

FIVS 205 *Introduction to Forensic and Investigative Sciences*

Three Credit Hours (3-0)

MWF 1:50 – 2:40 PM

Heep Center, Room 101

Instructor: Dr. Adrienne Brundage

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Office Hours: MW: 10:00 - Noon

Heep Center, Room 404A

*******Disclosure: This course will include presentations and discussions of sensitive materials related to forensic research and investigations.*******

Prerequisites: None.

Attendance: Subject to attendance check each scheduled class period.

Required Text: Forensic science: An introduction to scientific and investigative techniques. James and Nordby. 3rd ed. CRC Press, New York, New York, 2003. Text should be available through the MSC Aggie bookstore.

Handouts: May be used throughout course.

Course Description: An overview of the principles, procedures, and concepts of forensic and investigative sciences, students will receive instruction in the definitions, scope, and use of tools, techniques and protocols in forensic applications used to resolve social, regulatory, and legal disputes.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students should be able to define forensic and investigative sciences and describe the scope of application.
- Students will be able to describe problem-solving principles and organize typical operational protocols used in forensic science.
- Students will be able to recognize the scientific basis, application of tools, and techniques in forensic science and to compare capabilities and limitations.
- Students will be able to summarize and illustrate current scientific, ethical, and legal issues in forensic and investigative science.

Instructor and Student Objectives:

- **Instructor:** The instructor will work towards effective communication with students in regards to what is expected from them for the course. The instructor will also work to effectively communicate subject matter of course to students.
- **Student:** The students should be prepared to devote time outside of class towards reading assignments, which will be part of examination process. Students are expected to exhibit respect in the classroom for other students and instructors. Interacting with students during lecture (i.e. talking, cell phones and other electronic devices) will not be permitted. Students doing so could be asked to leave the class. Students are asked to meet with the professor to discuss grades or other matters related to the course. Grades being disputed must be brought to the attention of the professor within **one week** after posting.

Conduct of Course:

- Lectures will be conducted with the use of chalk board and slides. Instructor will interact with students throughout the semester.
- Some activities will take place outdoors.
- Students will be asked to participate in activities.
- All cell phones, pagers, mp3 players, and other electronic devices are to be turned off and put away while in the classroom
- Do no answer calls, view or send text messages, or surf the web while in the classroom. What's that saying? Students I know you're texting, no one just looks down at their crotch and smiles.
- Please be respectful to those around you and minimize talking to other students while the instructor is speaking...it throws me off and then I get all annoyed. ☹
- Please do not sleep in class, that's also annoying.
- Do not bring visitors or children into class without permission. Just ask me and I'll happily allow them in...I just have to let the department know so I don't get in trouble.
- Do not bring food, drink, or tobacco into the classroom unless you plan to share with all of us.
- Place your name and Blinn ID # in your book. It will not affect the resale value, and It will help prevent theft or loss of your book.
- If you have any problems with other students in the class, please come and talk to me about it.
- All information you need is probably on eCampus. (Seriously. Check there first)
- Any questions, comments, concerns, etc. come and see me in my office or drop me an email.

MAKE UP EXAMS

Make-up exams are available only with a university approved excuse. Students will have two weeks from the date of the initial examination to take make-up examination. If student does not take exam during that period, the student will receive a zero for that examination. University accepted excuses are needed in order to take make-up exam. Professor discretion can be implemented. Just come talk to me about things! Everything always works out better that way.

The university views class attendance as an individual student responsibility (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu>). Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments. Instructors are expected to give adequate notice of the dates on which major tests will be given and assignments will be due. This information should be provided on the course syllabus, which should be distributed at the first class meeting.

7.1 The student is responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to the instructor to substantiate the reason for absence. Among the reasons absences are considered excused by the university are the following: to view Rule 7, please go to <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm>

For this class a Texas A&M University Explanatory Statement for Absence from Class form (<http://attendance.tamu.edu>) and a Confirmation of visit to a health care professional affirming date and time of visit will need to be obtained and presented to the Instructor.

Utilization of Health Center services does not indicate that a class excuse will be given. Each patient is given a receipt upon payment for services; however, this is not a class excuse and is solely for insurance purposes should the student choose to file a claim. Students are encouraged to communicate with their instructors if they are going to miss class for any reason. A copy of *Student Rules* may be obtained from Student Activities in the Koldus Building or at the following website: <http://student-rules.tamu.edu>

7.1.7 Required participation in military duties.

7.1.8 Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled.

7.2 If the student is found to be too ill to attend class by a Health Center physician, the director of the Health Center or his/her representative will, on request of the student, confirm this fact.

7.3 If an off-campus physician provides evidence of a student's illness, the excuse documentation must contain the date and time of the illness and doctor's opinion that the student was too ill to attend class. If a physician determines that the student is not ill, he or she will not receive an excuse. If no evidence is available, the instructor will decide whether makeup work will be allowed.

7.4 The associate dean for undergraduate programs, or the dean's designee, of the student's college may provide a letter for the student to take to the instructor stating that the dean has verified the student's absence as excused.

7.5 If the student is seeking an excused absence, the student must notify the instructor as soon as possible after the absence, but no later than the end of the second working day after the last date of absence. If the absence occurs the same day as a scheduled exam or other graded procedure, the student must notify his/her instructor or department by the end of the next working day after the absence in order to ensure full rights. The student is responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to the instructor within one week of his or her absence return to substantiate the reason for absence. If the absence was excused, the instructor must either provide the student an opportunity to make up the exam or other work missed or provide a satisfactory alternative completed within 30 calendar days from the last date of absence.

7.6 The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence.

7.7 See Part III, Grievance Procedures: 49 <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/part3.htm>
Unexcused Absences, for information on appealing an instructor's decision.

7.8 If the student is absent for excused reasons for an unreasonable amount of time during the semester, the academic dean of the student's college may consider giving the student a grade of W during the semester enrolled or a NG (no grade) following posting of final grades.

7.9 Whenever a student is absent for unknown reasons for an extended period of time, the instructor should initiate a check on the welfare of the student by reporting through the head of the student's major department to the dean of the student's college.

Academic Dishonesty:

<http://student-rules.tamu.edu>

From Texas A&M University Student Rules

Scholastic Dishonesty:

Students in MCB213:200 are expected to carry out course responsibilities in compliance with the Aggie Honor Code:

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do."

Honor Council Rules and Procedures on the Web at:

<http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>

Misconduct in research or scholarship includes fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, reviewing, or reporting research. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data.

Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one's work, should the instructor request it, is sufficient grounds to initiate an academic dishonesty case.

Academic dishonesty includes the commission of any of the following acts. This listing is not, however, exclusive of any other acts that may reasonably be called academic dishonesty. Clarification is provided for each definition by listing some prohibited behaviors.

1. Cheating

Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise.

2. Fabrication

Making up data or results, and recording or reporting them; submitting fabricated documents.

3. Falsification

Manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

4. Multiple Submissions

Submitting substantial portions of the same work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor of the class for which the student submits the work.

5. Plagiarism

The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.

General information pertaining to plagiarism:

Style Guides:

Instructors are responsible for identifying any specific style/format requirement for the course. Examples include, but are not limited to, American Psychological Association (APA) style and Modern Languages Association (MLA) style.

Direct Quotation:

Every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and must be properly acknowledged in the text by citation or in a footnote or endnote.

Paraphrase:

Prompt acknowledgment is required when material from another source is paraphrased or summarized, in whole or in part, in one's own words. To acknowledge a paraphrase properly, one might state: "To paraphrase Locke's comment..." and then conclude with a footnote or endnote identifying the exact reference.

Borrowed facts:

Information gained in reading or research, which is not common knowledge, must be acknowledged.

Common Knowledge:

Common knowledge includes generally known facts such as the names of leaders of prominent nations, basic scientific laws, etc., basic historical information (e.g., George Washington was the first President of the United States.) Common knowledge does not require citation.

Works Consulted:

Materials which add only to a general understanding of a subject may be acknowledged in the bibliography, and need not be footnoted or end-noted. Writers should be certain that they have not used specific information from a general source in preparing their work unless it has been appropriately cited. Writers should not include books, papers, or any other type of source in a bibliography, "works cited" list, or a "works consulted" list unless those materials were actually used in the research. The practice of citing unused works is sometimes referred to as "padding."

Footnotes, endnotes, and in-text citations:

One footnote, endnote, or in-text citation is usually enough to acknowledge indebtedness when a number of connected sentences are drawn from one source. When direct quotations are used, however, quotation marks must be inserted and acknowledgment made. Similarly, when a passage is paraphrased, acknowledgment is required.

Graphics, design products, and visual aids:

All graphics, design products, and visual aids from another creator used in academic assignments must reference the source of the material. General information pertaining to plagiarism:

6. Complicity

Intentionally or knowingly helping, or attempting to help, another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

For additional information please see: <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/>

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 118B in the Cane Hall. The phone number is (979) 845-1637 or visit their website at: <http://disability.tamu.edu>

Course Requirements

Lecture Exams – There will be three multiple choice lecture exams during the semester, based on material covered in lecture and additional assigned readings.

Weekly Quizzes – There will be weekly quizzes administered online through eCampus. The quizzes will cover in class material from the previous week, and will be multiple choice, take home and open note. The quizzes will be timed—you have 40 minutes to finish 20 questions. You will have 2 chances to take each quiz, and you must finish the quiz within 72 hours. No late quizzes will be accepted without a university approved excuse that covers all three days. (Seriously, they are open for 72 hours, and they are only 20 questions. Get them done!).

In-Class Assignment – Throughout the semester I will assign activities in class. The due date on these will vary, and will be announced at the time of assignment.

Extra Credit – There will be several chances for extra credit throughout the semester. I will announce extra credit opportunities in class, and won't remind you about them. I will also not accept late extra credit for any reason, including university approved reason (nope, not even for that one you just thought of). It's extra! No late extra credit for any reason.

Grading:

11 Quizzes (20 pts per quiz)	220 pts
Exam 1	100 pts
Exam 2	100 pts
Final Exam (not cumulative)	100 pts
Spatter Assignment	50 pts
Crime Scene Assignment	75 pts
CSI Spot the Mistakes	<u>25 pts</u>
Total Points	670 pts

Final grades will be based on the percentage of total points earned, thus
A=90-100%; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=<60.

Tentative schedule of lectures, demonstrations, and examinations:

Date	Lecture	Reading	Assignment/Quiz
8/26	Lecture 1: Introduction		
8/28	Lecture 2: Here we stand	Chapter 1	
8/30	Lecture 3: Legality of Scientific Evidence	Chapter 33	Quiz 1 (Lectures 2-3; Chapters 1, 33)
9/2	Lecture 4: Physical Evidence	Chapter 33	
9/4	Lecture 5: Forensic Taphonomy	Chapter 8	
9/6	Lecture 6: Forensic Pathology	Chapter 2	Quiz 2 (Lectures 4-6; Chapters 2, 8, 33)
9/9	Lecture 7: Biological Fluids	Chapter 14	
9/11	Lecture 8: Toxicology	Chapter 5	
9/13	Lecture 9: Anthropology	Chapter 7	Quiz 3 (Lectures 7-9; Chapters 5, 7, 14)
9/16	Lecture 10: Forensic Odontology	Chapter 6	
9/18	Lecture 11: Traumatic Death and Wounds	Chapter 4	
9/20	Lecture 12: Forensic Psychology/Psychiatry	Chapter 28 & 29	Quiz 4 (Lectures 10-12; Chapters 4, 6, 28, 29)
9/23	Lecture 13: Nursing	Chapter 3	
9/25	Catch up day or Voices of Death (Movie)		
9/27	Exam 1 (Lectures 2-12; Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 28, 29, 33)		Bring exam scantron
9/30	Lecture 14: CSI	Chapter 10	
10/2	Lecture 15: Fingerprints	Chapter 17	
10/4	Lecture 16: Footwear	Chapter 18	Quiz 5 (Lectures 14-16; Chapters 10, 17, 18)
10/7	Lecture 17: Firearms and Toolmarks	Chapter 20	
10/9	Lecture 18: Lockpicking		
10/11	Lecture 19: Forensic Entomology: Stored/Urban Products	Chapter 9	Quiz 6 (Lectures 17-19; Chapters 9, 20)
10/14	Lecture 20: Medicolegal Entomology	Chapter 9	
10/16	Entomology Demonstration		
10/18	Lecture 21: Trace Evidence	Chapter 16	Quiz 7 (Lectures 20-21; Chapter 9, 16)
10/21	Lecture 22: Identifying Blood	Chapter 13	
10/23	Catch up day or LA Homicide (Movie)		

10/25	Exam 2 (Lectures 13-21; Chapters 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 20)		Bring exam scantron
10/28	Lecture 23: Blood Spatter	Chapter 11	
10/30	Blood Spatter Demonstration		Spatter Assignment
11/1	Lecture 24: DNA Evidence	Chapter 15	Quiz 8 (Lectures 23-24; Chapters 11, 15)
11/4	Lecture 25: Controlled Substances	Chapter 22	
11/6	Lecture 26: Questioned Documents	Chapter 21	
11/8	Lecture 27: Structural Failures	Chapter 23	Quiz 9 (Lectures 25-27; Chapters 21, 22, 23)
11/11	Lecture 28: Basic Fire and Fire Investigations	Chapter 24	
11/13	Lecture 29: Wildlife Forensics		
11/15	Lecture 30: Vehicular Accident Reconstruction	Chapter 25	Quiz 10 (Lectures 28-30; Chapters 24, 25)
11/18	Lecture 31: The Forensic Laboratory	Chapter 12	
11/20	Lecture 32: Countering Chaos	Chapter 32	
11/22	Lecture 33: Serial Offenders	Chapter 30	Quiz 11 (Lectures 31-33; Chapters 12, 30, 32)
11/25	Lecture 34: Profiling	Chapter 31	
11/27	Crime Scene Assignment (No class meeting)		Crime Scene Assignment due by 11:59 PM on 11/27
11/28	Thanksgiving		
11/29	Thanksgiving		No quiz this week. Eat some good food!
12/2	CSI: Spot the Mistakes		Paragraph due 12/3 by 11:59 PM
12/10	Final Exam: Tuesday, December 10, 3:30-5:30 PM (Not comprehensive—Over lectures 22-35; chapters 11, 12, 15, 21, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, 32)		Bring exam scantron