



School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Forensic Sciences Department

FS 490, Senior Seminar

Henry Hall 207, W 9:30A-10:20A

Credits: 1 Section: 01 Term: Fall semester 2025

Instructor Information



Instructor: Carlos A. Gutiérrez Ayala, Ph.D.

Email: Carlos.gutierrez@chaminade.edu

Phone: (808) 739 8352

Office Location: 207A Eiben Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30P – 3:30P

Thursdays 11:30A – 12:30P

Meetings during Office Hours can be scheduled

<https://calendar.app.google/2Jfj1t1Mzs4XtLgf9>



Communication

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. (Will respond in 24hrs/48hrs)

School & Department Information

School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Office Location: Wesselkamper, Room 116 [Building name and number can be found on each [Academic Schools' website](#).] Phone: (808) 440 4204 [Academic School's phone number can be found on School's website.]

If you have questions regarding the Forensic Sciences Department name, reach out to your Instructor or the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Course Description & Materials

Catalog Course Description

FS 490 Senior Seminar (1)

Discussion and presentation of current issues in forensic science. One oral presentation by each participant required.

Pre-Requisites: EN-102, COM-101, FS-340, FS-455 SR standing.

Time Allocation

This one-credit course requires 45 clock hours of students' engagement per the official CUH Credit Hour Policy. Students enrolled in this course are expected to spend 37.5 hours in the Laboratory. These laboratory hours include Lab activities and exams. There will be an additional 7.5 hours of work required beyond what is listed here (course reading and homework assignments), averaging 0.5 hours each week.

Required Materials

Professional attire to present is mandatory.

All materials will be provided via Canvas.

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.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

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.

Upon completion of the B.S. in Forensic Sciences, the student 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 (CLOs)

Upon completion of the FS 490 course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify, develop, and deliver an oral presentation on a topic relevant to forensic sciences.
2. Deliver oral presentations in a range of formats.
3. Actively observe presentations and formulate thoughtful questions.
4. Use experiences and observations to improve oral presentation skills.

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, and integrity of creation.
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 ('Olelo No'eau 364) May I live by God.
2. Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Na'auao) Lawe i ka ma'alea a kũ'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 ('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 Course Learning Outcomes

	CLO 1	CLO 2	CLO 3	CLO 4
Marianist Values	x	x	x	x
PLOs	x	x	x	x
Native Hawaiian Values	x	x	x	x
Gen Ed Learning Outcomes (if applicable)				

Course Activities

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 every week. 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.

Evaluations (Total of 450 Points)

Attendance (150 points):

Classes are scheduled to meet in person every Wednesday unless indicated otherwise. You will earn 10 points per class attended starting on August 27th. Please be aware that the total attendance points will change if a class period is canceled due to illness, weather, or another reason.

Oral Presentations (total of 300 points)

This semester, you are required to give two oral presentations. All presentations are required to be between 10 and 15 minutes in duration. All presentations will be stopped in progress once 15 minutes have lapsed, and zero points will be allocated for time.

- Presentation 1 (100 points): Each student needs to select a topic, and a presentation date will be allocated to you. You will present and receive oral and written feedback (copy of the rubric).
- Presentation 2 (200 points): A presentation date will be assigned to you. You will use the oral and written feedback to improve and deliver Presentation 1 again.

Unexcused attendance or missed presentations will receive a grade of 0 points.

Course Policies

Extra Credit

If any student needs an extra credit assignment, they should approach the instructor at least one month before finals week (December 8th to the 11th) to discuss possible options. It won't be an extra credit assignment for unexcused absences or other situations where students have shown a lack of interest in the course.

Lateness:

Students should be in class on time. If a student is late by 2-10 minutes, they will lose 5 points from their attendance. If they are more than 10 minutes late, they will lose all 10 attendance points assigned for that lecture.

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

This is a very unique situation for this class. The only circumstances in which some students might find themselves in this situation are if they have an extra credit assignment pending for evaluation or submission. This will be discussed between the instructor and the student.

Final Grades

Final grades are submitted to [Self-Service](#):

Activity	Points
Presentation 1	100
Presentation 2	200
Attendance	150 (10 point per class)
Total	450

Points	%	Letter Grade
450 – 405	100 – 90	A
404 – 323	89 – 80	B
321 – 225	79 – 70	C
224 – 134	69 – 60	D
133 – 0	59 – 0	F

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 AND NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. For pregnant and parenting students, I am also obligated to provide you with similar resources for support and protections available to you. My goal is to make sure that you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination

The university is committed to comply with all State and Federal statutes, rules, and regulations which prohibit discrimination. The university is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender identity and expression, age, religion, color, national origin (including shared ancestry and ethnic characteristics), ancestry, citizenship, disability, genetic information, marital status, breastfeeding, arrest and court record (except as permissible under State law), sexual orientation, or status as a covered veteran. Inquiries about Title IX or general Civil Rights concerns may be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found [HERE](#). *On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found here at [CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES](#).*

The University's Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at: <https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/>.

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the [Campus Incident Report form](#). Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates.

The NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION can be found here: [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).

Hazing Prevention Resources and Athlete Helpline:

Assists athletes, parents, coaches, and any allies interested in ensuring physical and mental safety for sports communities by offering confidential emotional support, crisis intervention, informational athlete-focused resources, and guidance related to concerns about any type of abuse—including hazing.

Chaminade University's Hazing Policy:
<https://catalog.chaminade.edu/studenthandbook/codeofconduct>

<https://hazingpreventionnetwork.org/athlete-helpline/>
<https://hazingpreventionnetwork.org/how-to-report-hazing/>

Basic Needs Resources: <https://chaminade.edu/basic-needs/>

Campus Safety/ SafeSwords

A program for students, faculty and staff, who may feel uncomfortable or unsafe walking alone on campus, at any time of the day. Call security, and a security professional will meet you at your location on campus. The security professional will escort you to your residence hall, car, etc. Students may utilize this when walking to and from night classes around campus or after late night events. [SafeSwords Webpage](#)

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.

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.

Use of IA Tools

During this course, students are allowed to use any type of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Bing AI, Grammarly, among others, only for study purposes. Using AI tools to answer or write midterm or final exams, extra credit papers, or other kinds of evaluations is strictly prohibited.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals "SDG"



This course covers the UN *SDG 16: "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions"*, Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

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 computer or tablet. Laptops and tablets should not be misused, such as by checking distracting websites. Use your best judgment and respect your classmates and instructor.

Readings & Due Dates

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Notes
1	30 Aug	Introduction & Syllabus Review	Welcome!
2	3 Sep	Topic Allocation and Scheduling	
3	10 Sep	Presentation Workshop	
4	17 Sep	Guest Speaker	
5	24 Sep	Presentation 1 (3)	Withdraw without Record Deadline (26 Sep)
6	1 Oct	Presentation 1 (2)	
7	8 Oct	Presentation 1 (2)	
8	15 Oct	Presentation 1 (2)	
9	22 Oct	Guest Speaker	

10	29 Oct	Presentation Workshop	
11	5 Nov	Presentation 2 (3)	Withdraw (W) Deadline (5 Nov)
12	12 Nov	Presentation 2 (2)	
13	19 Nov	Presentation 2 (2)	
14	26 Nov	Class Cancelled	Thanksgiving
15	3 Dec	Presentation 2 (2)	
16	8 Dec	Exit Assessment – Dec 2025 Graduates	Bring laptop