



## Course Syllabus

Chaminade University Honolulu

3140 Waiālae Avenue - Honolulu, HI 96816

[www.chaminade.edu](http://www.chaminade.edu)

**Course Number:** FS 490

**Course Title:** Senior Seminar

**Department Name:** Forensic Sciences

**School Name:** Natural Sciences and Mathematics

**Term:** Spring 2025

**Course Credits:** 1

**Class Meeting Days:** Friday

**Class Meeting Hours:** 9:30AM – 10:20AM

**Class Location:** 253 Ching Hall



**Instructor Name:** David O. Carter

**Email:** [david.carter@chaminade.edu](mailto:david.carter@chaminade.edu)

**Phone:** (808) 739.8352

**Office Location:** 207A Eiben Hall

**Office Hours**

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

Tuesdays 1:30p – 4:00p

Wednesdays 10:00a – 11:00a

Thursdays 9:30a – 10:30a

You can also schedule a meeting outside of Office Hours. To do so, send an email to [david.carter@chaminade.edu](mailto:david.carter@chaminade.edu). Provide the reason for the meeting and a list of multiple dates and times that you are available to meet.

### University Course Catalog Description

FS 490 Senior Seminar (1 credit)

Discussion and presentation of current issues in forensic science. Prerequisites: EN 102, COM 101, FS 340, FS 455, and Senior standing.

### Course Learning Outcomes & Program Learning Outcomes

Senior Seminar is an opportunity to develop your presentation skills. Your skills will be used in two different types of presentations. First, you will present your background and skills as an extension of your resume and curriculum vitae. Second, you will deliver a more traditional scientific presentation to educate the audience on a topic relevant to the forensic sciences.

Each student will finish this class with the ability to:	Program Learning Outcomes
Develop and deliver oral presentations on topics relevant to forensic sciences.	1. Apply the scientific method in an adaptive and mindful manner.
Deliver different types of oral presentations.	2. Communicate disciplinary knowledge to diverse audiences.
Actively observe presentations and formulate thoughtful questions.	2. Use techniques for recognition, documentation, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence.
Use experiences and observations to improve oral presentation skills.	3. Implement quality assurance programs, incorporating ethics and professional practice, to act as stewards of justice and peace throughout the broader community.

### **Credit Hour Policy**

FS 490 Senior Seminar is one credit hour course that requires a minimum of 45 hours of student engagement, per the official CUH Credit Hour Policy. Students enrolled in FS 490 are expected to spend approximately 11 hours in class, 13 hours generating your Forensic Sciences Card, and 21 hours preparing oral presentations. A basis for developing high quality presentations is to invest one hour of preparation for each minute of presentation.

### **Required Learning Materials**

You should not need to purchase any learning materials this class but you will definitely use multiple forensic sciences books while researching your presentations.

#### *Textbook*

No textbooks are required for this class.

#### *Canvas*

Canvas will serve as the repository for university documents and your grade, which will be updated after each class. Canvas will also be used for email communication.

### **Assignments**

All assignments in this class share a common characteristic: they require you to be professional. Being punctual and prepared to do your best are crucial for success in this class.

#### *Attendance*

On time and prepared attendance is expected as a professional forensic scientist and it is expected here. You are expected to be in your seat by 9:30am. A total of 26 attendance points are possible – two points per class period. Tardy attendance will be documented and every two tardies will subtract two attendance points. Tardiness also includes leaving class while it is in session. Leaving class to address an

emergency is always acceptable but, in those cases, you are expected to schedule a meeting with me to discuss the scenario and why it should be excused. All known absences must be communicated in writing to [david.carter@chaminade.edu](mailto:david.carter@chaminade.edu) beforehand. See University Attendance Policy below.

*Topic Presentations*

A 5 – 8 minute presentation. Your job is simple: educate the citizens of Hawaii about the forensic sciences. You will be assigned a topic. Your presentation shall be developed and delivered as a “Ten things everyone should know about my topic”. You are required to present approximately ten pieces of information relevant to your topic, although that phrase does not need to appear in the title or the presentation. You will deliver your presentation twice. The first time is a Draft Presentation where you will receive feedback and an opportunity to make changes to your presentation before the second presentation: the Final Presentation. Draft Presentations will be delivered to FS 490 students only. Final presentations will be advertised to everyone so that they can attend.

**TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	10 Jan	Introduction & Syllabus Review	
2	17 Jan	Asynchronous Class – Submit 3 Topics of Interest for Attendance	
3	24 Jan	Presentation Advice & Presentation Attire	
4	31 Jan	Topic Assignment & Presentation Order	
5	7 Feb	Question Time with Carter	
6	14 Feb	Draft Topic Presentations (n = 4)	
7	21 Feb	Class Cancelled	AAFS 2025
8	28 Feb	Draft Topic Presentations (n = 3)	
9	7 Mar	Draft Topic Presentations (n = 3)	
10	14 Mar	Draft Topic Presentations (n = 3)	
11	21 Mar	Class Cancelled	Spring Break
12	28 Mar	Final Topic Presentations (n = 4)	
13	4 Apr	Final Topic Presentations (n = 3)	
14	11 Apr	Final Topic Presentations (n = 3)	
15	18 Apr	Class Cancelled	Good Friday
16	25 Apr	Final Topic Presentations (n = 3)	

## Assessment & Grading

Letter grades are given in all courses except those conducted on a credit/no credit basis. Grades in this class are calculated from the assignments using this scale:

Activity	Points	
Attendance	26	2 points per class
Draft Topic Presentation	60	Rubric in Canvas
Final Topic Presentation	60	Rubric in Canvas
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	

Points	%	Letter Grade
146 – 131	100 – 90	A
130 – 116	89 – 80	B
115 – 102	79 – 70	C
101 – 87	69 – 60	D
86 – 0	59 – 0	F

All grades will be posted in Canvas within one week of submission/exam completion. Your grade will be kept current all semester. You are encouraged to contact me at [david.carter@chaminade.edu](mailto:david.carter@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.

## Instructor and Student Communication

Questions for this course can be emailed to the instructor at [david.carter@chaminade.edu](mailto:david.carter@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, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (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.

### **University Attendance Policy**

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. Unexcused absences may include (but are not limited to): work issues, travel, or illness without a doctor’s note. 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.

### **Academic Conduct Policy**

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.

### **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](mailto:tutoring@chaminade.edu) or 808-739-8305.

### **Mobile Devices**

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](mailto: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.

### **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](mailto:helpdesk@chaminade.edu), or call (808) 735-4855

### **Credit Hour Policy**

The unit of semester credit is defined as university-level credit that is awarded for the completion of coursework. One credit hour reflects the amount of work represented in the intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement for those learning outcomes. Each credit hour earned at Chaminade University should result in 45 hours of engagement. This equates to one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester, 10-week term, or equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. Direct instructor engagement and out-of-class work result in total student engagement time of 45 hours for one credit.

The minimum 45 hours of engagement per credit hour can be satisfied in fully online, internship, or other specialized courses through several means, including (a) regular online instruction or interaction with the faculty member and fellow students and (b) academic engagement through extensive reading, research, online discussion, online quizzes or exams; instruction, collaborative group work, internships, laboratory work, practica, studio work, and preparation of papers, presentations, or other forms of assessment. This policy is in accordance with federal regulations and regional accrediting agencies.

*The instructor may modify elements of this syllabus according to the operational needs of the class.*