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

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Lab Reports</td>
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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 Remain 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