

FORS 3366
Introduction to Forensic Science
Fall 2017

Instructor Information

PROFESSOR: Bobby L LaRue, PhD

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CLASS HOURS: On-line

CLASSROOM: On-line

OFFICE HOURS: On-line

Textbook:

- **Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science, 11th Edition, Richard Saferstein, Prentice Hall, ISBN-13: 9780133458824.**
- **(ebook: <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/criminalistics-an-introduction-to-forensic-richard-saferstein-v9780133598964#>)**

Course Description

This course explores forensic specialties in the criminal justice system. The course is intended to introduce non-science majors to Forensic Science disciplines and techniques. The ways in which the physical and social sciences are applied to law, criminal investigation, and the administration of justice will be addressed. Course topics include the analysis of different types of physical evidence including: fingerprints, shoe and tire impression, tool marks, drugs and biological fluids (DNA). Crime scene investigation, scientific expert testimony, medico-legal death investigation and current events involving forensic science will also be covered. Credits: 3.

Course Objectives:

- **To develop an understanding of the definition of Forensic Science -- with awareness of academic, professional, and pop cultural perspectives.**
- **To explore the nexus between science and law.**
- **To offer an overview of the range of disciplines, specialty areas, and applications generally included under the heading of Forensic Science.**

- To foster an informed understanding of scientific principles, terminology, and technical advances crucial to the different areas of Forensic Science.
- To explore issues of ethics and morality at the interface of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science.
- To provide foundation for informed consumption of news media, current events and scientific discourse as they relate to Forensic Science, Law and Criminal Justice.
- To encourage and provide opportunity to articulate learned material via exams, exercises and/or class discussion.

Attendance Policy

This is an online course; no class meeting times are scheduled. However, this is an intensive online course. If you even THINK you are a procrastinator, then this online course is NOT for you. A student's willingness or desire to learn is what actually makes the eLearning experience work.

In this course you will be expected to be self-paced with a suggested study schedule and timing the taking of quizzes and exams. The schedule has been developed to help you complete the course requirements and meet the course objectives. This online course was developed with non-traditional students in mind, i.e., mature students and those unable or those who find it difficult to come to campus to take the course in a classroom setting. If you are a student who does not typically work ahead of schedule in anticipation of interruptions, then again, this course is NOT for you. That being said, this course allows you the flexibility to manage your time, resources and assessments within each 3-4 week unit.

Schedule of Lectures and Course Progress (Suggested Study Schedule)

It is a self-paced online course. Course materials will be released in unit blocks. These will be accessible the night before the start of a new unit. Students are responsible for accessing course documents, and taking quizzes and exams in the Blackboard system. However, to help students complete the course requirements and meet the course objectives, the study schedule is suggested in the below table. Please note that this schedule is tentative and may change at the discretion of the instructor.

Wk (approx)	Week Starting	Unit	Topic	Book Chapter	Assessment	
					Quiz	Exam
1	23 Aug		Introduction and Orientation	-	Syllabus Quiz	-
		A - <i>Crime Scene</i>	Intro to Forensic Science and Criminalistics	1	1	ExamA
			The Crime Scene	2	2	
			Physical Evidence	3	3	
		B - <i>Pattern Analysis</i>	Crime-Scene Reconstruction Bloodstain Pattern Analysis	4	4	ExamB
			Fingerprints	6	5	
Firearms, Toolmarks, and other Impressions	8		6			
2	25 SEP	C - <i>Forensic Chemistry</i>	Drugs	11	7	ExamC
			Forensic Toxicology	12	8	
			Forensic Aspects of Fire and Explosion Investigation – part 1	16	-	
			Forensic Aspects of Fire and Explosion Investigation – part 2	16	9	
3	16 OCT	D - <i>Forensic Biology</i>	Forensic Serology	14	10	ExamD
			DNA: Part I	15	-	
			DNA: Part II	15	11	
4	4 Dec	Final Exam				

Grading Policy

There will be 11 on-line quizzes (15%), 4 Exams (60%), and a Final Exam (25%) in this course.

Assessment	Content Examined	Due Date (midnight)	Points	Percentage
Online Quizzes	Introduction	Syllabus Quiz 7 Sep		
	On assigned Chapters	Quiz 1-3: 22 Sep	30	15%
		Quiz 4-6: 20 Oct	30	
		Quiz 7-9: 17 Nov	30	
		Quiz 10-11: 1 Dec	20	
Exam A	Chapter 1, 2, 3 (Unit A)	22 Sep	100	15%
Exam B	Chapter 4, 6, 8 (Unit B)	20 Oct	100	15%
Exam C	Chapter 11, 12, 16 (Unit C)	17 Nov	100	15%

Exam D	Chapter 14, 15 (Unit D)	1 Dec	100	15%
Final Exam	Comprehensive	5 Dec	100	25%
			Total	100%

Grade scale:

90 – 100%	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 69%	D
Below 60%	F

Make-up Exams

**Quizzes and Exams are timed and can only be taken ONCE.
THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS.**

Blackboard

The course Home Page for FORS 3366 can be reached via: <http://distance.shsu.edu/>. Login to Blackboard system with your university username and password. Since announcements and handouts will be posted on the course home page, it is your responsibility to check the course home page regularly in order to keep up with the course. You are also responsible to take quizzes and exams on time from the Blackboard system.

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, visit the website, <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Student Academic Policies

All academic policies concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students, and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at the website, <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>

Telephones and Text Messagers in Academic Classrooms and Facilities

For more information about the use of telephones and text messagers in academic classrooms and facilities, visit the website, <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>.