

INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SCIENCE

CJS K225

**Spring 2010
Course Outline**

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Office hours by appointment

Introduction to Forensic Science

II. Course Information:

- A. CJS K225
- B. Location: D207
- 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 21	Introduction, class objective, course outline, DPS Division of Scientific Services, Lab Overview
January 28	Forensic Science, Crime Scene, and Physical Evidence (Chapters 1, 2, & 3), The Microscope (Chapter 7), Lab 4
February 4	NO CLASS
February 11	Physical properties: Glass & Soil (Chapter 4), Hairs, Fibers, and Paint (Chapter 8)
February 18	Lab 17, Physical Match, Glass Pattern, Hair Casting
February 26	Forensic Serology (Chapter 12), DNA (Chapter 13)
March 4	Mid-term Examination
March 11	SPRING BREAK
March 18	Arson/Explosives (Chapter 11)
March 25	Fingerprints (Chapter 14)
April 1	Fingerprint Lab
April 8	Document Examination (Chapter 16)
April 15	Firearms, Toolmarks, and Impressions (Chapter 15)
April 22	Firearms, Toolmarks, and Impressions Lab and/or Physical Evidence Lab
April 29	Computer Crimes and Electronic Evidence
May 6	Papers Due / Presentations / Review for Final Exam
May 13	Final Examination

XIII. Evaluation Procedures

Exams (2)	50% - 25% each
Paper	25%
Oral Presentation	10%
<u>Laboratory and Class Participation</u>	<u>15%</u>
	100%

The paper should be at between 8 and 14 pages long. Research for this paper must include sources in addition to class references.

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.