

# **FORS 3366**

## **Introduction to Forensic Science**

**Fall Semester 2017**

### **Instructor Information**

PROFESSOR: Elizabeth Chesna, BS, EMT-B

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CLASS HOURS: On-line

CLASSROOM: On-line

OFFICE HOURS: On-line

### **Recommended Textbook**

- Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science, 11th Edition, Richard Saferstein, Prentice Hall, ISBN-13: 9780133458824.
  - (ebook: <http://www.coursesmart.com/criminalistics-an-introduction-to-forensic/richardsaferstein/dp/9780133458855>)

### **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:**

1. To develop an understanding of the definition of Forensic Science -- with awareness of academic, professional, and pop cultural perspectives.
2. To explore the nexus between science and law.

3. To offer an overview of the range of disciplines, specialty areas, and applications generally included under the heading of Forensic Science.
4. To foster an informed understanding of scientific principles, terminology, and technical advances crucial to the different areas of Forensic Science.
5. To explore issues of ethics and morality at the interface of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science.
6. To provide foundation for informed consumption of news media, current events and scientific discourse as they relate to Forensic Science, Law and Criminal Justice.
7. To encourage and provide opportunity to articulate learned material via exams, exercises and/or class discussion.

## Course Requirements

There is one required textbook for this online course: *Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science* by Richard Saferstein. This class will be conducted through SHSU online blackboard. The lectures will be posted online within each unit along with chapter topics, learning objectives, question/answer segment, and other learning resources. 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. If you have any questions on the material, quizzes, exam, homework, etc., please send them via email to [elizabeth.chesna@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.chesna@gmail.com).

## 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.

## Grading Policy

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

Assessment	Content Examined	Due Date (11:59pm)	Points	%
Online Quizzes	Introduction	Syllabus Quiz 7 <b>Aug 28</b>		
	On assigned Chapters	Quiz 1-3: <b>Sep 18</b>	30	15%
		Quiz 4-6: <b>Oct 9</b>	30	
		Quiz 7-9: <b>Nov 6</b>	30	
		Quiz 10-11: <b>Nov 27</b>	20	
Exam A	Chapter 1, 2, 3 (Unit A)	<b>September 18</b>	100	15%
Exam B	Chapter 4, 6, 8 (Unit B)	<b>October 9</b>	100	15%
Exam C	Chapter 11, 12, 16 (Unit C)	<b>November 6</b>	100	15%
Exam D	Chapter 14, 15 (Unit D)	<b>November 27</b>	100	15%
Final Exam	Comprehensive	<b>December 4</b>	100	25%
			<b>Total</b>	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 OR QUIZZES.**

## 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.

If you have technical problems such as lectures not opening, please contact SHSU Online Support desk at [blackboard@shsu.edu](mailto:blackboard@shsu.edu), (936) 294-2780, or send a chat request through blackboard. The first day of class, the schedule hours of SHSU Online Support desk are 7:00 am to midnight, Monday through Saturday. For questions about your class schedule, e-mail account, or password assistance, please refer to the IT@Sam help desk. They can be reached at (936) 294-1950, or by e-mail [helpdesk@shsu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@shsu.edu). NB. All quizzes within a unit will be made available when each unit begins. All quizzes MUST be completed by midnight the due date listed above (i.e. at the completion of each unit).

## 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>

## Schedule of Lectures and Course Material and the Annotated Outline of Topics

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	Week Starting	Unit	Topic	Book Chp.	Quiz	Exam
1	Aug 23		Introduction & Orientation		Syllab. Quiz	-
2	Aug 28	A: <i>Crime Scene</i>	Intro to Forensic Science and Criminalistics	1	1	A
3	Sep 4		The Crime Scene	2	2	
4	Sep 11		Physical Evidence	3	3	
5	Sept 18	B: <i>Pattern Analysis</i>	Crime Scene Reconstruction Bloodstain Pattern Analysis	4	4	B
6	Sept 25		Fingerprints	6	5	
7	Oct 2		Firearms, Toolmarks, and other Impressions	8	6	
8	Oct 9	C: <i>Forensic Chem</i>	Drugs	11	7	C
9	Oct 16		Forensic Toxicology	12	8	
10	Oct 23		Forensic Aspects of Fire and Explosion Investigation – Part 1	16	-	
11	Oct 30		Forensic Aspects of Fire and Explosion Investigation – Part 2	16	9	
12	Nov 6	D: <i>Forensic Biology</i>	Forensic Serology	14	10	D
13	Nov 13		DNA: Part 1	15	-	
14	Nov 20		DNA: Part 2	15	11	
16	Nov 27	Study Week				
17	Dec 4	Final Exam				

### Contact Information:

Any questions on the material, quizzes, exams, and group discussion can be directed to Prof. Chesna via email (elizabeth.chesna@gmail.com). A response will be issued within 36 hours during the business week. Any questions or concerns emailed during the weekend or over a holiday, a response will be issued within two business days.