



SCI 1901F - Forensic Science
Online Course Syllabus – Fall 2017

Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Administration Building room # 23, 678-466-5445, disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu.

Course Description:

Number and Title:

SCI1901F(CRN 80160)
Forensic Science

Credit Hours:

3.0 semester credit hours

Catalog Description:

Provides an introduction to the science of forensics. Topics will include various scientific principles and techniques used in solving crimes. Case studies will be presented.

Course Prerequisite: None

GaVIEW Desire2Learn (Online Instruction):

Online activities will take place in Desire2Learn, the virtual classroom for the course. Discussions, announcements and other relevant course material will be posted in Desire2Learn. This should be your first point of contact for the class. You can gain access to Desire2Learn, by signing on to the SWAN portal and selecting "GaVIEW" on the top right side. If you experience any difficulties in Desire2Learn, please email or call The HUB at TheHub@mail.clayton.edu or (678) 466-HELP (Do not email me because I cannot fix technical issues). You will need to provide the date and time of the problem,

your SWAN username, the name of the course that you are attempting to access, and your instructor's name.

Notebook Computer Requirement:

Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU's Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to <http://itpchoice.clayton.edu/policy.htm>.

Computer Skill Prerequisites:

- Able to use the computer's operation system (Windows®, etc.)
- Able to access and send messages using your school e-mail (Outlook®, Outlook Express®,)
- Able to use a Web browser (Internet Explorer®) and search engine
- Able to download files from a web site to your computer
- Able to use a word processor system (Word®)
- Able to upload and download a document using Desire2Learn
- Able to access and send messages Desire2Learn
- Able to post discussion topics and respond to other's discussion topics in Desire2Learn
- Able to access class learning materials in the modules in Desire2Learn

If you are unable to perform these computer tasks, it is HIGHLY recommended that you do not take this online class. SCI1901F is also taught as a traditional face-to-face class and this format will be better suited for you.

*It is important in using the different web sites in this class to keep in mind the optimal Internet browser to use. Internet Explorer does not always work best with all features with DESIRE2LEARN but Chrome and Firefox are suggested. However, I have had some issues with Firefox so I recommend using **Chrome**.

Course Objectives:

- To learn the basic principles of chemistry, biology and physics used in collecting and analyzing physical evidence.
- To form conclusions from data obtained in simple scientific investigations of physical evidence.
- To understand the laws governing the collection and analysis of physical evidence.
- To learn the historical discoveries and ground breaking legal cases that have led to modern forensic science.

Student Learning Outcomes:**General education outcomes:**

- Communication: knowledge base.
SCI 1901F will provide knowledge base information necessary for communication of information concerning forensics investigations.
 - Critical Thinking:
Question/Issue, Method, Evidence, Conclusion.
SCI 1901F will provide problem solving skills in the area of forensic science. Students will analyze the results of scientific investigations of physical evidence and determine whether the information is pertinent to a particular case.
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Instructor Information:

Dr. Susan F. Hornbuckle
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Internet: <http://www.susanhornbuckle.com/>
Office: LDS 235B

Office hours:	9:50 AM - 11:05 AM	T	LDS235B
	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM by appointment*	Th	LDS222
	1:10 PM - 2:10 PM	T	LDS235B
	2:30 PM - 3:30 PM by appointment*	Th	LDS222
	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM by appointment*	T	LDS235B
	8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	M,W	Online
	I will answer all questions within 48 hours. Typically it will be much sooner than this during the week.		

*You may phone, email or talk to me in person to make an appointment.

Class Meetings: None. This is a 100% online class.

Textbook Information:

Text: Criminalistics by Richard Saferstein, 11th Edition

Text Coverage: Chapters 1 – 3, 5-12, 14

Evaluation:

Your evaluation in SCI 1901F will be based upon the following components:

Component	Points
Introduction Module Quiz and Your Introduction	20
Participation Points (Participation in D2L Class Discussions)	70 (10 points per module)
Module Exams (7) @ 100 points	700
Group Project (in place of a final exam) @ 100 pts	100
Total	890

Grading:

The grade you receive in SCI 1901F will be based upon the following distribution:

letter grade	percentage range
A	90% or greater
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	< 60%

Mid-term Progress Report

The mid-term grade in this course, which will be issued on October 3rd, may or may not reflect 50% of the entire course grade. Based on this grade, students may choose to withdraw from the course and receive a grade of "W." Students pursuing this option must fill out an official withdrawal form, available in the Office of the Registrar, or withdraw on-line using the Swan by mid-term, which occurs on October 6th. [Instructions for withdrawing are provided at this link.](#)

The last day to withdraw without academic accountability is Friday, October 6, 2017.

Course Schedule:

The exam for each module will be open Wednesday @ 5:00am – Sunday @ 11:59pm on the second week that the module is open.

WEEK	Saferstein Text	Module	Lecture Topic
August 12 – 24	Introduction Module		Review the materials in the module, post your introduction in the discussion section and get started on Module #1
August 12 – 27 th	Chapter 1	1	Introduction/History
August 28 th – September 10 th	Chapter 2 Chapter 3	2	The Crime Scene Physical Evidence
September 11 th – 24 th	Chapter 5 Chapter 6	3	Death Investigation Fingerprints
September 25 th – October 8 th	Chapter 7 Chapter 9 (p. 203 – 216)	4	The Microscope Matter and Light
October 9 th – 22 nd	Chapter 9 (p. 217 – 226) Chapter 10	5	Glass Examination Hairs and Fibers
October 23 rd – November 5 th	Chapter 11 Chapter 12	6	Drugs Forensic Toxicology
November 6 th – 19 th	Chapter 13 Chapter 14	7	Metals, Paint, and Soil Serology
November 19 th - December 4 th	Turn in group video project on or before December 4 th at 10:00 PM.		

*The instructor reserves the right to alter the course schedule at any time during the semester.

Exams:

There will be an exam at the end of each module. The exam for each module will be open Tuesday at 5:00am – Sunday at 11:59pm. You may take the exam as many as 2 times. The first attempt will be worth a maximum of 100 points and the second attempt will be worth a maximum of 85 points. Your highest score will count as your exam score for that module so repeating the quiz can't lower your grade. Be aware that the questions may not be the same from one attempt to the next.

The exams will be timed (~45 seconds per question) so be sure to pace yourself appropriately so that you can answer each question. Please be aware of the dates and times that each module closes. I recommend that you do not procrastinate. Allow yourself time to deal with unexpected technical problems, etc. **Your computer not working is NOT a valid reason for not completing a module. You signed up for an online class. One of the expectations is that you will have a working computer.**

Group Work and Discussions:

You will be assigned a group for each module. Each group will be assigned 6-10 questions. Once your group is in agreement as to the correct answers for these questions, post each question and answer as a discussion topic. These should be posted by **11:59 pm on the Monday before the Module Exam opens (worth 7 participation points per module)**. Each student should then reply to a least three other discussion posts before the module closes (worth 3 participation points per module) before the module closes on Sunday at 11:59pm. **Your computer not working is NOT a valid reason for not participating in group activities and discussions. You signed up for an online class. One of the expectations is that you will have a working computer.**

Group Project:

You will be assigned a group with 2-4 members by the third week of the semester. Your group is to design a video teaching one of the topics in the textbook in Chapters 4, 13, 15 – 19 (the chapters not covered in a module). Your group video should be 7 – 15 minutes long. Your group may video record a whiteboard lecture, a skit, use screen capture techniques or a variety of other techniques. Your group may choose to meet in person or meet online to complete this project. You may be as creative as you like but make sure the content is scientifically accurate and consistent with the class textbook. Your group may turn in the group project video at any time during the semester up until 10:00pm on December 4th.

Course Policies:

"Students must abide by policies in the [Clayton State University Student Handbook](#), and the [Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities](#)."

University Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. Instructors establish specific policies relating to absences in their courses and communicate these policies to the students through the course syllabi. Individual instructors, based upon the nature of the course, determine what effect excused and unexcused absences have in determining grades and upon students' ability to remain enrolled in their courses. The university reserves the right to determine that excessive absences, whether justified or not, are sufficient cause for institutional withdrawals or failing grade.

Missing an assignment/exam because you are taking a vacation, traveling for work, or leaving early for a scheduled break are NOT considered excused absences.

(This is rarely an issue in my classes but I'm required to include this statement in my syllabus.) No form of disruptive behavior will be tolerated in this class. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, more serious examples include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom behavior and/or is found to be repeatedly disruptive while participating in classroom activities may be dismissed from class. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF. For more information, please refer to: <http://www.clayton.edu/Portals/5/DisruptiveClassroomBehavior.pdf>

Common examples of disruptive behavior in an online class are as follows, but are not limited to:

- a. Monopolizing classroom discussions
- b. Failing to respect the rights of other students to express their viewpoints
- c. Inappropriate language
- d. Refusal to comply with faculty direction

Online Etiquette (Netiquette)

Discussion, chat, and e-mail spaces within this course are for class purposes only, unless otherwise stated. Please remember to conduct yourself collegially and professionally. Unlike in the classroom setting, what you say in the online environment is documented and not easily erased or forgotten.

The following guidelines apply:

- Avoid using ALL CAPS, sarcasm, and language that could come across as strong or offensive.
- Use proper punctuation, grammar and be sure to edit your contribution before posting.
- Read all postings before posting your responses to discussion topics so as to not unnecessarily repeat information.
- Keep chat comments brief and to the point.
- Focus on one topic at a time when chatting or posting to discussions.
- Remember that unlike in face-to-face learning environments what you say in discussions and chats is documented and available to be revisited. Choose your words and discussion topics carefully.
- E-mail should only be used for messages pertaining to the course. Please refrain from sending forwards, jokes, etc. within e-mail.

Academic Dishonesty Any type of activity that is considered dishonest by reasonable standards may constitute academic misconduct. The most common forms of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism. All instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the work involved. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the [Office of Community Standards](#). Judicial procedures are described in the [Student Resource Handbook](#) (Procedures for Adjudicating Alleged Academic Conduct Infractions beginning on page 16).

Changes or additions to this syllabus, including reading, exam schedule, grading, and course policies can be made at the discretion of the instructor at any time. Regular participation in this class is highly recommended. Announcements concerning changes will be posted in DESIRE2LEARN.
