

Sam Houston State University
Introduction to Forensic Science
CJ 366.1
Summer 1
M-F 10:00 - 11:50 am
Room CFS 104

Dr. Joan A. Bytheway
Office: CFS 221D
Telephone: 936-294-4387
e-mail: bytheway@shsu.edu
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 12:00-1:30 pm
or by appointment

COURSE SYLLABUS

Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Readings/Labwork	Topics
3-Jun		Syllabus and Administrative Issues History and Development of Forensic Science Analytical Tools
4-Jun	Chapter 10	Crime Scene Investigation
5-Jun	Chapter 4	Investigation of Traumatic Deaths Review
6-Jun		FIRST EXAM BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
9-Jun	Chapter 2	Forensic Pathology/Autopsy
10-Jun	Chapter 6 & 7	Forensic Odontology and Anthropology Exercise
11-Jun	Chapter 7	Forensic Anthropology & Taphonomy Exercise
12-Jun	Chapter 9	Forensic Entomology Exercise/Review
13-Jun		SECOND EXAM
16-Jun	Chapter 13	Serology and Bloodstain Pattern Analysis
17-Jun	Chapter 11	Recognition of Bloodstain Patterns Exercise
18-Jun	Chapter 14	Biological Fluids
19-Jun	Chapter 15	DNA Analysis Review
20-Jun		THIRD EXAM PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL SCIENCES
23-Jun	Chapter 12	The Forensic Laboratory
24-Jun	Chapter 5	Forensic Toxicology: Drugs and Alcohol
25-Jun	Chapter 17 & 18	Fingerprints/Footwear Evidence

26-Jun	Chapter 20	Firearm and Toolmark Examination
27-Jun	Chapter 16	Microanalysis and Examination of Trace Evidence Hair and Fibers
30-Jun	Chapter 16	Microanalysis and Examination of Trace Evidence Glass and Soil / Review
1-Jul		FOURTH EXAM

The class readings and exercises may be modified to accommodate for class progression, discussions, guest speakers, and/or videos.

Other materials, such as internet exercises, internet readings, journal articles, and handouts may also be assigned.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Forensic Science: An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative techniques, 2nd edition Stuart and Nordby CRC Press, ISBN # 0849327474

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the various disciplines of forensic science. It is designed to equip the student with basic knowledge, principles, and techniques of forensic science.

In the course we will examine the history and development of forensic science, and the various fields encompassed in forensic science. We will delve more deeply into the role of the forensic pathologist, examine the protocol and procedures utilized in investigating traumatic deaths, and walk through the crime scene investigation process. We will also examine the roles and responsibilities of the forensic laboratories. This will include identifying bloodstain patterns, identifying human vs. animal blood, examining trace evidence, such as hair, fibers, and glass. We will also examine how firearms experts perform forensic tasks.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To gain knowledge of the various specialized forensic science fields.
2. To understand the identification, collection, and preservation of all crime scene physical evidence.
3. To utilize critical thinking skills.
4. To examine basic applications of various specialized forensic science fields.
5. To aid the student in his/her academic and career interests relative to the forensic sciences.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University (800401) that students attend class regularly and are punctual.

Class Attendance Policy: I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. You will receive 1 point for each class attended. If you are late getting to class and miss attendance you will not receive the 1 point for that class. Therefore, be on time. If you anticipate running late, please notify me **prior** to that particular class. Also, if you leave class early, without prior approval, you will lose the class point. University policy allows students to miss 3 hours of class. Please see me if you anticipate exceeding the 3 allotted class hours due to medical reasons. Attendance and class participation constitutes 10% of your grade.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

The use of cell phones (including text messaging) is not permitted in class. Make sure phones are turned OFF.

Assignments are turned in on the date set. Any late assignments automatically lose 1/2 of the

assignment points.

All material in class, e.g. handouts, readings, movies, exercises *may* be included on the exams. It is your responsibility to obtain any class materials you may miss.

GRADING POLICY		Grading Scale
10%	First Exam	A = 100-90
15%	Second Exam	B = 89-80
10%	Lab exercises	C = 79-70
10%	Attendance and participation	D = 69-60
25%	Third Exam	F = 59-below
30%	Fourth Exam	
100%	Total	

Be prompt for exams. Tardiness for taking the exam will not be tolerated. If late, without notification, you will not be permitted to take the exam.

MAKE-UP EXAMS

There will be no makeup exams except for documented medical emergencies. If there is an emergency, please call or e-mail me as soon as possible.

Extra credit is not an option.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic work. Consult the Sam Houston State University website for more information.

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

If you are caught cheating you may fail the exam and/or the course.

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY AND SERVICES

Students with disabilities who need academic accommodations can contact the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities at 936-294-3786 or at the website listed below.

<http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf/www/aps/811006.html>

SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY

Students may be excused from attending class for the observance of a religious holy day.

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