

# **FORS 4310**

## **Physical Evidence and Identification Techniques**

Spring 2018

### **Course Information**

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CLASS HOURS: On-line.

### **Textbook**

Fundamentals of Forensic Science, Author: Houck, Max M., Siegel, Jay A., 1st Edition 2006 (or 2nd Edition, 2010). You can find the book from the following resources:

- Ebook is available from the NGL library at Sam. Search “Fundamentals of Forensic Science” from Engine Orange at the front page of NGL library website (<http://library.shsu.edu/>). Note that you need to login to NGL library using your SHSU account if you are off campus. You will find the textbook from the search result.
- Publisher website:  
<https://www.elsevier.com/books/fundamentals-of-forensic-science/houck/978-0-12-374989-5>
- Coursesmart  
website: <http://www.coursesmart.com/fundamentals-of-forensic-science/max-m-houck-jay-a-siegel/dp/9780123567628>

### **Course Description**

This course introduces students to the identification of physical evidence. Recognition and identification of physical characteristics will be emphasized in this class. Biological and chemical identification of physical evidence will not be covered in this course. Students will gain basic knowledge of various identification techniques for physical evidence, such as crime scene patterns, bloodstains, fingerprint, impression, hair, fiber, firearms, toolmarks, glass, paint, fire debris, explosive, and questioned documents.

Credit 3.

### **Course Objective:**

Forensic science covers a wide spectrum of applications of science to the matters of law. Identification of physical evidence requires a combination of physical examination, biological testing, and chemical analysis. The objective of this course is to introduce the examination and comparison techniques that are commonly used during the examination of physical evidence relevant to the investigation of a crime. Identification technologies for physical evidence will be highlighted in this course. A short list of the topics are listed below:

- The Nature of Physical Evidence
- Physical Pattern at the Crime Scene
- The Microscopic Identification of Physical Evidence
- Bloodstain Pattern Analysis
- Fingerprints
- Firearms, Tool Marks, and Impressions
- Questioned Document

### **Attendance Policy**

This is an online course. There are no class meeting times 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 online learning experience work.

In this course, you will be expected to be self-paced on a suggested study schedule as regards the taking of quizzes and exams. The minimum study progress has been developed to help you complete the course requirements and meet the course objective. This online course was developed with non-traditional students in mind -- 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 prone to last minute problems, and not one who typically works ahead of schedule in anticipation of these situations, then again, this online course is NOT for you.**

## **Grading Policy**

There will be on-line quizzes (40%), 4 Exams (60%) in this course.

	Topic	Points	Percent age
On-line Quizzes	On each Chapter		40%
Exam 1	Unit A	100	15%
Exam 2	Unit B	100	15%
Exam 3	Unit C	100	15%
Exam 4	Unit D	100	15%
Total			100%
Bonus	Participation of Day 1 post at discussion board	2	

Grade scale:

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

## **Make-up Exams**

Quizzes, Exams 1-4 are timed and can only be taken once. There will be no make-up exams.

## **Schedule of Lectures and Course Progress (Suggested Study Schedule)**

It is a self-paced online course. Students are responsible to read assigned chapters, access course documents and take quizzes and exams in the Blackboard system. However, to help students complete the course requirements and meet the course objective, the study schedule is suggested below:

Date	Topics	Test
Day 1	Day 1, Introduction and Overview Visit Virtual Office	Bonus (2 points)
Unit 1	Chapter 3 The Nature of Evidence Chapter 4 Microscope Chapter 12 The examination of Hair Exam 1	Quiz 1 Quiz 2 Quiz 3
Unit 2  March 6	Chapter 15 Textile Fibers Chapter 16 Paint analysis Chapter 17 Soil and glass Exam 2	Quiz 4 Quiz 5 Quiz 6 Exam 2
Unit 3	Chapter 18 Fires and Explosions Chapter 19 Friction Ridge Examination Chapter 20 Questioned Documents Exam 3	Quiz 7 Quiz 8 Quiz 9 Exam 3
Unit 4	Unit D: Chapter 21 Firearm and toolmark Chapter 22 Impression Exam 4	Quiz 10 Quiz 11 Exam 4

### **Blackboard**

The course Home Page for FORS 4310 can be reached via: <https://shsu.blackboard.com>. 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**

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

### **Disabled Student Policy**

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/187f9029-a4c6-4fb4-aea9-2d501f2a60f3.pdf>

### **Services for Disabled Students**

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/disability/>

**Student Absences on Religious Holiday Policy**

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>