Course Description:

In Forensic Science we present the philosophical, rational, and practical framework that supports a case investigation. We outline the unifying principles of forensic science, discuss the rooting of Forensic scientist might consider during an investigation. We also discuss the experimental methods and some of the ways in which a forensic analysis can be confounded. This class is not an overview of the disciplines that comprise the Forensic Science, but rather the umbrella under which the practical work resides. Students will work through interactive exercises and discuss various scenarios with the instructors and their fellow classmates in a discussion forum. The explanation and clarification of assumptions and inferences will be emphasized. At the end of the class, students will take a final examination in which they will be asked to demonstrate their knowledge of specific information that has been presented and also to extend that knowledge in considering questions about specific cases.

Schedule for 2017/2018

August:
- Introduction to Course
- Chapter 1: Introduction to Forensic Science

September:
- Chapter 2: The Crime Scene
- Chapter 3: Physical Evidence

October:
- Chapter 4: Physical Properties: Glass and Soil
- Chapter 5: Organic Analysis

November:
- Chapter 6: Inorganic Analysis
- Chapter 7: The Microscope

December:
- Chapter 8: Hair, Fiber and Paint
- Special Topics in Forensics: TBA
- Review for Fall Final Exam

January:
- Chapter 9: Drugs
- Chapter 10: Forensic Toxicology

February:
- Chapter 11: Forensic Aspects to Fire and Explosion Investigations
- Chapter 12: Forensic Serology

March:
- Chapter 13: DNA
- Chapter 14: Fingerprints

April:
- Chapter 15: Firearms, Tool Marks and Other Impressions
- Chapter 16: Document and Voice Examination

May:
- Special Topics in Forensics
- Review for Spring Exam
Assessment Method:

Abstracts Participation
Attendance Peer Evaluation
Bell-Ringer / Exit Slips
Capstone Project Portfolio
Case Study Portfolio Lab Performance
Exams Presentations

Group Projects Professional Evaluation
Homework Assignments Quizzes
Internet Research project
Journaling Lab Performance
Oral/written review of literature
Other:

Grading Scale/Distribution:

A = 93%, B = 83-92%, C = 73-82%, D = 63-72%, F = 62% or less

Examinations: There are four exams. The first three are focused on the material since the last examination, but the final examination is cumulative.

General Policies

- Student e-mail Etiquette: All email correspondence to the instructor will be conducted in a professional manner.
- Address the recipient appropriately, using proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation,
- Close with your full name, day of week and time of class you meet (Example: Bob Smith, 12:20pm to 1:45pm)

Academic Honesty:

"To foster a climate of trust and high standards of academic achievement, The PMSA Science and Mathematics Departments are committed to cultivating academic integrity and expects students to exhibit the highest standards of honor in their scholastic endeavors. Academic integrity is essential to the success of PMSA’s mission. As members of the academic community, our foremost interest is toward achieving noble educational goals and our foremost responsibility is to ensure that academic honesty prevails" Any instance of plagiarism, cheating, dishonesty or the facilitation thereof will result in a grade of 0 (zero points) for the assignment. Second offenses will be reported to the Department Head, Principal and students will fail the course (grade of F). Please refer to the PMSA student guide for academic integrity.

Attendance:

Students are expected to be present for every meeting of the classes in which they are enrolled. Only the instructor can excuse a student from a course requirement or responsibility. When conflicts or absences can be anticipated, the student should inform the instructor of the situation as far in advance as possible. For unanticipated or emergency absences when advance notification to an instructor is not possible, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible by email, or by contacting the main office.