



School of Justice Studies

Forensic Science & Technology

FS 490, Senior Seminar

Eiben Hall 202, M 9:30-10:20 AM | Credits: 1 | Section: 1 | Term: Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor	Emily Pecsí, PhD	
Email	emily.pecsi@chaminade.edu	
Phone	(808) 739-7451	
Office Location	Eiben Hall 207-C	
Office Hours	Monday/Thursday 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Wednesday 2:30-3:30 PM	
Virtual Office	Contact to set up a Zoom or Teams meeting	

Communication

You can request a meeting outside of Office Hours by sending an email to emily.pecsi@chaminade.edu. Please suggest multiple dates and times that you are available to meet. Will respond within 24-48 hours.

School & Department

School	School of Justice Studies, Department of Forensic Sciences and Technology
Location	Eiben 207
Phone	(808) 440-4204
Questions?	Contact your instructor or the School of Justice Studies

Course Description & Materials

Catalog Description

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

Co-/Pre-Requisites: EN-102, COM-101, FS-340, FS-455, Senior standing

Course Snapshot

Modality	Face-to-Face
Meeting Location	Eiben Hall 202
Meeting Days/Times	M 9:30-10:20

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 11.5 hours in class. These class hours include lectures, student presentations and discussions. There will be an additional 33.5 hours of work required beyond what is listed here (researching, building, editing and practicing your oral presentation), averaging 2.23 hours each week.
Required Materials	Professional attire is required for oral presentations.
Canvas & Google Drive	Course materials (slides, readings), assignments, announcements, and grades will be available online through Canvas. (chaminade.instructure.com). Google Drive (drive.google.com) will be used to house and share larger files, if needed.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

Upon completion of the undergraduate B.Sc. program 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 FS 490 (Senior Seminar), the student will be able to:

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

Marianist Values

An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles. Reflect on how this course relates to one or more:

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.

Through this course, students will receive an education based on Marianist values, with strengthening their ability to adapt and improve their oral presentation skills (Value 5) through learning the fundamentals of scientific communication (Value 2) and by observing the presentations of others. These skills will ensure that students will be able to effectively communicate scientific information to a wide range of audiences, which is critical for the application of forensics within a judicial and academic context (Value 4).

Native Hawaiian Values

Education is central to both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture — both seek transformative, value-centered learning that serves the marginalized. This is reflected in the ‘Ōlelo No‘eau (Hawaiian proverbs) below:

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 (‘Ōlelo No‘eau 1200) — Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped.
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.

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This course covers the [UN SDG 16: “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”](#), which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



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

Attendance & In-Class Participation

Attendance Policy

Unless otherwise stated, classes are scheduled to meet in-person between 9:30-10:20 AM on Monday, in Eiben Hall room 202. Students will earn **fifteen points per class attendance** starting on August 31st, 2026. Please be aware that the total attendance points will be changed if a class period is cancelled due to extenuating circumstances (ex. Instructor illness, extreme weather).

Quick Reference — Absence Thresholds:

Excused Absence

An absence where the instructor was notified (preferably 24 hours prior to the course) and was due to a legitimate reason (ex. Illness, family emergency, accident). Please note that proof may be requested (ex. Doctor's note).

Unexcused Absence	An absence where the instructor was NOT notified and/or was due to an illegitimate or unacceptable reason.
Grade Penalty	Unexcused absences will result in a loss of 15 attendance-points for a given lecture. Four or more unexcused absences will result in an additional 10% deduction from the student's final grade.
Late Arrival / Early Departure	If a student is late by 5-10 minutes, they will lose 5-attendance points. If they are more than 10 minutes late, they will lose all 15 attendance points for that lecture (unless a legitimate reason is provided).

In-Class Participation Expectations

Active, respectful engagement is essential. Students are expected to come prepared and contribute meaningfully to discussions, activities, and collaborative work.

Students are expected to:

- Come prepared — complete readings and activities before each session.
- Participate actively in discussions and group work, demonstrating critical thinking.
- Engage respectfully and honor diverse perspectives.
- Use personal devices for course purposes only unless otherwise directed.
- Submit work by established deadlines to support course pacing.

Course Activities (620 points)

Participation	Active participation (180 points) Students are expected to actively listen, think and critique during oral presentations. To encourage this, students will be required to participate during questions periods by either: 1. Asking a relevant question 2. Providing constructive criticism or feedback 3. Sharing additional thoughts or knowledge Students will be required to do one above at least three (3) times throughout the semester.
Oral presentations	Presentation #1 (100 points) Each student will be given a date for when they will give a 15 minute oral presentation (+ 5 minute question period) on a topic relating to forensic sciences. Feedback will be provided based on a shared rubric. Presentation #2 (200 points) Each student will be given a second date for when they will re-present their first presentation, but with improvements and adjustments made based on the feedback that was provided.
Attendance	Students will be awarded 10-points for each course they attend, totaling to 140 points over the semester.

Course Policies

Late Work	Assigned presentation dates cannot be missed. If an unforeseen circumstance causes you to miss your date, please contact your instructor as soon as possible in order to discuss potential rescheduling.
Make-Up Work & Extra Credit	If you require make-up or extra credit work, please discuss this with your instructor at least one month before finals week (December 7-10th, 2026). No additional assignment will be given for unexcused absences or lack of interest/participation in the course.
Incomplete Grade	At the request of the student, followed by the approval of the faculty member, a grade of "I" may be assigned to those who have successfully completed, with at least a passing grade, a majority of the work of the course and who has an unavoidable and compelling reason why the remainder of the work cannot be completed on schedule.
Syllabus Changes	The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time. Any modification will be discussed and announced. A revised syllabus will therein be provided on Canvas.

Final Grades

Presentation, Participation and Attendance grades will be entered in Canvas at most 1-week after their due date. You are encouraged to regularly consult your grades in Canvas throughout the semester, and to reach out to your instructor to discuss your progress and performance. Final grades will be submitted to Self-Service (selfservice.chaminade.edu).

Grade	Range	Points
A	90% and above	558 – 620
B	80–89%	496 – 557
C	70–79%	434 – 495
D	60–69%	372 – 433
F	59% and below	< 372

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, plagiarism, **and unauthorized and/or undisclosed AI usage**, in addition to more obvious dishonesty. See catalog section *Student Use of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Work* for further information.

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

academic notice, or dismissal from the University.

AI (Artificial Intelligence) Statement

Chaminade University recognizes the increasing role of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in academic and professional environments. AI encompasses, but is not limited to, generative AI platforms, automated writing or content generation software, coding assistants, and similar tools. Students must ensure all submitted work genuinely reflects their knowledge and effort. Using AI to produce or significantly complete graded assignments, exams or other academic tasks – defined as use that substitutes for or substantially replaces a student’s own analysis, reasoning or written expression – without explicit instructor approval is considered academic misconduct and will be dealt with according to the University’s Academic Honesty Policy.

If an instructor has reasonable grounds to question whether submitted work genuinely reflects a student’s own knowledge, authorship, or mastery of course material — or whether it meets the course’s expectations for AI use — the instructor may require the student to provide additional or alternative evidence of authorship and content mastery. Such evidence may include drafts, notes, revision history, source materials, process explanations, oral discussion, in class work, or completion of an alternative assessment. A student’s refusal or inability to provide such evidence may be considered, along with other available information, in evaluating whether the work meets course requirements and stated learning outcomes. Instructors will not rely solely on AI detection software or other automated tools in making grading or academic integrity determinations. Such determinations will be based on the totality of the available information and handled in accordance with applicable University policies and procedures. See the catalog section *Student Use of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Work* for further information.

Title IX and Nondiscrimination

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.

Contact information and reporting options: chaminade.edu/titleix/nondiscrimination/. File a report via the [Campus Incident Report Form](#).

Nondiscrimination Policy and 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](#).

Student with Disabilities Statement- Kōkua 'Ike

Accessibility Services recognizes disability as a valued aspect of diversity and ensures equal access to the educational environment in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended; and the principles and professional standards of the Association on Higher Education and Disability. Access is supported through reasonable accommodations and referrals to campus and community resources.

Appointments with the Accessibility Services Coordinator are available through Stellic at <https://chaminade.stellic.com> and may be held virtually or in person. Drop-in appointments are also welcome.

Students seeking support must meet with the Accessibility Services Coordinator as early as possible, even if they are unsure whether they have appropriate documentation of their disability or its impacts. The Accessibility Services Coordinator prioritizes listening to students's experiences and will discuss any documentation needs during the initial intake meeting. Students may seek support at any time.

Learn more at <https://chaminade.edu/ada-accommodations>

Assessment of Student Work

Chaminade University may use student work anonymously to assess achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes as part of ongoing quality improvement efforts.

Campus Resources & Support Services

The following resources are available to all Chaminade students. Reach out early — these services exist to support your success.

Resource	Description	Contact / Website
Accessibility Services (Kōkua 'Ike)	Accommodations under Section 504 and ADA. Contact early — appointments via Stellic, virtual or in person.	ada@chaminade.edu chaminade.edu/ada-accommodations
Tutoring & Academic Coaching (Kōkua 'Ike)	Tutoring and Academic Coaching Services support students' progression toward their academic, personal, and professional goals with clarity and intention. Services include individualized support in English, math, nursing, sciences, and social sciences, as well as guidance in developing goals and study strategies.	chaminade.edu/tutoring-academic-coaching-services

Resource	Description	Contact / Website
Career Services	Career Services supports students throughout their career journeys. Services include individualized job search strategy coaching, resume reviews, job interview coaching, and access to career-related resources and opportunities.	chaminade.edu/career-services
Basic Needs Resources	Support for food insecurity, housing instability, and other basic needs.	chaminade.edu/basic-needs/
Title IX / Nondiscrimination	Reporting and support for sex discrimination and gender-based violence. Campus Incident Report Form available online.	chaminade.edu/titleix/resources-and-support/
Hazing Prevention	Confidential support, crisis intervention, and reporting for any type of abuse including hazing.	hazingpreventionnetwork.org/athlete-helpline/
Campus Safety & SafeSwords	Security escort service for anyone who feels unsafe walking alone on campus at any time of day. Call security and a professional will escort you to your destination.	chaminade.edu/student-life/security/campus-safeswords-program/
CUH Alert Emergency Notification	Emergency text system. Register your cell number via the Chaminade portal and confirm the text to complete enrollment.	chaminade.edu

Weekly Course Schedule

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify this schedule. Changes will be announced in class and posted to Canvas.

Week	Date	Topics / Activity	Notes / Reminders
1	Aug 17	Introduction & syllabus review Course learning survey	Aug 17-25 Add/Drop period
2	Aug 24	Topic allocation & scheduling Presentation workshop	Aug 26 Spiritual convocation (No classes, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm)
3	Aug 31	Guest speaker	
4	Sep 7	NO CLASS	Labor day
5	Sep 14	Presentation #1 (2 students)	Sep 18 Withdraw without record deadline
6	Sep 21	Presentation #1 (2 students)	
7	Sep 28	Presentation #1 (2 students)	
8	Oct 5	Presentation #1 (1 student) Self evaluation survey	
9	Oct 12	<i>Indigenous People Day, Holiday Wellness week</i>	Oct 14 College Arts & Sciences wellness activity
10	Oct 19	Ted Talk video & discussion	Oct 23 Withdrawal deadline
11	Oct 26	Guest speaker	
12	Nov 2	Scientific posters & media	

Week	Date	Topics / Activity	Notes / Reminders
13	Nov 9	Presentation #2 (2 students)	Nov 11 Veteran's day (No classes)
14	Nov 16	Presentation #2 (2 students)	
15	Nov 23	Presentation #2 (2 students)	Nov 26-27 Thanksgiving (No classes)
16	Nov 30	Presentation #2 (1 student) Self evaluation survey	
17	Dec 10	<i>Final Exam, Thursday, Dec 10th. 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm</i>	Finals week