

Forensic Science 202-351

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Introduction

Forensic science has been a popular college major in the United States for the past 10 years due to the prominence of the career and portrayal in the media. Educating the entry level forensic scientist is often left to forensic programs or general science academics. The optimal forensic scientist will have a strong background in biology and chemistry with knowledge of the criminal justice system. If a college graduate possesses an education in forensic laboratory methods, general science and criminal justice, they would be highly marketable for employment by crime labs in the United States. Employers often find that applicants lack either a strong traditional science background or the ability to apply this traditional science to matters of the law.

Course Purpose

To provide both lecture and laboratory training to general science majors who wish to pursue a career in forensic science. To provide criminal justice majors with an education that applies forensic science to the criminal investigation.

Course Design

The course is designed to include all disciplines of forensic science while making use of already existing laboratory equipment. The course would consist of a full year of lectures, with a lab each week. Students will get hands-on training in most of the procedures used by modern crime labs as well as learn about the history of how these techniques came into use. Each laboratory is designed to handle 15 students. Part of the forensic education will include field trips to a county medical examiner to view an autopsy and tour of the New Jersey State Police crime lab to view the trace, anthropology, ballistics, computer crimes and DNA facilities.

Grading

Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Lab Reports	20%

Syllabus

September	4 Course Introduction
	9 History of Forensic Science
	11 No Class
	16 Forensic Disciplines and Criminalistics
	18 Trace Evidence - Paint Analysis/Soil/Glass/Wood
	23 Collection Tools
	25 Collection of Evidence
	30 Trace Evidence - Fibers
October	2 Evidence Examination
	7 Pattern Identification - Fingerprints
	9 Applying Multiple Discipline
	14 Pattern Identification Footprints
	16 Pattern Identification - Toolmarks
	21 Firearms
	23 Identification of Gun Shot Residue
	28 Pattern Identification: Glass
	30 History of Forensic Serology
November	4 Serological Analysis
	6 Entomology
	11 Entomology
	13 Odontology
	18 Anthropology
	20 Human Remains Identification
	25 Crime Scene management
	27 No Class
December	2 Crime Scene evidence, notes, presumptive testing, collection
	4 Challenging Crime Scenes
	9 Photography
	11 Final Exam Review