

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

Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Lab Reports	30%

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