



FORS 3366

Introduction to Forensic Science

Spring Semester 2018

Instructor Information

PROFESSOR: Elizabeth Chesna, BS, EMT-B

OFFICE: Online and CFS 209

TELEPHONE: N/A

E-MAIL: eac028@shsu.edu

CLASS HOURS: On-line

CLASSROOM: On-line

OFFICE HOURS: On-line

Textbook

☒ Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science by Richard Saferstein, **11th** Edition, Prentice Hall, ISBN-13: 9780133458824.

☒ (ebook: <http://www.coursesmart.com/criminalistics-an-introduction-to-forensic/richard-saferstein/dp/9780133458855>)

Course Description

This course explores forensic specialties in the criminal justice system and 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 such as fingerprints, shoe and tire impressions, blood spatter, ballistics, chemical residues, tool marks, hair, fiber, glass, questioned documents, 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's 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 and accessible the night before the start of a new unit. Students are responsible for accessing course documents, and completing quizzes and exams in the Blackboard system on time. If you have any questions on the material, quizzes, exam, homework, etc., please send them via email to eac028@shsu.edu.

Attendance Policy

This is an online course; no face-to-face class meeting times will be scheduled. However, this is an intensive online course. If you **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; you are responsible for completing each assessment by the deadline. You will be provided with a suggested study schedule for quizzes and exams. The schedule has been developed and organized 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 on-line quizzes (15%), 4 Exams (60%), and a Final Exam (25%) in this course.

Assessment	Content Examined (Topics)	Points	Percentage
Syllabus Quiz	Week 1 - Introduction		
Quiz 1-3	Chapter 1, 2, 3 (Unit A)	30	15%
Quiz 4-6	Chapter 4, 6, 8 (Unit B)	30	
Quiz 7-9	Chapter 11, 12, 16 (Unit C)	30	
Quiz 10-11	Chapter 14, 15 (Unit D)	20	
Exam A	Chapter 1, 2, 3 (Unit A)	100	15%
Exam B	Chapter 4, 6, 8 (Unit B)	100	15%
Exam C	Chapter 11, 12, 16 (Unit C)	100	15%
Exam D	Chapter 14, 15 (Unit D)	100	15%
Final Exam	Comprehensive	100	25%
		TOTAL	100%

Note. 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).

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 the 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 the SHSU Online Support desk at blackboard@shsu.edu, (936) 294-2780, or send a chat request through Blackboard. The

first day of class, the scheduled hours of operation for the 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.

Student Academic Polices

All academic polices concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Students with Disabilities, 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 following study schedule is suggested in the below table. Please note that this schedule is tentative and may change at the discretion of the instructor.

Schedule of Lectures and Course Material				
	Release Date	Assessment	Topic	Due Date (Midnight)
	Jan 17	Syllabus Quiz	Introduction and Orientation	January 26
Unit A - <i>Crime Scene</i>	Jan 18	Quiz 1	Chapter 1 - Intro to Forensic Science and Criminalistics	February 16
		Quiz 2	Chapter 2 - The Crime Scene	
		Quiz 3	Chapter 3 - Physical Evidence	
		Exam A	Chapters 1, 2, & 3	
Unit B - <i>Pattern Analysis</i>	Feb 17	Quiz 4	Chapter 4 - Crime-Scene Reconstruction Bloodstain Pattern Analysis	March 16
		Quiz 5	Chapter 6 - Fingerprints	
		Quiz 6	Chapter 8 - Firearms, Toolmarks, and other Impressions	
		Exam B	Chapters 4, 6, & 8	
Unit C - <i>Forensic Chemistry</i>	Mar 17	Quiz 7	Chapter 11 - Drugs	April 13
		Quiz 8	Chapter 12 - Forensic Toxicology	
		Quiz 9	Chapter 16 - Forensic Aspects of Fire and Explosion Investigation: Part I & Part II	
		Exam C	Chapters 11, 12, & 16	
Unit D - <i>Forensic Biology</i>	Apr 14	Quiz 10	Chapter 14 - Forensic Serology	May 4
		Quiz 11	Chapter 15 - DNA: Part I & Part II	
		Exam D	Chapters 14 & 15	
Unit A-D	May 5	Final Exam	Comprehensive	May 9 (Wed)

Contact Information:

Any questions on the material, quizzes, exams, and group discussion can be directed to Professor Chesna via email (eac028@shsu.edu). A response will be issued within 36 hours during the business week. Any questions or concerns emailed during the weekend or over a holiday will receive a response within two business days.