

JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

524 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019

FOS 108 - CONCEPTS OF FORENSIC SCIENCE – Summer 2013 SECTIONS 801 & 802

Lecturer: Stephanie Pollut

Office: Room 04.70.06 - NB
E-mail: spollut@jjay.cuny.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides the non-science major with an introduction to the forensic sciences. The lecture portion of the course establishes a foundation for understanding how the natural sciences are applied to matters of legal concern, concentrating on the concepts and techniques on which forensic science is built, including crime scene processing, physical evidence collection, microscopy, and the analysis of fingerprints, firearms and DNA evidence. The laboratory portion of the course provides an opportunity to learn “hands-on” by using common analytical techniques.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To develop an understanding of how science is used in the criminal justice system.
2. To learn about the practical application of science to the analysis of specific types of physical evidence.
3. To develop critical thinking skills in solving criminal justice problems of a scientific nature.
4. To develop analytical skills in determining appropriate conclusions based on scientific data.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- * **Registration:** This course is restricted to students who have registered for FOS 108 Sections 01, 02, 03 and 04
- * **Schedule (You may only attend the section for which you have registered)**

Lecture: Sections 801 & 802: 0845 to 1115 on Mondays & Wednesdays (Prof. Pollut)

Laboratory Section 801: 0925 to 1040hrs on Mondays & Wednesdays (Professor L Pritchard) 03.74
Section 802: 0925 to 1040hrs on Mondays & Wednesdays (Professor R Boyll) 03.75

- Check the lecture and lab schedules for the actual dates.

- * **Prerequisite:** Natural Science 107 is a prerequisite for this course. Unless you have fulfilled certain high school science requirements you will not be permitted to take this course without having taken the NSC 107 prerequisite.

- * **Textbook:** I will permit you to use any edition of the following text:

Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science, by Richard Saferstein
Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River NJ

It is currently in its 10th edition (2010), but you can save money by buying an older edition. The 8th & 9th Editions are available in the library reserve both in text and CD-ROM format.

10th Edition information: ISBN-10: 0135045207; ISBN-13: 978-0135045206

9th Edition library call number: HV8073 .S24 2007

8th Edition library call number: HV8073 .S2 2004

* **Required Laboratory Manual:**

Forensic Science 108 Laboratory Manual (2013)

This laboratory manual will be available for purchase in the John Jay College bookstore.

- * **Attendance** is required for both the lecture and laboratory sections; a total of TWO or more unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade; lateness of more than fifteen minutes will be counted as an absence. Schedule your personal appointments outside of official class time. Attendance will be recorded on roll sheets which will be distributed during each class meeting; **STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGNING THE ROLL SHEET AND WILL BE CONSIDERED ABSENT IF THEY FORGET TO DO SO.** Absences will only be excused when proper documentation of an emergency circumstance is provided (i.e., a doctor's note for illness).
- * **Grading:** Your grade in the lecture portion of this course is worth 60% of your course grade and the laboratory section is worth 40% of your course grade. The lecture portion of your grade will be based upon your performance in lecture exams that will be given throughout the semester AND your attendance. The Official College Grading System will prevail as noted in the College Catalog.
- * **Lecture Exams:** The four lecture exams will NOT be cumulative. You must bring your JJC ID Card in order to take each exam. You will not be permitted to take an exam if you arrive more than 15 minutes after the exam has begun. Bring a #2 pencil, an eraser and a pen to each exam. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN.** Students are required to take all four lecture exams. The lowest of the four grades will be dropped; the remaining three exam grades will be weighted equally. During examinations, students may not use any extraneous reference materials (e.g. books, notes, papers), communicate with other students, or use electronic devices such as phones, pagers, or PDA's. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the exam, and be referred to the College's Academic Integrity Officer for further action.
- * **Quizzes:** Quizzes may be given at any point during the semester and may be unannounced. Quizzes will be given during the first ten minutes of the lecture session. If you are late you will not be allowed to take the quiz. There are no make-up quizzes.
- * **Laboratory Grade:** Your laboratory grade will be based on the laboratory notebook grades for each exercise, your performance in the lab practical/general unknown, one lab exam, and one enhanced lab report. The laboratory requirements will be discussed by your laboratory instructors. Due to logistical concerns, we cannot guarantee that a student will be permitted to make-up missed laboratory exercises.
- * **Laboratory Safety:** Your safety in the laboratory depends heavily on following the lab rules. If you are engaging in unsafe practices you may be expelled from the class for the day and no make up for the lab will be offered. Repeated infractions will deleteriously affect your grade. **Laboratory goggles: Failure to possess and wear lab goggles is inexcusable. Goggles are mandatory for all lab sessions including recitations! The minimum penalty for not having or wearing your goggles is a zero for the lab exercise and dismissal from the period with a marked absence.** Students must provide their own scotch tape for use in the laboratory.
- * **Preparation** for each week: obtain the textbook and the lab manual from the bookstore, library, or online; please read the relevant chapters in the textbook PRIOR to each meeting, as well as any other assigned reading material. Your lab manual is required for the laboratory portion of the course. The lecture notes will be available on the course Blackboard website.
- * **Smart phone cell phone use:** Smart phones/cell phones should not be used in class. If you need to use them please leave the classroom.
- * **Appointments:** If you are unable to see me during scheduled office hours, please make an appointment to see me, especially if you have any special requirements - scheduling, disabilities, etc.

- * **College wide policies for undergraduate courses:** please see the *Undergraduate Bulletin*, Chapter 6 Academic Standards. This course will follow the standards set forth in that chapter. Please note, especially:

A. Incomplete Grade Policy

An Incomplete grade may be given only to those students who would pass the course if they were to satisfactorily complete course requirements. It is within the discretion of the faculty member as to whether or not to give the grade of Incomplete.

B. Extra Work During the Semester

Any extra credit coursework opportunities during the semester for a student to improve his or her grade must be made available to all students at the same time. Furthermore, there is no obligation on the part of any instructor to offer extra credit work in any course.

C. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policies

Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student's eligibility from the OAS, which is located at L66 in the new building (212-237-8031). It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with the office and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.

- * **Statement of the College Policy on Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require citations to the original source.

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

It is the student's responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the source is cited.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The Library has free guides designed to help students with problems of documentation (*John Jay College of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Bulletin*, Chapter 6 Academic Standards).

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Forensic Science 108 - Lab Syllabus - Spring 2013

Class Meeting	Day	Lecture
29-May-13	W	Course Introduction & Math Refresher Introduction to Forensic Science
03-Jun-13	M	The Crime Scene Chemistry
05-Jun-13	W	Glass and Soil Organic Analysis
10-Jun-13	M	Review for Exam 1 Exam #1
12-Jun-13	W	Inorganic Analysis Microscopy
17-Jun-13	M	Toxicology Drugs
19-Jun-13	W	Review for Exam 2 Exam #2
24-Jun-13	M	Hairs and Fibers
26-Jun-13	W	Forensic Serology DNA Analysis
01-Jul-13	M	Questioned Documents Fingerprints
03-Jul-13	W	Review for Exam 3 Exam #3
08-Jul-13	M	Forensic Anthropology Forensic Pathology
10-Jul-13	W	Impressions Firearms and Toolmarks Examination
15-Jul-13	M	Fires and Explosions Review for Exam #4

17-Jul-13 W Reading Day

22-Jul-13 M Final Exam

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