



FORS 5116 Seminar in Forensic Science Spring Semester 2018



Course Information

Professor: David Gangitano, PhD

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Class hours: Thursday 11:00-11:50 a.m.

Classroom: CFS 104

Office Hours: Thursday 2-3 (other times available by e-mail appointment)

Textbook

Not Applicable

Course description

This graduate seminar series will focus on current topics and research in forensic science.

Course Objectives

The purpose of the graduate seminar is to expose students to original research, new topics, or current issues in a wide variety of forensic disciplines. Students are given the opportunity to engage in active dialogue with an expert in the designated field. The seminar should help the students *apply* their scientific knowledge to actual casework, assist with problem-solving, and broaden their scope of understanding. Students are given the opportunity to engage in active discussion about the different ongoing research projects and data. The seminar should help the students apply their scientific knowledge to actual casework, assist with problem-solving, and broaden their scope of understanding.

Grading

Students are required to actively participate in the seminar series by engaging speakers, asking questions and other activities directed by the instructor. Each student will be required to make at least one oral presentation during the seminar.

There will be no examinations. This is a seminar series requiring active participation from the students. Participation is required in and out of the classroom. The instructor may request feedback electronically or in hardcopy form. The entire grade is based upon attendance (17.5%), participation (17.5%), student feed-back/evaluations (17.5%), final performance during their oral presentation (17.5%) and FSAT evaluation performance (30%). Students are required to present an overview of their research (15-20 minutes, excluding questions) including aims, forensic significance, hypotheses and results/findings (to date).

Final grades will be based upon the following scale: 90 plus an "A"; 80 to 89 a "B"; below 79 a "C". Students should not count on a curve of the final grade. The instructor reserves

the right to modify the grading scheme to accommodate for a missed test or final examination in extenuating circumstances. The instructor also reserves the right to assign a final exam grade of 0% should he deem the absence was not properly handled or was unjustified. Appeals will be handled in accord with University Policy Statement 900823, Academic Grievance Procedures for Students.

Anticipated Week-by-week schedule

Student presentations (March and April) are anticipated in alphabetical order. Changes to the schedule can be made to accommodate the schedules of invited experts. * *Schedule may change during the semester as required.* Notifications of such changes may be made by e-mail or in course Blackboard announcements.

Week (days)	Topic
1/18/18	Introduction - David Gangitano Rachel Houston
1/25/18	Amy Sorensen Carrie Mayes
2/1/18	Stephanie Basiliere Elizabeth Chesna
2/8/18	Invited speaker - Forensic Biology/Education (Cassandra Campelli, Cassandra Canela, Kristen Cossota, Mary Symonds)
2/15/18	Invited Speaker - Latent Prints (Laurissa Pilkington) or Firearms (Mallory Foster) or Toxicology (Jesse Zavala, Steph Galiotto).
2/22/18	AAFS meeting
3/1/18	Coronado, Valerie Day, Justin
3/8/18	Fisher, Caitlyn Graham, Kari
3/15/18	<i>Spring break</i>
3/22/18	Guerin, Abby Gutierrez, Ryan
3/29/18	Hale, Mackenzie Li, Sun Yi
4/5/18	Lowry, Janna Palmquist, Kaitlyn
4/12/18	Petrash, Taylor Quintanilla, Brenda
4/19/18	Schackmuth, Madison Smith, Christina

4/26/18	Tschoepe, Leslie
5/3/18	Presenter TBA

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend class. Class attendance requirements will be recorded in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401. In accordance with university policy, students will not be penalized for absences of up to three hours as long as assigned work has not been missed. If a student is absent it is their responsibility to obtain the class material and remain current with information distributed during class. Occasionally changes in schedule may be announced in class. These changes apply to all students, even those who were absent from class. One letter grade may, at the discretion of the instructor, be deducted from students' final grade if they miss more than four classes. There will be no distinctions between "excused" and "unexcused" absences. Students are expected to be on time to class. After the beginning of the class, late students may be counted as absent.

Academic dishonesty

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf

Disabled student policy

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf

Services for disabled students

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

Student absences on religious holy day policy

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

Use of telephones and text messagers in academic classrooms and facilities

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/100728.pdf