

Sam Houston State University
 Introduction to Forensic Science
 CJ 366.1
 Spring 2008
 MWF 9:00-9:50pm
 Room CJ A181

Dr. Joan A. Bytheway
 Office: CFS 221D
 Telephone: 936-294-4387
 e-mail: bytheway@shsu.edu
 Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00am-1:00 pm
 or by appointment

COURSE SYLLABUS

Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Readings/Labwork	Topics
Jan 16-18	Lecture Chapter 16	Syllabus and Administrative Issues History and Development of Forensic Science Analytical Tools
21-Jan		HOLIDAY. NO CLASS
Jan 23-25	Chapter 16 Chapter 10	Analytical Tools Crime Scene Investigation
28-Jan 1-Feb	Chapter 10 Chapter 4	Crime Scene Investigation Investigation of Traumatic Deaths
Feb 4-8	Chapter 4	Investigation of Traumatic Deaths Review
11-Feb		EXAM 1
Feb 13-15	Chapter 2	BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES Forensic Pathology/Autopsy
Feb 18-22	Chapters 7 & 9	Forensic Anthropology & Entomology
Feb 25-29	Chapters 7 & 9	Forensic Anthropology & Entomology
Mar 3-5	Chapters 11 & 13	Serology and Bloodstain Pattern Analysis biological Fluids and DNA Analysis
Mar 10-14		SPRING BREAK. NO CLASSES.
17-Mar		EXAM 2
19-Mar	Chapter 5	CHEMICAL SCIENCES Forensic Toxicology
21-Mar		HOLIDAY. NO CLASS.
Mar 24-28	Chapter 5	Forensic Toxicology
Mar 31-Apr 4	Lecture	Trace Evidence (hair, fibers, paint, soils, and glass)

Apr 7-11	Lecture	Trace Evidence (hair, fibers, paint, soils, and glass)
Apr 14-18	Chapter 20	Firearms and Toolmarks
Apr 21-25		PHYSICAL SCIENCES
	Chapter 28 & 31	Forensic Psychology
Apr 28-May 2	Chapter 28 & 31	Forensic Psychology
May 5-7		Review
14-May	8-10am	EXAM 3

The class readings/lectures and/or 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 Stuart H. James and Jon J. Nordby, 2nd edition, 2005 CRC Press ISBN 0-8493-2747-4.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a science based class. There is both chemistry and biology included in the course.

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.

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.

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
20%	First Exam	A = 100-90
30%	Second Exam	B = 89-80
10%	Exercises/homework	C = 79-70
40%	Third Exam	D = 69-60
100%	Total	F = 59-below

Be prompt for exams. Tardiness for taking the exam will not be tolerated. If late, without prior 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 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>