

CMRJ341

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course : CMRJ341 **Title :** Criminalistics

Length of Course : 8

Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to educate students regarding the everyday operations of state and federal crime laboratories and the forensic services provided by these organizations. The course is scientifically oriented and will concentrate on the significance of forensic evidence and various testing procedures and instrumentation used to analyze biological, chemical, pattern, and trace items of evidence. Another focus will be the proper recognition, collection and preservation of physical evidence obtained from systematic searches of crime scenes.

Course Scope:

This course is divided into 8 weeks and is organized to give students a broad context in which to study the field of Criminalistics. Topics will include the services of a crime laboratory, how to process crime scenes of various types, and how to collect and preserve physical evidence. It includes exploration into the different scientific tests and techniques used in the field and within the laboratory. Ultimately the student will learn how evidence is tied together and used to solve a criminal case. Instruction is primarily textbook driven with accompanied online lectures and online classroom weekly discussion.

Because it is a survey course of a broad subject, it will cover each topic with a broad brush. However, the forum discussions will allow a deeper look into any subject area that particularly attracts the student. The student will learn how to use the World Wide Web to research topics related to the material discussed and covered in the textbook.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to

CO1: Explain the history and development of forensic science as well as the important contributors to the field.

CO2: Describe the services of a typical comprehensive crime laboratory in the criminal justice system.

CO3: Compare and contrast Frye and Daubert decisions as they relate to the admissibility of scientific

evidence within a court of law.

CO4: Explain the proper procedures for conducting a systematic search of a crime scene for physical evidence.

CO5: Describe proper techniques for the collection and processing of different forms of physical evidence as well as the proper chain of custody.

CO6: Compare and contrast individual and class characteristics of physical evidence.

CO7: Evaluate the differences between quantitative and qualitative analyses.

CO8: Describe proper collection strategies and laboratory analyses used in conjunction with biological evidence.

Outline

Week 1: Introduction to Criminalistics, The Crime Scene, and Physical Evidence

Learning Objectives

Weekly content will address specific learning objectives for each course. Learning objectives covered each week are specified in the course site.

Readings

Weekly lesson and assigned readings are available in the course site.

Week 2: Bloodstain Pattern Analysis and Death Investigations

Learning Objectives

Weekly content will address specific learning objectives for each course. Learning objectives covered each week are specified in the course site.

Readings

Weekly lesson and assigned readings are available in the course site.

Week 3: Fingerprints and Biometrics

Learning Objectives

Weekly content will address specific learning objectives for each course. Learning objectives covered each week are specified in the course site.

Readings

Weekly lesson and assigned readings are available in the course site.

Week 4: Firearms, Tool Marks, Impression Evidence, and Glass Examination

Learning Objectives

Weekly content will address specific learning objectives for each course. Learning objectives covered each week are specified in the course site.

Readings

Weekly lesson and assigned readings are available in the course site.

Week 5: Hairs & Fibers, Drugs, Forensic Toxicology, and Metals, Paint, and Soil Evidence

Learning Objectives

Weekly content will address specific learning objectives for each course. Learning objectives covered each week are specified in the course site.

Readings

Weekly lesson and assigned readings are available in the course site.

Week 6: Forensic Serology and DNA

Learning Objectives

Weekly content will address specific learning objectives for each course. Learning objectives covered each week are specified in the course site.

Readings

Weekly lesson and assigned readings are available in the course site.

Week 7: Document Examination and Computer and Mobile Device Forensics

Learning Objectives

Weekly content will address specific learning objectives for each course. Learning objectives covered each week are specified in the course site.

Readings

Weekly lesson and assigned readings are available in the course site.

Week 8: Expert Witnesses, Voir Dire, and the Daubert Standard

Learning Objectives

Weekly content will address specific learning objectives for each course. Learning objectives covered each week are specified in the course site.

Readings

Weekly lesson and assigned readings are available in the course site.

Evaluation

Forums

Instructions and grading expectations for all forums will appear in the Forums section of the course site.

Assignment(s)

Instructions and grading expectations for all assignments will appear in the Assignments section of the course site.

Exam(s)

Instructions and grading expectations for all exams will appear in the Tests & Quizzes section of the course site.

Grading:

Name	Grade %
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Materials

Book Title: Various resources from the APUS Library & the Open Web are used. Links provided inside the classroom in the Lessons section.

Author:

Publication Info:

ISBN: N/A

Weekly lessons and assigned readings are available in the course site.

Course Guidelines

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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