

# Forensic Science

CJS\* K225

Spring 2017

Three Rivers Community College  
574 New London Turnpike  
Norwich, Connecticut 06360

Michael T. Finkelstein M.S.

[mfinkelstein@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:mfinkelstein@trcc.commnet.edu)

(860) 213-0167

**Hours by appointment only**

**I. Course Title:** Forensic Science

**II. Course Information:**

- A. CJS K225
- B. Room Number: A 216
- C. Day/Time: Th 6:30 to 9:15

**III. Course Description:** This course involves the examination of physical evidence including collecting, identifying, preserving, and transporting it. They will be exposed to the crime laboratory and its capabilities and limitations. Additionally, they will participate in field testing and learn the various purposes of kits and their function and design. Laboratory procedures will be demonstrated depending on existing and available facilities.

**IV. Course Objectives:**

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the principles and products of forensic science and its' relationship to the criminal justice system.
  - A. Identify trace materials and their products.
  - B. Demonstrate basic forensic methods in the analysis of hair, fiber, and paint.
  - C. Articulate basic DNA terminology and techniques used in the laboratory to process DNA samples.
  - D. Explain the history of and apply the terminology, technology, and processing methods and techniques of fingerprinting.
2. Utilize critical thinking skills within the context of evidentiary process requirements in the criminal justice system.
  - A. To acquire and analyze information to determine its quality and utility.
  - B. To recognize parallels between and among disciplines and apply knowledge, skills, or abilities learned in one discipline to another.
  - C. To summarize, analyze, evaluate, and use argumentation and persuasion.
  - D. To utilize inductive and deductive thought processes.
3. To understand and convey ideas in diverse contexts using reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
  - A. To comprehend and evaluate written passages.
  - B. Utilize social science methodology to differentiate between fact, information, and opinion.
  - C. Produce a research paper that conforms to APA standards.
  - D. To speak clearly.
  - E. To understand lectures, arguments, and other speech.
4. To understand the methods of scientific inquiry and how those methods are used to draw conclusion.

- A. Articulate processes and method of scientific inquiry.
- B. Acquire data through safe, legal, and ethical practices.

**V. Instructional Methods:**

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion/Lab
- C. Research and writing

**VI. Required Text:**

**Criminalistics** 11<sup>th</sup> edition Saferstein **ISBN:** 9780133458824

**VII. Disabilities Statement:**

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Disabilities Counseling Services at 860-215-9289. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the counselor as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**VIII. Course Outline:**

Week #1 – Jan 19, Introduction to Course & Instructor, Chapter #1

Week #2 – Jan 26, Chapter #2 The Crime Scene & #3 Physical Evidence

Week #3 – Feb 2, Chapter #4 Crime Scene Reconstruction: Blood Stain Pattern

Week #4 – Feb 9, Chapter #5 Death Investigation & #12 Forensic Toxicology

Week #5 – Feb 16, Chapter #6 Fingerprints & #7 Microscope

Week #6 – Feb 23, Chapter #8 Firearms, Tool Marks, & other impressions

Week #7 – Mar 2, Chapter #9 Matter, Light, & Glass Examination

Chapter #10 Hairs & Fibers

Week #8 –Mar 9, Midterm Exam

March 16<sup>th</sup> No Class- Spring Break

Week #9 – Mar 23, Chapter #11 Drugs & 14 Forensic Serology

Week #10 – Mar 30, Chapter #13 Metals, Paints, & Soils

Week #11 – Apr 6, Chapter #15 DNA : The indispensable Forensic Science Tool

Week #12 – Apr 13, #16 Forensic Aspects of Fire & Explosives Investigation

Week #13 – Apr 20, Ch #17 Document Exam, Ch #18 Computer Forensics & #19 Mobil  
Device Forensics

Week #14 –Apr 27 & May 4th, Presentations

Week #15 – May 11, Final Examination,

## **IX. Evaluation Procedures**

Your final grade will be determined by a combination of the exam, chapter summaries, research report, and participation.

Class participation  
Midterm Exam  
Research Report/presentations  
Final Exam

**Report Presentation:** Written 5-7 page research paper with oral 3-5 min presentation. A grading rubric will be provided to the students.

**Exams:** Mid term and Final examination.

**Class Participation:** The student will review current cases involving forensic science issues, and may be called upon to discuss. Students are also expected to participate in class discussions.

**Grades:** All grades will be posted on Blackboard in real time. The grades will be expressed as demonstrated in the grade scale below.

## **X. Final Grade Scale**

A	=	94 - 100
A-	=	90 - 93
B+	=	87 - 89
B	=	83 - 86
B-	=	80 - 82
C+	=	77 - 79
C	=	73 - 76
C-	=	70 - 72
D+	=	67 - 69
D	=	63 - 66
D-	=	60 - 62
F	=	00 - 59
W	=	Withdrawal
I	=	Incomplete
P / F	=	Pass / Fail
AU	=	Audit

## **XI. College Withdrawal Policy**

A verbal “drop or withdrawal” from course(s) cannot be accepted by the instructor. Students must complete the required form and file it with the Registrar’s Office. Students may drop or withdraw from a course up to the 12<sup>th</sup> week of the semester; the exact ending date for the drop period is listed in the academic calendar.

## **XII. Instructor’s Attendance Policy**

Consistent attendance at class meetings is crucial to success in this course. You are expected to attend all classes in order to receive full benefit from instruction. Please contact me via E-mail, phone, or text should you be unable to attend class.

Students having attendance problems should speak with the instructor before taking any action.

## **XIII. Academic Dishonesty**

Conduct which as its intent or effect the false representation of a student’s academic performance and/or knowingly and intentionally assisting another student to do so in any way constitute academic dishonesty. In the event of academic dishonesty, the College’s policy will be enforced.

#### **XIV. Cellular Phones etc.**

Students are notified that cellular phones and other electronic devices are allowed in class only if they are turned to a silent mode. Should you receive a phone call while in class, please ensure that you leave the classroom to conduct your conversation.

#### **XV. Early Warning Policy**

Students experiencing academic difficulty and/or chronic absenteeism will be notified of their class standing.

#### **X. DIGICATION POLICY**

All students are required to maintain a learning portfolio in Digication that uses the (Three Rivers) College Template.

#### **BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHTER EDUCATION AND CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES POLICY REGARDING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT REPORTING, SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROCESSES POLICY**

Statement of Policy for Public Act No. 14-11: An Act Concerning Sexual Assault, Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence on Campus:

“The Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) in conjunction with the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) is committed to insuring that each member of every BOR governed college and university community has the opportunity to participate fully in the process of education free from acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence and stalking. It is the intent of the BOR and each of its colleges or universities to provide safety, privacy and support to victims of sexual misconduct and intimate partner violence.”

#### **UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS TITLE IX STATEMENT OF POLICY:**

“Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities in federally funded schools at all levels. If any part of a school district or college receives any Federal funds for any purpose, all of the operations of the district or college are covered by Title IX.

Title IX protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination, including discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. All students (as well as other persons) at recipient institutions are protected by Title IX – regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, part-or full-time status, disability, race, or national origin-in all aspects of a recipient’s educational programs and activities.”

If any student experiences sexual misconduct or harassment, and/or racial or ethnic discrimination on Three Rivers Community College Campus, or fears for their safety from a threat while on campus, please contact Edward A. Derr, the Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator:

Edward A. Derr  
Title IX Coordinator and Diversity Officer  
Admissions Welcome Center \* Office A116  
574 New London Turnpike, Norwich CT 06360  
860.215.9255 \* EDerr@trcc.commnet.edu