIVERSITY POLICES

### *Academic Integrity*

Students 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*

- 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.
- Unexcused absences for two consecutive weeks may result in being withdrawn from the course by the instructor.
- All Zam Team members will earn the same grade, whether present or absent.
- 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 or illness
    - Documented family emergency – parent or guardian communication required
    - Determination of other 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](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.