



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

Course Number: FS 480
Course Title: Forensic Reconstruction
Department Name: Forensic Sciences
School Name: Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Term: Spring 2024
Course Credits: 3
Class Meeting Days: Tuesday and Thursday
Class Meeting Hours: 10:00 – 11:20 AM
Class Location: Eiben Hall 120



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

Office Hours

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

Monday 2:30 pm – 3:30pm
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 480 Forensic Reconstruction (3)

Survey of scientific methods applied to reconstruct cases or cold cases base on physical evidence and the information obtained during the investigation.

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 combine all the scientific knowledge to reconstruct a case and give the answers needed by the justice system.

Each student will finish this class with the ability to:	Program Learning Outcomes
Define the role of the Crime Scene Analyst in forensic reconstruction.	1. Apply the scientific method in an adaptive and mindful manner
Identify physical evidence and the information it can provide in an open case or cold case.	2. Use techniques for recognition, documentation, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence
Describe forensic reconstruction strategies using scientific methodology and technology.	3. Implement quality assurance programs, incorporating ethics and professional practice, to act as stewards of justice and peace throughout the broader community.
Develop a forensic reconstruction report.	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 materials are include in the recommended textbooks. My advice is to read the book chapters and listen to the lectures.

Textbooks

1. Gardner R. M. and Bevel T. (2020) *Practical Crime Scene Analysis and Reconstruction*. CRC Press. Boca Raton, FL, USA. ISBN: 9781420065510
2. Walton R.H. (2017) *Cold Cases Homicides, Practical Investigative Techniques*. CRC Press., Boca Raton, FL, USA. ISBN: 9781482237900

Recommended Textbooks

-Edward Robinson, *Crime Scene Photography*, 3rd Edition, Academic Press, 2016, ISBN: 9780128027646

-Spitz and Fisher, *Medicolegal Investigation of Death, Guidelines for the Application of Pathology to Crime Investigation*, Fifth Edition, Charles Thomas Publisher, 2020, ISBN 9780398093129.

-W. Jerry Chisum and Brent E. Turvey, *Crime Reconstruction*, 2nd Edition, Academic Press, ISBN 9780123864604.

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.

Attendance & Participation

Classes are scheduled to meet in person every Tuesday and Thursday unless indicated otherwise. You will earn one point per class attended starting Tuesday 21 August. Please be aware that the total attendance points will change if a class period is cancelled due to illness, weather, or another reason. Express your point of view in forensic sciences is crucial. Because of that if you participate in classes doing questions or give your point of view, you will earn 100 points per semester.

Examinations

You are required to complete 2 midterm exams and 1 final exam. 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 100 points. Unexcused missed exams will be penalized 10 points per day late.

You with your Forensic Reconstruction Team (same of FS480L) are required to do a 5 pages paper about a missing person case with your hypothesis, conclusions, and any new possible approach to help in the case.

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	300 (100 points per exam)
Participation	100
Attendance	280 (10 point per class)
Total	680

Points	%	Letter Grade
680 – 612	100 – 90	A
611 – 544	89 – 80	B
543 – 476	79 – 70	C
475 – 408	69 – 60	D
407 – 0	59 – 0	F

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Day	Chapter/Book	Subject	Notes
1	9 Jan		Syllabus Review Orientation & Roster Review, Introduction	Welcome! Add/Drop period for Fall Semester 2023 courses (2023FA)
1	11 Jan	1/1	Introduction, History of the Crime Scene Processing	
2	16 Jan	1/2	The cold case problem	Chose a Cold Case to do a Paper.
2	18 Jan	2/2	Case file review	Case Analysis Suicide/Homicide?
3	23 Jan	2/1	Theoretical and practical consideration for implementing crime scene analysis	
3	25 Jan	3/1	Methodology for Crime Scene Reconstruction	
4	30 Jan	4/2	Investigation	
4	1 Feb	5/2	Long-Term Missing-Persons and No- Body Cold Case Investigation	
5	6 Feb	4/1	Resolving Significant Investigative Questions in CRS I	
5	8 Feb	4/1	Resolving Significant Investigative Questions in CRS II	Withdraw No Record Deadline (9 Feb)
6	13 Feb	5/1	Understanding Crime Scene Protocols and Their Effect on Reconstruction	
6	15 Feb	6/1	Bloodstain Pattern Analysis to Crime Scene Reconstruction	
7	20 Feb		Cold Case paper writing process. No Class	AAFS CONFERENCE
7	22 Feb	8/2	Cold Case paper writing process. No Class	AAFS Conference
8	27 Feb	7/1	Midterm exam	Due date Cold Case Paper
8	29 Feb	7/1	Shooting Scene Processing and Reconstruction II	
9	5 Mar	8/1	The Forensic Pathologist, the Body, and Crime Scene Reconstruction I	

9	7 Mar	8/1	The Forensic Pathologist, the Body, and Crime Scene Reconstruction II	
10	12 Mar	20,21/2	Forensic Anthropology and Forensic Dentistry in Cold Cases I	
10	14 Mar	20,21/2	Forensic Anthropology and Forensic Dentistry in Cold Cases II	
11	18-22 March		Spring Recess	
12	26 Mar		No Class	Price Kuhio Day Pre-Registration (25 Mar)
12	28 Mar	22/2	Forensic Exhumation I	Good Friday 29 March
13	2 Apr	22/2	Forensic Exhumation II	
13	4 Apr		Midterm exam II	
14	9 Apr	12/2	The Media in Cold Case Investigation	
14	11 Apr	10/1	Arguments and Ethics	
15	16 Apr	9/1	Writing Crime Scene Reconstruction Reports	
15	18 Apr	11/1	Court Room Expert Testimony I	
16	23 Apr	11/1	Court Room Expert Testimony II	
16	25 Apr		The Relationship with the Family of the Victim	
17	29 April		FINAL EXAM Monday April 29 8:30am – 10:30am	

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.