



Course Syllabus

Chaminade University Honolulu
3140 Waialae Avenue - Honolulu, HI 96816
www.chaminade.edu

Course Number: FS 492
Course Title: Forensic Courtroom Testimony
Department Name: Forensic Sciences
School Name: Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Term: Spring 2025
Course Credits: 1
Class Meeting Days: Friday
Class Meeting Hours: 1:30-2:20PM
Class Location: Eiben 120



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Office Hours: By [appointment](#)

University Course Catalog Description

FS 492 Forensic Courtroom Testimony (1)

This course will provide skills to prepare for expert witness testimony. This course will also discuss issues that may arise during testimony. Emphasis will be on articulation; courtroom procedures; and preparing your case file and presentation for trial.

Prerequisites: EN 102, COM 101, FS 340

Time Allocation

This is a one-credit hour course requiring 45 clock hours of student engagement, per the official CUH Credit Hour Policy. Students enrolled in this course are anticipated to spend 15 hours in class *or* engaged in online lecture/exercises and 2 hours each week contributing to assignments (30 hours).

Required Learning Materials & Class Meetings

This class requires the use of several learning materials, both electronic and physical. This class will be managed electronically through Canvas and Google.

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

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate practical techniques from various forensic disciplines
2. Identify, collect, and preserve various forms of physical evidence
3. Follow protocols for processing various types of evidence
4. Communicate investigative and analytical results

Alignment of Learning Outcomes

	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4
CLO 1	X	X		
CLO 2	X	X	X	
CLO 3	X	X	X	
CLO 4	X			X

Marianist Values

This class represents one component of your education at Chaminade University of Honolulu. An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles and you should take every opportunity possible to reflect upon the role of these characteristics in your education and development:

1. Education for formation in faith.
2. Provide an integral, quality education.
3. Educate in family spirit.
4. Educate for service, justice and peace.
5. Educate for adaptation and change.

Native Hawaiian Values

Education is an integral value in both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture. 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 ('Ōlelo 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 ('Ōlelo 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 ('Ōlelo 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 ('Ōlelo 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 ('Ōlelo No'eau 203) All knowledge is not taught in the same school

Alignment of Natural Sciences Courses with Marianist and Hawaiian values of the University

The Natural Sciences Division provides an *integral, quality education*: sophisticated integrative course content taught by experienced, dedicated, and well-educated instructors.

- We *educate in family spirit* – every classroom is an *Ohana* and you can expect to be respected yet challenged in an environment that is supportive, inclusively by instructors who take the time to personally get to know and care for you.
- We *educate for service, justice and peace*, since many of the most pressing global issues (climate change, health inequity, poverty, justice) are those which science and technology investigate, establish ethical parameters for, and offer solutions to.
- We *educate for adaptation and change*. In science and technology, the only constant is change. Data, techniques, technologies, questions, interpretations and ethical landscapes are constantly evolving, and we teach students to thrive on this dynamic uncertainty.

The study of science and technology can be formative, exploring human creativity and potential in the development of technologies and scientific solutions, the opportunity to engage in the stewardship of the natural world, and the opportunity to promote social justice. We provide opportunities to engage with the problems that face Hawai'i and the Pacific region through the Natural Sciences curriculum, in particular, those centered around severe challenges in health, poverty, environmental resilience, and erosion of traditional culture. The Marianist Educational Values relate to Native Hawaiian ideas of *mana*, *na'auao*, *ohana*, *aloha* and *aina*. We intend for our Natural Sciences programs to be culturally-sustaining, rooted in our Hawaiian place, and centered on core values of *Maiau*, be neat, prepared, careful in all we do; *Makawalu*, demonstrate foresight and planning; *'Ai*, sustain mind and body; *Pa`a Na`au*, learn deeply.

Course Policies

Attendance & Participation

You are required to participate in all scheduled class periods. Attendance and Participation will be graded. If you are tardy for class and our session has already begun, you will not be allowed to enter the

classroom. If you are not present for an extended period of the class time, you will not get the full attendance/participation credit.

Your attendance and participation will be graded starting Week 2.

Attendance grading:

0-2 Excused Absences (requires documentation) = 100%

1-2 Unexcused Absences = 80%

3 Absences = 70%

4+ Absences = 0%

Participation grading:

1. Comes to class on time and prepared
2. Contributions to class are relevant and insightful
3. Actively participates at appropriate times
4. Makes an impact on flow and progression of class exercises
5. Respectfully listens to the instructor and classmates
6. Does not distract or detract from the task at hand

Activity	Percentage
Attendance	20%
Participation	20%
Testimony 1	20%
Testimony 2	40%
Total	100%

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.

Cell phones, tablets, and laptops

Cell phone, tablet and laptop use will not be allowed during this class unless directed by the instructor.

Late Work

Late work will be deducted 20% of the final grade per day late.

Failure to Submit Assignments

For each assignment not submitted, your final course grade will be deducted by 10%.

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit for this course.

Changes to the Syllabus

While the provisions of this syllabus are as accurate and complete as possible, your instructor reserves the right to change any provision herein at any time. Every effort will be made to keep you advised of such changes, and information about such changes will be available from your instructor.

Grades of Incomplete

A student in good standing in a course may petition to the instructor for an "I" grade. This grade is appropriate only if extraordinary conditions beyond the control of the student have led to an inability to complete course requirements. When submitting a grade, the "I" must be accompanied by the alternative grade that will be automatically assigned after 30 days. These include, IB, IC, ID and IF. If only an "I" is submitted, the default grade is F. The completion of the work, evaluation, and reporting of the final grade is due within 30 days after the end of the term. The time limit may extend under exceptional circumstances with approval. Any student who has incomplete grades into the next semester will be required to review their course schedule with the Office of Student Success before the end of the drop/add period.

Grades

Final grades are submitted to [Self-Service](#) and are calculated as follows:

Attendance & Participation

Letter Grade Scale	
100% - 90%	A – Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative
89% - 80%	B – Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner
79% - 70%	C – Average grade indicating a competent grasp of subject matter

69% - 60% D – Inferior work of the lowest passing grade, not satisfactory for fulfillment of prerequisite course work

≤ 59% F – Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter; no credit earned.

Important Information

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism, in addition to more obvious dishonesty.

Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of Academic Division and may include an "F" grade for the work in question, an "F" grade for the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

For the most up to date information, please refer to the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) on the Chaminade University Catalog website.

Title IX

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, Roxana Jimenez at (808) 739-8530, titleix@chaminade.edu, or compliance@chaminade.edu. 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.

CUH Alert Emergency Notification

To get the latest emergency communication from Chaminade University, students' cell numbers will be connected to Chaminade's emergency notification text system. When you log in to the Chaminade portal, you will be asked to provide some emergency contact information. If you provide a cellphone number, you will receive a text from our emergency notification system asking you to confirm your number. You must respond to that message to complete your registration and get emergency notifications on your phone.

Assessment for Student Work

With the goal of continuing to improve the quality of educational services offered to students, Chaminade University conducts assessments of student achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes. Student work is used anonymously as the basis of these assessments, and the work you do in this course may be used in these assessment efforts.

Student with Disabilities Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu offers accommodations for all actively enrolled students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act (2008).

Students are responsible for contacting Kokua Ike: Center for Student Learning to schedule an appointment. Verification of their disability will be requested through appropriate documentation and once received it will take up to approximately 2–3 weeks to review them. Appropriate paperwork will be completed by the student before notification will be sent out to their instructors. Accommodation paperwork will not be automatically sent out to instructors each semester, as the student is responsible to notify Kokua Ike via email at ada@chaminade.edu each semester if changes or notifications are needed.

Kōkua 'Ike: Tutoring & Learning 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 for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click on Account > TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

DATE	WEEK	TOPIC
1/10	1	SYLLABUS AND INTRODUCTION TO COURTROOM TESTIMONY
1/17	2	VOLUME, ARTICULATION, POSTURE; CREDENTIAL WRITE-UP
1/24	3	YOUR CREDENTIALS ON THE STAND (6 STUDENTS)
1/31	4	YOUR CREDENTIALS ON THE STAND (6 STUDENTS)
2/7	5	MOCK TRIAL PREPARATION
2/14	6	NO CLASS (AAFS CONFERENCE)
2/21	7	MINI-MOCK TRIAL 1 (4 students)
2/28	8	MINI-MOCK TRIAL 1 (4 students)
3/7	9	MINI-MOCK TRIAL 1 (4 students)
3/14	10	NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)
3/21	11	MOCK TRIAL 2
3/28	12	MOCK TRIAL 2
4/4	13	MOCK TRIAL 2
4/11	14	MOCK TRIAL 2
4/18	15	GOOD FRIDAY – NO CLASS
4/25	16	MOCK TRIAL 2
4/29	17	MOCK TRIAL 2 (TUESDAY 11AM-1PM)

*FINALS WEEK [SCHEDULE](#)