INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SCIENCE

CJS K225 - Spring 2014 - Course Outline

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I. **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.

II. **Text (not required):**

CRIMINALISTICS: An Introduction to Forensic Science by Richard Saferstein

III. **Course Outline:**

January 23	Introduction, class objective, course outline, DPS Division of Scientific Services, Lab Overview
January 30	Forensic Science, Crime Scene, and Physical Evidence (Chapters 1, 2, & 3), The Microscope (Chapter 7), CSI
February 6	**NO CLASS**
February 13	Physical properties: Glass & Soil (Chapter 4), Hairs, Fibers, and Paint (Chapter 8)
February 20	Lab 17 (hairs and fibers), Physical Match, Glass Pattern, Wood chipper case
February 27	Forensic Serology (Chapter 12), DNA (Chapter 13)
March 6	Arson/Explosives (Chapter 11)
March 13	Mid-term Examination
March 20	**SPRING BREAK**
March 27	Fingerprints (Chapter 14)
April 3	Fingerprint Lab
April 10	Document Examination (Chapter 16)
April 17	Firearms, Toolmarks, and Impressions (Chapter 15)
April 24	Reconstruction / CSI / HCL TV Video
May 1	Computer Crimes and Electronic Evidence
May 8	Papers Due / Presentations / Review for Final Exam
May 15	Final Examination

XIII. **Evaluation Procedures**

Exams (2)	70% - 35% each
Paper	10%
Oral Presentation	10%
Laboratory and Class Participation	10%
	100%

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