

Department of Justice Studies
FS 161 Crime Scene Investigation
CRNs 26543 (Lecture) & 26545 (Practical), Spring 2022

Disclaimer: *This class is intended for mature students and may cover graphic content, such as criminal cases, discussions, and/or topics. Most of the material presented will NOT be censored.*

presentations, etc.) are *copyrighted* by the instructor. This university policy ([S12-7](#)) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives (LO)

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

- LO1** Document crime scenes using reports, photography, and diagrams, and demonstrate this knowledge in practical exercises.
- LO2** Demonstrate practical knowledge in processing specific types of evidence including fingerprints, blood spatter, firearms, glass, impression, and trace evidence.
- LO3** Demonstrate understanding of crime scene hazards and corresponding safety measures, search warrants and the 4th Amendment, chain of custody, court testimony, the Locard Exchange Principle, and other critical terms and concepts.
- LO4** Recognize, collect, handle, package and preserve physical evidence using safe and appropriate methods, and demonstrate and articulate this knowledge.
- LO5** Reconstruct crime scenes using the scientific method and evidence-based logic.

Required Texts/Readings

Miller, M. & Massey, P. (2018). *The Crime Scene: A Visual Guide, 2/E*. San Diego, CA: Academic Press

<http://www.forensicsciencesimplified.org/>

Additional required readings, tutorials, videos, and links will be posted on Canvas.

- NOTE: It is your responsibility to come to class prepared. Therefore, frequently check for new material posted, and download and/or print documents uploaded to Canvas.

Assignments

1. **Crime Scene Labs/Exercises (40%)**: Practical lab exercises in searching, scene diagrams, photography, report writing, developing and lifting latent fingerprints, blood spatter interpretation, and impression evidence. (LO1)
2. **Exams (40%)**: There will be two in-term exams, one final, and pop-quizzes on course material throughout the semester. Format may include the following: multiple choice questions, fill-in-the-blanks, true/false, short answers, short essays, and diagrams. (LO2)
3. **Chapter Review/Discussion Questions (20%)**: Chapter review questions can be found at the end of each chapter. Upload your responses to Canvas by the due date. Worksheets on videos, or other topics may also be distributed. (LO2-4)

Grading Scale for All Assignments

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A plus (A+)	97-100	C plus (C+)	77-79.9	F	<60
A	94-96.9	C	74-76.9		
<u>A minus (A-)</u>	<u>90-93.9</u>	<u>C minus (C-)</u>	<u>70-73.9</u>		
B plus (B+)	87-89.9	D plus (D+)	67-69.9		
B	84-86.9	D	64-66.9		
<u>B minus (B-)</u>	<u>80-83.9</u>	<u>D minus (D-)</u>	<u>60-63.9</u>		

All assignments are graded based on adherence to directions, thoroughness, thoughtfulness, clarity, and logic.

Note: A grade of C or better is required for all Justice Studies major and minor coursework, and desirable for students enrolled in the Forensic Science majors and/or minor.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may be available throughout the semester and will be used to augment your final grade up to **3%**. You may submit up to three extra credit assignments of your choosing. Each extra credit opportunity is given a weighted value of **10 marks** (Submit under Extra Credit #).

1. **Join a professional organization** (CAC, AAFS, IAI, *etc.*) that is of specific interest to *you* and supply proof of membership before the end of the semester. A professional organization is one that holds conferences and/or produces a periodic journal. This is not the same thing as an internship, job, or student organization; it is a professional *membership*.
2. **Tour a crime lab** and write a 2-page, typed, double-spaced synopsis of the experience. Santa Clara has monthly tours, and San Mateo has an annual tour in October.

3. **Portfolio:** Students may turn in a neat and organized 3-ring binder (portfolio) at the end of the semester containing all work completed in the class. Copies of group assignments are acceptable. This should be professional quality (for example, you would bring it to an interview to display your work).
4. **Read and critique a current journal article** from the forensic science discipline. Discuss its relevance to forensic science and how it contributes to the advancement the field.
5. **Upload proof of a submitted grant/scholarship application** and all the required paperwork (see the Justice Studies webpage for a list of scholarships). The grant or scholarship application may be for an external source. However, proof of submission must be uploaded along with the application package submitted.
6. **Redo and resubmit any three assignments OR lab reports.** However, changes **MUST** be reflected on the graded assignment F R Q W D L Q L Q J W K H L O N G W E A K Y F W R U ¶ V I H colored text or highlighter to illustrate where corrections have been made. Failure to do so will warrant no change to the original grade assigned. (*Submit appropriately under Extra Credit or Assignment Re-do #).

Class Protocol and Policies

All assignments are to be completed **a week after** being assigned or completion of a practical. **Late work MAY NOT** be submitted. Assignments submitted thereafter will **NOT** be **accepted** and results in an **automatic fail unless extraordinary, documented circumstances** exist or a **doctor's note** is presented. **AVOID MISSING 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 instructor 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 unless they are used to partake in this course virtually

Student Resources

Forensic Science Student Group (FSS)

University before earning her PhD in Forensic Sciences at the University of Wolverhampton in the UK. There, Dr. Bolton conducted preliminary research investigating the post mortem molecular properties of cartilage and its potential use as a forensic tool. Upon the completion of her doctorate, she has worked in partnership with Global Forensics and the University of Wolverhampton to prepare and provide academic and laboratory training to Rwandan National Police officers enrolled in an intensive forensic DNA and toxicology module. To date, she is teaching FS courses while providing students with fieldwork and laboratory internship experience through her on-going research involving cartilage degradation.

Tentative Course Schedule

Important Dates -

