



Course Syllabus
Chaminade University Honolulu
3140 Waiālae Avenue
Honolulu, HI
96816
www.chaminade.edu

Course Number: FS 230
Course Title: Forensic Sciences
Department Name: Forensic Sciences
School Name: Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Term: Spring 2024
Course Credits: 3
Class Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Class Meeting Hours: 1:30PM – 2:20PM
Class Location: Eiben Hall 120



Instructor Name: Carlos A. Gutiérrez
Email: carlos.gutierrez@chaminade.edu
Phone: (808) 440.4209
Office Location: 207 C Eiben Hall

Office Hours

Meetings during Office Hours can be scheduled [through my Google Calendar](#). My Office Hours are

Monday 10:30am – 12:30pm
Thursday 12:30pm – 1:30pm

You can also request a meeting outside of Office Hours. To do so, send an email to carlos.gutierrez@chaminade.edu. Include multiple dates and times that you are available to meet.

University Course Catalog 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.

Course Learning Outcomes & Program Learning Outcomes

Forensic science is the natural science branch of the justice system. It is concerned with interpreting physical evidence. Investigations proceed by using physical evidence and testimonial evidence to reconstruct past events. Not surprisingly, forensic science comprises several disparate fields of study and the aim of this course is to introduce the use of physical evidence in the justice system.

Each student will finish this class with the ability to:	Program Learning Outcomes
Define the role of forensic science in criminal investigation.	1. Apply the scientific method in an adaptive and mindful manner.
Identify physical evidence and the information it can provide.	2. Use techniques for recognition, documentation, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence.
Describe quality assurance strategies in the forensic sciences, including the legal system, accreditation, and certification.	3. Implement quality assurance programs, incorporating ethics and professional practice, to act as stewards of justice and peace throughout the broader community.
Describe acceptable professional conduct in the forensic sciences.	4. Communicate disciplinary knowledge to diverse audiences

Required Learning Materials

This class requires a textbook that will be complemented with lectures. The lectures are based on the textbook chapters, with some additional material that is not included in the book. My advice is to read the chapters and listen to the lectures.

Textbook

Saferstein R (2019) Forensic Science: From the Crime Scene to the Crime Lab. 4th Edition. Pearson. Hoboken, NJ, USA.

Canvas

Canvas will be used to store class materials, submit assignments, and access your grade. Canvas will also be used for email communication but you can also email me directly at carlos.gutierrez@chaminade.edu

Google Drive

This drive will be used to house larger files, if necessary.

Evaluation of Student Performance

All grades will be posted in Canvas within one week of assignment/exam submission. Attendance grades will be posted to Canvas on a weekly basis. Your grade will be kept current all semester. You are encouraged to contact me at carlos.gutierrez@chaminade.edu at any time to discuss your grades. I strongly encourage you to check your grades regularly. All assignments have firm due dates and your score will be penalized 10 points for each day late.

Attendance & Participation

Classes are scheduled to meet in person every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday unless indicated otherwise. You will earn one point per class attended starting Wednesday, 30 August. Please be aware that the total attendance points will change if a class period is cancelled due to illness, weather, or another reason.

Examinations

You are required to complete 5 exams. These exams are modelled after forensic science certification and accreditation exams, which means they are in multiple choice format including true/false. Each exam is worth 50 points. Unexcused missed exams will be penalized 10 points per day late.

Ownership Document

You are also required to complete an Ownership Document 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 Document worth 90 points. Download this document from Canvas, answer the questions, and email them to me at carlos.gutierrez@chaminade.edu before 4:30PM on Friday, 1 September 2023. Assignments are submitted via Canvas in .docx or .pages format. Late submissions will be penalized 10 points per day late.

Silvers Words

Words are important. They are at least worth their weight in silver. You will use the Discussion Board to introduce yourself to your classmates and answer the following questions:

1. What is your name?
2. Where are you from?
3. What is your major? Do you have a minor?
4. Why do think forensic science is interesting?
5. What type of career would you like to establish?

This questions it will be asking by the instructor in class time during the semester and worth 30 points.

CUH Credit Hours

This is a three-credit hour course requiring 135 clock hours of students engagement per the official CUH Credit Hour Policy. Student Enrolled in this course are anticipated to spend 37.5 hours in class, 28 hours researching and writing the five-page essay, 16 hours studying for the midterm exams, and 10.5 hours studying for and taking the final exam. There will be an additional 43 hours of work required beyond what is listed here (course reading, homework assignments, etc.), averaging 2.9 hours each week.

Points & Grading

Activity	Points
Exams	250 (50 points per exam)
Ownership Document	90
Silvers Words	30
Attendance	42
Total	412

Points	%	Letter Grade
412 – 371	100 – 90	A
370 – 330	89 – 80	B
329 – 288	79 – 70	C
287 – 247	69 – 60	D
246 – 0	59 – 0	F

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Week	Chapter	Module and Subject	Notes
1. Science and Investigation				
1	8-12 Jan	1	Syllabus Review Orientation & Roster Review	Welcome! Sillers Words Due
2	15-19 Jan	1	No class Introduction	MLK Day Ownership Document Due
3	22-26 Jan	1	Evidence & Admissibility	
4	29 Jan- 2 Feb	1	Evidence & Admissibility Quality	
5	5-9 Feb	1	Quality/ SCENE INVESTIGATION: Securing & Searching the Scene Recording the Scene	Withdraw No Record Deadline (9 Feb)
			12 Feb	Exam 1 Science and Investigation
2. Scene Investigation				
6	14-16 Feb	2 3	Securing & Searching the Scene Recording the Scene	
7	19-23 Feb	3 4	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaDw_D2lzo0	Presidents' Day AAFS Conference No Class
8	26-28 Feb	4	Collection of Physical Evidence	
			1 Mar	Exam 2 Scene Investigation
3. Pattern Evidence				
9	4-8 Mar	5 7	Physical Evidence Scene Reconstruction	
10	11-15 Mar	7 8	Scene Reconstruction Fingerprints	
11	18-22 Mar		Spring Recess	No Classes Withdraw Deadline
12	25-29 Mar	9 10	Firearms, Toolmarks & Other Impressions Bloodstain Pattern Analysis	Pre-Registration (25Mar) Good Friday, No class
			1 Apr	Exam 3 Pattern Evidence
4. Biological Evidence				
13	3-5 Apr	15 6	Biological Stain Analysis: DNA Death Investigation	Veterans' Day
14	8-12 Apr	6	Death Investigation Forensic Taphonomy, Entomology & Anthropology	
			15 Apr	Exam 4 Biological Evidence Investigation

5. Chemical Evidence			
15	17-19 Apr	11 & 12	Drugs and Forensic Toxicology
16	22-26 Apr	13 14	Trace Evidence: Hairs & Fibers Trace Evidence: Paint, Glass & Soil
17	30 Apr		FINAL EXAM. Tuesday, April 30 11:00 am – 1:00p

Instructor and Student Communication

Questions for this course can be emailed to the instructor at carlos.gutierrez@chaminade.edu. Online, in-person and phone conferences can also be arranged.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon completion of the degree program in Forensic Sciences, students will be able to:

1. Apply the scientific method in an adaptive and mindful manner
2. Use techniques for recognition, documentation, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence
3. Implement quality assurance programs, incorporating ethics and professional practice, to act as stewards of justice and peace throughout the broader community
4. Communicate disciplinary knowledge to diverse audiences

Marianist Characteristics & Native Hawaiian Values

Education is an integral value in both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture and this class represents one component of your education at Chaminade University of Honolulu. Both recognize the transformative effect of a well-rounded, value-centered education on society, particularly in seeking justice for the marginalized, the forgotten, and the oppressed, always with an eye toward God (Ke Akua). This is reflected in the ‘Olelo No’eau (Hawaiian proverbs) and Marianist core beliefs:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith (Mana) E ola au i ke akua (‘Olelo No’eau 364) May I live by God
2. Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Na’auao) Lawe i ka ma’alea a kū’ono’ono (‘Olelo No’eau 1957) Acquire skill and make it deep
3. Educate in Family Spirit (‘Ohana) ‘Ike aku, ‘ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohana ‘ohana (‘Olelo No’eau 1200) Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship
4. Educate for Service, Justice and Peace (Aloha) Ka lama kū o ka no’eau (‘Olelo No’eau 1430) Education is the standing torch of wisdom
5. Educate for Adaptation and Change (Aina) ‘A’ohe pau ka ‘ike i ka hālau ho’okahi (‘Olelo No’eau 203) All knowledge is not taught in the same school

This class will focus on an education in the forensic sciences as an education in service, justice, and peace. This characteristic will be obvious to you very early in the class when we discuss all of the rules associated with the collection, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence. You will learn that most forensic scientists are public servants that conduct science for the benefit of society. Forensic scientists analyze, and speak for, evidence so that justice can be served and peaceful society can flourish.

Academic Conduct Policy

From the Undergraduate Catalog:

Any community must have a set of rules and standards of conduct by which it operates. At Chaminade, these standards are outlined so as to reflect both the Catholic, Marianist values of the institution and to honor and respect students as responsible adults. All alleged violations of the community standards are handled through an established student conduct process, outlined in the Student Handbook, and operated within the guidelines set to honor both students' rights and campus values.

Students should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the ideals of the University. This includes knowing and respecting the intent of rules, regulations, and/or policies presented in the Student Handbook, and realizing that students are subject to the University's jurisdiction from the time of their admission until their enrollment has been formally terminated. Please refer to the Student Handbook for more details. A copy of the Student Handbook is available on the Chaminade website.

Technical Assistance for Canvas Users

- Get started and find help on specific topics at the [Canvas Community](#)
- Contact the Chaminade IT Helpdesk for technical issues: helpdesk@chaminade.edu, or call (808) 735-4855

Tutoring and Writing Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua `Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to: biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check Kōkua `Ike's website (<https://chaminade.edu/advising/kokua-ike/>) for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via Smarthinking. Smarthinking can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click Account – Notifications – Smarthinking. For more information, please contact Kōkua `Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

Cell phones, tablets, and laptops

Out of consideration for your classmates, please set your cell phone to silent mode during class. Students are encouraged to bring laptops or tablets to class as the instructor will assign online activities and readings that will require the use of a laptop or tablet. Laptops and tablets should not be misused, such as checking distracting websites. Use your best judgment and respect your classmates and instructor.

Disability Access

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Any student who believes that they may need accommodations must first register with the Counseling Center. Registration with the Counseling Center begins the process of determining whether the student meets the requirements for a documented disability in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), even if accommodations may not be needed for this particular class. The contact information for the Counseling Center is (808) 735-4845, 739-4603, or by email at counselingcenter@chaminade.edu. It is important for students to contact the Counseling Center as soon as possible so that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion and to allow your instructor(s) to plan accordingly. Students will be required to provide written documentation to the Counseling Center in order for a determination to be made as to whether the requirements for a documented disability under the ADA are met.

Failure to provide written documentation through the Counseling Center will prevent your instructor from making the necessary accommodations, instructors cannot provide accommodations unless they have been prescribed by the Counseling Center. Once you have received an official notice of accommodations from the Counseling Center, it is also very important to discuss these accommodations directly with your instructor so that they can better support your needs. If you have specific questions regarding your individualized accommodations you may speak directly with your instructor and/or you may contact the Counseling Center.

Title IX Compliance

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. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources by visiting Campus Ministry, the Dean of Students Office, the Counseling Center, or the Office for Compliance and Personnel Services.

Attendance Policy

The following attendance policy is from the Undergraduate Catalog.

Students are expected to attend regularly all courses for which they are registered. Students should notify their instructors when illness or other extenuating circumstances prevents them from attending class and make arrangements to complete missed assignments. Notification may be done by emailing the instructor's Chaminade email address, calling the instructor's campus extension, or by leaving a message with the instructor's main office. It is the instructor's prerogative to modify deadlines of course requirements accordingly. Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing may receive a failing grade. Unexcused absences equivalent to more than a week of classes may lead to a grade reduction for the course. Any unexcused absence of two consecutive weeks or more may result in being withdrawn from the course by the instructor, although the instructor is not required to withdraw students in that scenario. Repeated absences put students at risk of failing grades.

Students with disabilities who have obtained accommodations from the Chaminade University of Honolulu ADA Coordinator may be considered for an exception when the accommodation does not materially alter the attainment of the learning outcomes. Federal regulations require continued attendance for continuing payment of financial aid. When illness or personal reasons necessitate continued absence, the student should communicate first with the instructor to review the options. Anyone who stops attending a course without official withdrawal may receive a failing grade or be withdrawn by the instructor at the instructor's discretion.