CRJ 311 Forensic Science

Wintermester 2019

Number of Credits

3

Instructor

Breanne N. Jones, MS

Catalog Description

Introduction to theory, practical application, (DNA typing; serology; bloodstain analysis; crime scene investigation; forensic entomology, toxicology, and anthropology) and legal considerations. Study of a major topic or issue in criminal justice. May be repeated as long as content varies.

Required Textbooks/Materials

The following texts are required material in this course:

Saferstein, Richard, Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science, 11th ed., Prentice Hall, 2010. ISBN: 0133458822.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to

- discuss the historical developments and landmarks of forensic science, including how improvements in chemical analysis and instrumentation impact our ability to solve crimes;
- demonstrate the ability to analyze and critique case studies and make conclusions based on evidence collected;
- outline the professional standards and ethics that guide the field of forensic science;
- interpret key cases and case law regarding protocols for collecting, handling and use of evidence in the preparation for trial;
- analyze how forensic science can help to eliminate issues related to race, ethnicity and gender
- discuss the main disciplines of forensic science; anthropology, ballistics, DNA fingerprinting, entomology, hairs and fibers, fingerprints, odontology, pathology, questioned documents, toxicology and arson; and
- discuss the latest trends and future developments in the field of forensic science.

First Week of Materials/Assignments

The following schedule is subject to change:

January 2: Review of syllabus
Introduction to Criminalistics and the Crime Scene
Activity: A Deadly Picnic
Case Study: Enrique Camarena
Read: *Criminalistics,* chapters 1 and 2

January 3: Physical Evidence
Watch: *CSI* episode, "Scene of the Crime and Unfriendly Skies"
Activity: Evaluating a Crime Scene
Read: *Criminalistics,* chapters 3 and 5

January 4: Trace Evidence
Article Review on Physical Evidence
Case Study: Wayne Williams
Read: *Criminalistics,* chapters 9, 10, and13

Course Details

This course serves to familiarize students with the methods and techniques currently employed by forensic scientists to identify and analyze evidence collected from a crime scene and presented at trial. Forensic science is a complex field of study which incorporates the related scientific fields of biology, anatomy, chemistry, physics and earth sciences. Students will demonstrate their ability to apply knowledge, complex reasoning, and critical thinking in the classroom and through the analysis of case studies. This course includes instruction in many areas of forensic science including crime scene analysis, pathology, forensic laboratory technology, fingerprint and DNA technology, document analysis and applicable law and regulations and professional standards of ethics. Concepts and doctrines in the areas of the law, roles of the expert testimony, rules of evidence, ethics, professional practice, and wrongful convictions will also be covered.

Warning: The subject matter of this course includes information, photographs, language, and videos that are graphic, sexual, and violent, which some people may find offensive. If you are offended by such material, you are not advised to take this course.

Grade Breakdown

The point distribution for the course is:

Assignment	Points
Crime Scene Analysis Project	100
Case Studies (four worth 5 points each)	20
Movie Assignments (two worth 10 points each)	20
Article review	10

Assignment	Points
Exams (two worth 150 points each)	300
Total	*450*

The percentage distribution for the course is:

Letter	Percentage
A	90–100
B	80–89
C	70–79
D	60–69
F	below 60