

INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SCIENCE

I. Contact Information:

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I. COURSE TOPICS

Unit/topic/module learning objectives described/measured.

Topic 1: Introduction
Topic 2: The Crime Scene
Topic 3: Physical Evidence
Topic 4: Crime Scene Reconstruction Bloodstain Pattern Analysis
Topic 5: Death Investigation
Topic 6: Fingerprints
Topic 7: Forensic Biometrics
Topic 8: The Microscope
Topic 9: Firearms, Tools, Marks, and other Impressions
Topic 10: Matter, Light, and Glass Examination
Topic 11: Hair and Fibers
Topic 12: Drugs
Topic 13: Forensic Toxicology
Topic 14: Metals, Paint, and Soil
Topic 15: Forensic Serology
Topic 16: The Indispensable Forensic Tool
Topic 17: Forensic Aspects of Fire and Explosion

II. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Instructional materials support the learning outcomes.

This course is completely online. The required text,
Saferstein, (2018). Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science. (12th Edition). Publisher: Prentice Hall.

In addition, an **Instructor Teaching Site** is used where all of the powerpoint lectures are stored as well as journal articles specific to the course topics, as a means of further reinforcing lectures.

Activities measure the stated learning outcomes for the course.

During the course, students will be required to complete objective learning assessments (exams) and written essay assignments to demonstrate their understanding of the learning outcomes for this course.

Activities foster instruction-student and student-content interactions, and if appropriate, student-student interactions.

Discussion forums are designed to foster instructor-student, student-content, and student-student interactions.

List of activities/assignments/assessments required for students to complete:

Discussion Forums

Test One

Test Two

Test Three

Test Four

III. EVALUATION AND GRADE ASSIGNMENT

Course grading policy:

The course grade is based on the total accumulation of points. The maximum number of points which can be accumulated is 100.

- Test One = 20%
- Test Two = 20%
- Test Three = 20%
- Final Exam = 20%
- Discussion Forums = 20%

Grading scale:

- A = (100%) – (90%)
- B = (89%) – (80%)
- C = (79%) – (70%)
- D = (69%) – (60%)

- F = (59%) – (0%)

Mid-term grades will be posted on-line for students to view via BANNER. Mid-term grades indicate a student's status at mid-semester only and do not indicate the final performance outcome of a student.

How tests will be administered, criteria and expectations for assignments:

All required assignments and examinations are completed online and are due no later than the final due dates stated in the course schedule. If students have questions regarding the reading material, quizzes, and exams, they should post questions on the Moodle forum. Other students may have the same or similar questions. Students may also email (preferred method) or call me if additional instructions are needed.

A. Test One (25%):

Test One will cover Chapters 1-4, which will primarily consist of multiple choice, True/false, and essay items may be included. The exam will be conducted online. Each student must take and finish the test within the time allotted.

B. Test Two (25%):

Test Two will cover Chapters 5-8, which will primarily consist of multiple choice, True/false, and essay items may be included. The exam will be conducted online. Each student must take and finish the test within the time allotted.

C. Test Three (25%):

Test Three will cover Chapters 9-12, which will primarily consist of multiple choice, true/false, and essay items may also be included. The exam will be conducted online. Each student must take and finish the test within the time allotted.

D. Final Exam (25%):

The Final Exam is not comprehensive and only covers Chapters 13- 17. The exam will primarily consist of multiple choice, true/false, and essay items may also be included. The exam will be conducted online. Each student must take and finish the test within the time allotted.

E. Discussion Forums (20%)

The Discussion Forums cover chapters and topics that are required each week of the course. Each discussion forum is worth 2 percent of your total grade. There are 10 discussion forums.

E. Textbook(s) and Materials:

Saferstein, (2018). Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science. (12th Edition). Publisher: Prentice Hall.

F. Attendance Policy:

This course is completely online, meaning that we will not meet in the classroom and will only conduct coursework online. Attendance and participation will not be counted as part of your course grade.

G. Make-up Policy:

If students miss an exam for a valid and university acceptable reason, they should contact the instructor immediately. Missed exams will be recorded as a "0" until the student presents a valid written excused absence and the instructor will keep this for the student's records. A make-up test may be given the following week, later in the semester, or at the end of the semester, at the discretion of the instructor. There are no make-ups for homework assignments, discussions, or activities.

Grades of "I" will be issued only on rare occasions where a student is unable to complete an assignment toward the end of the course because of truly exigent circumstances.
