

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND SYLLABUS**

**TEXT:** There is no text for this course. Handouts will be given to supplement lecture materials.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This seminar is intended to expose students to readings and discussions of all things forensic, i.e., ethics, chain of custody, newest technologies, classic cases, new applications of old techniques, etc.

The Forensic Science Department feels that a well-rounded education should include the ability to research an article by looking up various sources, analyzing the material and presenting it “anew”, in a manner that attempts to achieve an end not previously considered by the student. Other courses provide the forensic student with opportunities to work on-site, meet interesting people, or use sophisticated equipment. This course attempts to have the student rely on his/her own powers of judgement, utilizing analytical skills developed over the course of a college education. The mission of the department is “to provide the student with the knowledge to apply scientific principles and technological practices to the purpose of justice in the study and resolution of criminal, civil, and regulatory issues.” This course is committed to engaging the student’s most important academic tool, the ability to make sound decisions based on solid evidence, and relate those analysis to other people.

An oral presentation prepares the student for oral testimony of evidence, case histories, class lessons, and participation in general public forums. The incorporation of Power Point systems in these presentations are meant to introduce a level of professionalism and polish to the reports.

**AIMS OF THE COURSES:** The aims of the Senior Seminar are to provide opportunities for you to:

1. do independent library research on a particular topic of interest to you;
2. be exposed to internet capabilities, information, associations, and organizations found on the net;
3. broaden your reading and bibliography horizons;

4. increase your contacts in the field by writing away for different conferences, seminars, etc.;
5. raise your awareness of the scope that forensic science encompasses;
6. present a Power Point presentation on a topic of your choosing.

**PROJECTS:** There will be **6 projects**. Each will be graded.

1. Find two regional or national Forensic Science organizations. Turn in print outs from both. **Due by February 7, 2000.**
2. Find five journals or periodicals directly associated with some aspect of forensic science. **Due by February 21, 2000.**
3. Find two forensic science related conferences. Turn in printouts. **Due by March 6, 2000.**
4. Find two summer internship programs that you could apply for. Turn in printouts. You may need to write a personal letter to different forensic laboratories around your hometown or in an area that you will be staying at over a summer period of time. **Due by March 20, 2000.**
5. Research a topic of your choice and provide 5 primary references. Turn in topic and references. **Due by April 10, 2000.**
6. Present a 15 minute Power Point presentation based on #5 above. **Due at various dates.**

**GRADE DETERMINATION:**

1. Grades will be assigned based on the following:

Attendance	25%
Reports	75%

**GRADING SCALE:**

A = 90%
B = 80%
C = 70%
D = 65%
F = 64%