INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SCIENCE

CJS K225

Spring 2007
Course Outline

Instructor: Daniel A. Tramontozzi

Phone - 203-694-6539
Email - dantram@snet.net

Office hours by appointment
Introduction to Forensic Science

II. Course Information:
   A. CJS K225
   B. Location: Thames Campus Room – KNTEC / N215
   C. Day/Time: Thursday 6:30 – 9:15 PM

III. Course Description/Goals:
    Through open discussion, lecture, and laboratory exercises, this course will introduce students to the basic methods and techniques used by forensic scientists. Emphasis will be placed on: 1.) Recognition of physical evidence, 2.) Documentation of physical evidence, 3.) Forensic examination of physical evidence, 4.) Interpretation of forensic analysis, and 5.) Computer Technology and Forensic Science.

IV. Instructional Methods:
    A. Lecture
    B. Discussion
    C. Laboratory Exercises

V. Text (not required):
   CRIMINALISTICS: An Introduction to Forensic Science by Richard Saferstein

VI. 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 892-5751. 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.

VII. Course Outline:
   January 25  Introduction, class objective, course outline, DPS Division of Scientific Services
   February 1  Forensic Science, Crime Scene, and Physical Evidence (Chapters 1, 2, & 3), The Microscope (Chapter 7), Lab 4
   February 8  Physical properties: Glass & Soil (Chapter 4), Hairs, Fibers, and Paint (Chapter 8)
   February 15 Lab 15, Physical Match, Glass Pattern, Hair Casting
   February 22 Forensic Serology (Chapter 12), DNA (Chapter 13)
   March 1   Lab – Mock Evidence
   March 8  Arson/Explosives (Chapter 11)
   March 15 Mid-term Examination
   March 22  Spring Break
   March 29  Fingerprints (Chapter 14)
   April 5  Fingerprint Lab
   April 12  Document Examination (Chapter 16)
   April 19  Firearms, Toolmarks, and Impressions (Chapter 15)
   April 26  Firearms, Toolmarks, and Impressions Lab
   May 3  Computer Crimes and Electronic Evidence
   May 10  Final Examination / Papers Due / Presentations

XIII. Evaluation Procedures
   Exams (2)  50% - 25% each
   Paper  25%
Oral Presentation 10%
Laboratory and Class Participation 15%

100%

The paper should be at least 10 but no more than 18 pages long. Research for this paper must include sources in addition to class references. A short outline of an approved topic must be submitted to the instructor by 03-29-2007.

The paper will be in APA style and will be written in Times New Roman 12 point type with standard margins. The paper will include a cover page that notes the title of the paper and all the relevant course and student information. Failure to use the APA format will result in a 25 point reduction in the paper grade.

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

X. College Withdrawal Policy
A verbal “drop or withdrawal” from course(s) will be accepted through the 10th week of classes in accordance with the designated withdrawal deadlines. Students will need to provide the following information: full name, address, date of birth, student identification number and social security number, course reference number (CRN), description/subject and instructor’s name, if VA / FA benefits. Verbal drops or verbal withdrawals are processed through the Registrar’s Office and Subase site ONLY.

XI. 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.

XII. 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.

XIII. Cellular Phones and Beepers
Students are notified that cellular phones and beepers are allowed in class or in the Learning Resource Center only if they are turned off or turned to a silent mode. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered in class. When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone or beeper, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class so that together they can arrive at an agreement.