Forensic Science 202-351

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Introduction
Forensic science has been a popular college major in the United States for the past 10 years due to the prominence of the career and portrayal in the media. Educating the entry level forensic scientist is often left to forensic programs or general science academics. The optimal forensic scientist will have a strong background in biology and chemistry with knowledge of the criminal justice system. If a college graduate possesses an education in forensic laboratory methods, general science and criminal justice, they would be highly marketable for employment by crime labs in the United States. Employers often find that applicants lack either a strong traditional science background or the ability to apply this traditional science to matters of the law.

Course Purpose
To provide both lecture and laboratory training to general science majors who wish to pursue a career in forensic science. To provide criminal justice majors with an education that applies forensic science to the criminal investigation.

Course Design
The course is designed to include all disciplines of forensic science while making use of already existing laboratory equipment. The course would consist of a full year of lectures, with a lab each week. Students will get hands-on training in most of the procedures used by modern crime labs as well as learn about the history of how these techniques came into use. Each laboratory is designed to handle 15 students. Part of the forensic education will include field trips to a county medical examiner to view an autopsy and tour of the New Jersey State Police crime lab to view the trace, anthropology, ballistics, computer crimes and DNA facilities.
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Grading

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<td>Quizzes</td>
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Syllabus

September

2 Course Introduction
8 No class
9 Disciplines and the History of Forensic Science
14 Crime Scene Management
16 Physical Evidence Examination
21 Impression Evidence
23 Collection and Comparison of Fingerprints
28 Fingerprinting Databanks
30 Fingerprint Competency Lab

October

5 Impression Evidence - Footprints
7 Collection of Footprints in Dirt, Blood and Dust
12 Forensic Identification of Dirt
14 Footprint Competency Lab
19 Ethics and the Forensic Scientist
21 Midterm Exam
26 Hair and Fiber Evidence
28 Hair Collection and Identification

November

2 Toolmark Analysis
4 Toolmark Competency Lab
9 Ballistics
11 Firearm identification
16 Identification of biological material
18 Presumptive/confirmatory testing of biological evidence
23 Presumptive/confirmatory testing of biological evidence
25 No Class

December

2 DNA
7 DNA
9 Final Exam Review