

CRJ 407 FORENSIC EVIDENCE

Syllabus

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COURSE CREDIT:

Three Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES:

SOC 201 The Sociological Imagination

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Textbook:

Kiely, T. F. (2000). Forensic evidence: Science and the criminal law. New York, NY: CRC Press.
ISBN: 0-8493-1896-3.

Secondary Textbook:

Fisher, B.A. (2003). Techniques of crime scene investigation. (7th ed.) New York, NY: CRC Press.
ISBN: 0-8493-1691-X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course focuses on the context of forensic evidence techniques and how they relate to the law. Modern techniques as well as techniques that have been used in the past will be examined. The crime scene will be looked at, the steps involved in recreating the crime scene, and collecting and testing evidence will be explored. We will also analyze the most recent court decisions that examine the use of forensic science during the investigation and at the trial of criminal cases. Each of the topics will have cases that have set precedence for future court cases.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

During this course, we will study the connection of forensic evidence in the courtroom and during the investigation. We will:

- Examine specific types of crime and look at how forensic evidence is applied.
- Consider the major techniques of forensic evidence.
- Review the role of the investigator and the courts with respect to forensic science.
- Review and study some of the contemporary issues and programs dealing with forensic evidence.
- Consider the implications of forensic science on society.

Consider how forensic evidence has changed the way law enforcement carries out its mission to solve crimes.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assignments: All assignments should be completed after reading the text.

Requirement 1: 50% of final grade.

CHAPTER ANALYSES: You will read the assignments outlined in this syllabus. After each reading assignment you are required to submit a two- to four-page summary of the readings. The analyses will be typed and double-spaced. You will also cite your references using the APA format. The analyses will present what is the main argument of the material presented. You will include what you learned from the chapter, interesting findings, summaries of the court cases discussed, what court cases set precedence for future court cases, and other relevant information. The analyses need to be thorough and complete. You will integrate the readings from both textbooks in your chapter analyses.

There will be 11 analyses. You will submit the first analysis as soon as it is complete. You cannot submit your other analyses until the instructor has had an opportunity return the first assignment back to you with comments on how future analyses should be done. After you have received the feedback on your first analysis, you may begin sending your other analyses to the instructor. Do not submit more than three analyses at a time. Please note: Spelling, grammar, and appropriate punctuation will be a part of the grade. *Each assignment is worth 27 points for a total of 297 points.*

Requirement 2: 33% of final grade.

PROCTORED EXAMS: You will be required to take proctored **midterm** and **final exams**. It is the responsibility of the student to secure a location to take the test. If you live near a high school or local community college—they may be good places to take the tests. Extended Studies will mail the exams directly to the person at the location where the test will be taken. Please refer to the Guidelines for Proctored Exams and submit your Exam Request Forms. The test will consist of true/false, multiple-choice, and/or short answer questions. **After Analysis 5**

has been completed, you may take the midterm exam. After Analysis 11 has been completed, you may take the final exam. *Each test is worth 100 points for a total of 200 points.*

Requirement 3: 17% of final grade.

FINAL PROJECT: After all of your chapter reviews/analyses, midterm, and final exam have been completed, the instructor will mail you the final project. The final project will be an adaptation from the life of Phil Cresta. You will read the scenario and explain how forensic evidence and techniques could have been used to solve the crime. The final project will be a five- to seven-page paper. In addition to the five- to seven-pages of type written information, you will also include a cover page and reference page. You will also utilize the Web resources in your textbook, which can be found on pages 332 – 336. You will cite a minimum of five of these resources in your final project. In the event that you do not have Internet access, you will be required to use five scholarly sources (journals or books).

Your paper will be typed, double-spaced, APA format, five- to seven-pages written, include a cover a page and reference page. You will also cite from your resources throughout this project as appropriate. Please note: Spelling, grammar, and appropriate punctuation will be a part of the final grade. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** *This project is worth 100 points.*

EXTRA CREDIT: You have the opportunity for one extra credit assignment. Extra credit is only an option for students who have completed all of the assignments. Extra credit may not be done in lieu of any assignment. **This is an optional assignment and is not mandatory.** Find three newspaper, magazine, or journal articles and explain how forensic evidence relates to these articles. This paper should be typed, double-spaced, APA format, complete with a reference page. All articles **MUST** accompany the extra credit assignment. *The extra credit assignment is worth 50 points.*

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Grade Distribution:

Chapter Analyses	297 points
Proctored Midterm Exam	100 points
Proctored Final Exam	100 points
Final Project	<u>100 points</u>
Total Points	597

Scale:

538-597	A
479-537	B
420-478	C
361-419	D
360 and below	F

COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

ADA Statement: Students seeking academic accommodation should contact this instructor prior to beginning the course of study.

Important: Keep a copy of all your assignments in the unlikely event that they get lost in the mail.

If you have any questions about the assignments or any of the information covered in this syllabus, contact your instructor. This class is designed for your success. Make a commitment to yourself and your education. I suggest you read through the entire Study Guide, which follows, at least once, and then begin your reading and assignments.