

Department of Justice Studies

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives (LO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ◁ **LO1** Define forensic science as it relates to criminal and civil contexts, as well as key concepts and principles such as the scientific method, the fourth amendment, exchange principle.
- ◁ **LO2** Summarize important historical milestones in forensic science, the constituents and organization of crime labs, the contributions of natural sciences and the sub-disciplines of forensic science, analytical processes and procedures employed, and the types of evidence encountered.
- ◁ **LO3** Describe the roles of forensic scientists and investigative personnel, the duties they perform, and how they form collaborations to assist with legal inquiries.
- ◁ **LO4** Summarize the history of DNA profiling, principles of genetics concerning DNA, Mendelian inheritance, STRs, alleles, genotypic and phenotypic expressions of genes, and PCR.
- ◁ **LO5** Apply the concepts and principles of the scientific method to simulated forensic laboratory practicals, by formulating hypotheses, analyzing data collected, critically assessing the results and arriving at conclusions.
- ◁ **LO6** Communicate an accurate representation of forensic science, the methods employed in various contexts, limitations of the field, the challenges faced and its achievements.

approach. Generally speaking, the scientific method is a series of steps that are followed in order to execute well-thought-out, and methodical investigations of various phenomena as they occur in the natural world. A question is asked about a particular circumstance or event, for which it is subjected to rigorous testing to generate a conclusion. (LO1, LO2, LO5, and LO6

Class Protocol and Policies

- ◁ All assignments are to be completed a week after their assignment or completion of a lab practical. Late work may be submitted ***up to 3 days without penalty***. Subsequently, a ***late penalty of 5% per day*** for a **maximum of 5 days**, weekends included will apply. Assignments submitted thereafter will NOT be accepted and result in an automatic fail

Avoid missing lab practicals. Make-up sessions may not be available. Should you know in advance of any extenuating circumstances that conflict with such sessions, it is your responsibility to inform your lecturer. The possibility for submitting an alternative assignment may be granted at discretion, but be advised that such undertaking will be quite demanding. If there is any doubt about the requirements for an assignment, or due dates/times, re-read the directions of the assignment and/or schedule. If your question(s) remains unanswered, contact your lecturer for clarification.

- ◁ Attendance and class participation is expected. It is essential that you come to class prepared. Therefore, it is your responsibility to stay on top of your readings, complete assignments on time, and participate in class discussions. Lack of adequate participation *will* result in pop quizzes, which *will* count toward your final grade.
- ◁ The use of cell phones is NOT PERMITTED during class. Students caught using their phone will be asked to surrender it for the remainder of the lecture or excused from the class. Laptops are permitted for note-taking only.

Student Resources

Forensic Science Student Group (FSS)

Forensic Science Students is a campus group open to all students interested in forensic science.

*Late add fees apply. See above website.

Justice Studies Reading and Writing Philosophy

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the department is committed to

