

Missouri State University
CRM 314: Forensic Science and Cases of Injustice
Fall, 2018

Instructor: Jean A. Carver, MT (ASCP), MS, MFSA

Email: Jcarver@missouristate.edu

Office: Strong Hall, Criminal Justice Suite, Room # 302

Office Phone: 417-836-6544

Office Hours: By appointment; appointments may be arranged before or immediately following each class session, or by calling 417-863-9303 (after 8 pm)

Textbook

Forensic Science-An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques (Fourth Edition), James, Stuart H; Nordby, Jon J; Bell, Suzanne (2014) CRC-Taylor and Francis Group (ISBN-13: 978-1-4398-5383-2) This is the newest edition of this text, Edition 4. **Make sure you have the 4th edition.**

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course the student should have gained, a) a working knowledge of the techniques and processes involved in scientific crime scene investigation as well as insight into the work of practitioners who collect, process, test, and testify about forensic evidence, b) a working knowledge of the requirements and processes necessary to introduce scientific evidence and testimony into the courtroom, c) a working knowledge of the limitations and quality issues inherent in evidence evaluation, d) an appreciation for the path necessary for each new scientific discovery to find its way into the criminalist's "toolbox" as well as the courtroom, e) familiarity with the various reasons for wrongful conviction, and f) familiarity with our flawed criminal justice system as revealed through the case studies of injustice we will explore.

Course Structure

Learning objectives for this course will be accomplished through instructor presentations, classroom discussions, Position Papers, case Study Groups, Case Study presentations, and visits by practitioners in forensic science and the law. During this semester each study group will provide specific information about their assigned case to class members. Completion of all assignments, meeting assignment deadlines and full Study Group participation are critical to success in this class. In addition, participation with classroom visitors, a mid-term exam, and a final exam will round out the assignments for this course.

Instructor's Expectations

This is college! Instructors have a level of expectation for their students as follows: Instructors expect students to show up for class, read textbook assignments, participate in class discussions and turn in assignments, on time. These are not wild and unrealistic requirements dreamed up at some faculty retreat, nor are they expectations that, when met, warrant rewards; *these are expectations that have existed since institutions of higher learning opened their doors.* Here are my rules for this class:

1) You are expected to be in class twice each week. See "Attendance Policy" for more information.

- 2) I expect you to read textbook assignments and come to class prepared to discuss what you have read
- 3) I expect you to participate in classroom discussions; I welcome your respectful contrary points of view
- 4) I expect you to turn in your assignments on time
- 5) I don't accept late assignments; in exceptional circumstances (a death in the family, for example), I may accept a late assignment or grade a late assignment for half credit, depending on the situations
- 6) I expect you to honor assignment word limits; points will be deducted if you exceed these deadlines
- 8) I enjoy my cell phone, too. But, this is college. I expect you to put your phones away during class.
- 9) I expect you to seek help **before** you are under water with your work; I am always available to help

Attendance Policy

Because class attendance and course grades are demonstrably and positively related, the University expects students to attend all class sessions of courses in which they are enrolled. For this class, CRM 314, students are expected to be in class twice each week.

Two types of excused absences are allowed in this class:

- 1) Serious family emergencies, serious student personal crises, University sanctioned activities or programs. These types of absences must be discussed with and excused by the instructor.
- 2) Other absences such as oversleeping, lack of transportation, minor illness, etc. Students are allowed two of this type of absence per semester; beginning with absence # 3, 25 points will be deducted from the student's grade per absence.

Category 1 Absence: Instructor must be consulted with and approve make-up work.

Category 2 Absence (2 or less): Students with two or less absences, may be allowed to make up work for full or half credit, but only with instructor approval.

Category 2 absences (exceeding 2): will not be allowed to make up work.

Grading Policy

University Grading Policy

Grades are awarded to indicate the quality of a student's work and are assigned as follows (grade point value appears in parentheses and the transferred grade appears in the second set of parentheses).

A (4.00) (TA): Outstanding work. Outstanding achievement relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements. Performance was of the highest level. Excellence while meeting course objectives was sustained throughout the course. Not only was the student's performance clearly and significantly above satisfactory, and was creative and independent.

A-(3.70) (TA-): Excellent work. Excellent achievement relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements. Performance was clearly and significantly above satisfactory, and was creative and independent.

B+(3.30) (TB+): Near Excellent. Achievement was significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements. Performance was clearly and significantly above satisfactory, and was creative and independent.

B (3.00) (TB): Very good work. Achievement significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements. Performance was very good, although not of the highest level. Performance was clearly and significantly above satisfactory fulfillment of course requirements (For undergraduate students: B = meritorious: For graduate students: B = adequate).

B- (2.70) (TB-): Good work. Achievement at a level just above that necessary to meet course requirements. Performance was notable.

C+ (2.30) (TC+): Slightly above satisfactory work. Achievement that meets the course requirements. Performance was notable.

C (2.00) (TC): Satisfactory work. Achievement that meets the course requirements. Performance was slightly more than adequate.

C- (1.70) (TC-): Slightly below satisfactory work. Achievement that barely meets the course requirements. Performance has been slightly below satisfactory and was marginal in quality.

D+ (1.30) (TD+): Passing work. Achievement below satisfactory in meeting course requirements. Student demonstrated below satisfactory achievement in meeting course objectives, yet fulfilled a sufficient enough portion of the course objectives that repeating the course is not necessary unless required by the academic unit.

D (1.00) (TD): Minimum passing work. Achievement barely worth of credit. Student demonstrated unsatisfactory achievement in meeting course objectives, yet fulfilled a sufficient enough portion of the course objectives that repeating the course is not necessary unless requirement by the academic unit.

F (0.00) (TF): Failed-no credit. A failure to meet course requirements. The work of course objectives were either: 1) completed but not at a level of achievement that is worthy of credit, or 2) have not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an "I" (incomplete).

I (0.00): Incomplete. Grade assigned when due to unusual circumstances a small portion of a course, such as a term paper or final examination.

Course Assignments/Due Dates/Points Possible

The total points possible for this class are 750, spread out over a variety of assignments, as follows:

Personal Bias Inventory: Due in class, 8/23

CSI Questionnaire-Take Home Assignment: Due 8/28 (50 points)

Study Group Synopses: Due in class, 9/20

Position Papers (2): Due 9/11 and 10/9, 2 papers X 100 points (200 points)

Mid-Term quiz: Due 10/4 (100 points)

Study Group X 5 Presentations: Due 11/1 Study Groups 1 and 2; 11/8 Study Group 3; 11/15 Study Groups 4 and 5 (150 points) per Study Group member

Guest Visit Summaries, 9/18, 10/23, 12/4 : 50 points X 3 = 150 points

Final Exam: 100 points

Total Points Possible for this Course: 750

712 and above = A
675-711 = A-
653-674 = B+
638-652 = B
600-637 = B-
577-599 = C+
562-576 = C
525-561 = C-
502-524 = D+
487-501 = D
450-486 = D-
Below 450 = F

Assignment Expectations

Personal Bias Inventory: After personal reflection, students will create a list of personal biases which are either life-long or recent. "I have a bias against Pepsi...I am a Coke person", does not meet the assignment requirements. "I have a bias against uneducated people who, I feel, haven't made the sacrifices necessary to seek higher learning," is a serious core belief that developed as a result of specific personal experiences. Please prepare a list at least 3 serious personal biases.

"The Real CSI" Documentary Questionnaire: After viewing this documentary in class, students will be given a "take home" work sheet with questions about this film. Careful research (which may involve viewing this documentary again on the student's computer) and careful word choice will allow students to *precisely and concisely answer the work sheet questions*. Because the criminalist needs to be able to write accurate, detailed, and concise reports, questions must be answered *in two sentences or less*.

This assignment is due in class, Week 2 (Tuesday, August 28), and is worth 50 points.

Position Papers: Two Position Papers will be assigned throughout this semester which provide topics to students for independent research and a requirement to "take a position" on specific questions. If researched well, and arguments are logical and fact or science-based, students will be rewarded for their conclusions. Because the criminalist needs to be able to write accurate, detailed, and concise reports, Position Papers are confined to 1 page (references are to be included on a separate page). And before you say, "I can't do that", let me say, "Yes, you can!". *Your one and only goal is to communicate precise information*. This is not an English Composition class: You don't need to write an introduction, a conclusion or add sentence after sentence of filler or background. Actually, you don't need to write in paragraph form and can simply list the questions/statements followed by your responses. Answer the questions correctly and within the word limit, and you will earn all the points! **Position Paper # 1 is due Week 4, in class and on paper (not an e-mail) on Tuesday, September 11. Position Paper #2 is due Week 8, in class on paper (not an e-mail) on Tuesday, October 9. Each Position Paper is worth 100 points.**

Midterm Quiz: This Quiz will be comprehensive to the end of Week 7, and will cover big ideas, important themes, and necessary specifics to the field of Forensic Science. This Quiz will contain multiple choice and short answer questions, and will be taken in class. **Midterm Quiz: Thursday, October 4, 100 points.**

Study Group Presentations: A Case Study topic will be assigned to each Study Group, a Team Leader for each group will be selected, project planning will be conducted so each member of each group will have specific tasks, and the presentation format will be at the discretion of the Study Group. For example, your Study Group presentation may take the form of a Power Point, a panel discussion, or a series of individual classroom presentations. Each Study Group will be given a specific presentation date which is *written in stone for this semester*; each member must pull their own weight (no exceptions), and will receive the same grade as other team members. **This assignment cannot be "made up", and is worth 150 points to each Study Group member. Study Group Assignment (written in stone) Deadlines: Study Groups 1 and 2 (11/1), Study Group 3 (11/8), Study Groups 4 and 5 (11/15).**

Visiting Guest Summaries: Three practitioners in the field of Forensic Science or the law will visit our class throughout this semester to share their expertise, and their relationship to the field of forensic science, and/or wrongful convictions. Following each class visit, guest visit summaries will be due during the next class session. The guest visit summary should be a half page summary of the topics and information shared by each speaker. Because criminalists are often asked to survey a scene or situation in a very short period of time and write a concise report summarizing what they saw and what they learned, you will be asked to do the same; asking questions of our guests is encouraged! Then you will prepare your very brief but on point summary to be turned in during the class following the guest's visit. **Guest visit summaries are worth 50 points each.**

Final Exam: The Final Exam for this class will be comprehensive from Week 8 until the end of the semester, and will cover big ideas and important themes to the field of Forensic Science. The format of this quiz will be multiple choice, and will be worth 100 points. **The Final Exam will become available on-line at 1230 am Friday, December 7 and goes away at 6 pm, on Tuesday, December 11. The Final Exam is worth 100 points.**

General Policies

Emergency Response Statement

Students who require assistance during an emergency evacuation must discuss their needs with their professors and the Disability Resource Center. If you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

For additional information students should contact the Disability Resources Center, 417-836-4192 (PSU 405)

For additional information on Missouri University's Emergency Response Plan, please refer to the following web site: <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>

Summary of Emergency Plans

Evacuation: Don't use elevators, walk to shelter areas, offer help, once outside, stay 500 feet from building, don't return to building until "all clear", don't leave shelter area until told to do so

Fire: Call 911, don't use elevators, offer help, use building exits to go to shelter area, don't return to building until "all clear"

Earthquake: Seek shelter in doorway or under a heavy table, don't use elevators, evacuating building after shaking ceases, avoid power lines, call 911, offer help, go to shelter, don't return to building until "all clear"

Hostile Intruder: Exit safely, if possible, call 911, if can't exit, take shelter-lock or barricade the doors, fight back and work with others

Tornado: Don't use elevators, seek shelter on the lowest level of building away from windows, don't leave the building, after tornado has passed, call 911, offer help, walk to shelter area, don't return to building

Medical or other: Call 911, keep victim still, check breathing and control bleeding

Dropping a Class

It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the Office of the Registrar at 836-5520. And always remember, you are NOT automatically dropped from a class if you stop attending.

Important dates and fee refund information:

Last day to drop a class and receive 100% refund: 8/24/18

Last day to drop a class and receive 75% refund: 8/31/18

Last day to drop a class and receive 50% refund: 9/17/18

Last day to drop a class and receive 25% refund: 10/17/18

Last day to drop or withdraw: 11/9/18

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Office of Equity and Diversity, Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, 417-836-4252. Other types of concerns (i.e. concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can also be brought to the attention of your instructor's Department Head. Please visit the OED website at www.missouristate.edu/equity.

Disability Accommodation

If you are a student with a disability and anticipate barriers related to this course, it is important to request accommodations and establish an accommodation plan with the University. Please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC), www.missouristate.edu/disability, Meyer Library Suite 111, 417-836-4192, to initiate the process to establish your accommodation plan. The DRC will work with you to establish your accommodation plan, or may refer you to other appropriate resources based on the nature of your disability. In order to prepare an accommodation plan, the University usually requires that students provide documentation relating to their disability. Please be prepared to provide such documentation if requested. Once a University accommodation plan is established, you may notify the class instructor of approved accommodations. If you wish to utilize your accommodation plan, it is suggested that you do so in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of class. Early notification to the instructor allows for full benefit of the accommodations identified in the plan.

Instructors will not receive the accommodation plan until you provide that plan, and are not required to apply accommodations retroactively.

Academic Dishonesty

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following the university's student honor code, *Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures*, available at www.missouristate.edu/policy/academicintegritystudents.htm and also available at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy.

On a personal note as your instructor, I consider academic dishonesty to be theft. Academic dishonesty represents an intentional effort to deceive your instructor and members of your class and shows a reckless disregard for all students who have gone before you and all those yet to come. College is a time to air and test your own good ideas in the light of day, not steal the old ideas of others from the past. I have high expectations for each of you-don't let me down.

Cell Phone Policy

As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are members of the community. When cell phones or pagers ring, or students receive texts and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the Office of the Provost prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, PDAs, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Given the fact that these same communication devices are an integral part of the University's emergency notification system, an exception to this policy would occur when numerous devices activate simultaneously. When this occurs, students may consult their devices to determine if a university emergency exists. If that is not the case, the devices should be immediately returned to silent mode and put away. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Audio and Video Recording of Course Activity

Students who wish to record lectures of class activities for study purposes should inform the faculty member first. Distribution or sale of recordings or other course materials is prohibited without the written permission of the instructor and other students who are recorded. Distribution without permission is a violation of copyright law and the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (Sections, 4.6, 4.8, 4.9)

Religious Accommodation

The University may provide a reasonable accommodation based on a person's sincerely held religious belief. In making this determination, the University reviews a variety of factors, including whether the accommodation would create an undue hardship. The accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the accommodation and the University. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their sincerely held

religious belief shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a Request for Religious Accommodation Form to the instructor by the end of the third week of a full semester course or the end of the second week of a half semester course.

Mental Health and Stress Management

As a student you may experience a range of personal issues that can impede learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating ad/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and may reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. You can learn more about free and confidential Missouri State University Counseling Center services available to assist you at: counselingcenter.missouristate.edu

Title IX Policy

Missouri State University has a Title IX policy that guides or responds to instances of sexual violence. Sexual violence includes: Rape, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, sexual discrimination, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual harassment, and pregnancy issues. The Title IX policy can be located on the MSU Title IX website at [www. Missouristate.edu/titleix](http://www.Missouristate.edu/titleix). This website is also a good resource for any questions or issues involving Title IX and contains contact information for the MSU Title IX Office and Staff. Read an [overview of the Title IX office](#).

If an MSU student discloses a Title IX related issue to a MSU faculty or staff member who is deemed to be a "Responsible Employee" under the policy, that faculty or staff member is required to report such disclosure to the Title IX Coordinator. A responsible employee includes any employee who has the authority to take action to redress sexual violence; who has been given the duty of reporting incidents of sexual violence or any other misconduct by students to the Title IX Coordinator or other appropriate school designee; or whom a student could reasonable believe has the authority or duty to take action. Magers Health and Wellness Center employees and MSU Counseling Center Clinicians are not considered to be Responsible Employees under the policy, and therefore, are not required to report Title IX issues to the Title IX Coordinator.

Chosen Name Policy

A student may choose a name other than their legal name to identify themselves at Missouri State University. A chosen name is different than the student's legal name. Refer to the [Chosen Name Policy](#) for more information. Students can provide their chosen first and middle names in the Profile tab of [My Missouri State](#).

Instructor's "Two Cents"

I feel passionate about the classes I teach. As a Forensic Science consultant, I use what I have learned to research cases of inmates making claims of actual innocence/wrongful conviction to the Midwest Innocence Project (UMKC School of Law). Personally, this is a way for me to take what I know and use it on behalf of defendants who, quite possibly, are incarcerated for crimes they did not commit. As a result of this work, I have become friends with exonerees and those who have freed them, which is very

inspirational to me. My goal for you, as my students, is to teach you some of what I have learned, equip you with information through the courses I teach, and send you on your way to apply your new knowledge to whatever area of criminology and criminal justice in which you choose to specialize. I want you to do well in this class! I will do whatever I can to assist and encourage you. But I need your attention, your energy, your self-discipline, and your on-time assignments. Together, we will have a successful semester!

Course Calendar

Week 1 (Orientation AND Justice and Science)

Class: Tuesday, August 21, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Justice and Science, Course Orientation (Syllabus, graded assignments for this class, Study Group requirements/assignments), and "Cases of Injustice"

Assignments: Chapter 1 (Text), Personal Bias Inventory (Due in class Thursday, August 23), Study Group Case Study Synopses due in class, 9/20

Instructor Availability: After class or call 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8 pm)

Questions and Comments

Quote of the Week: "The 'skeptic' does not mean he who doubts, but he who investigates or researches, as opposed to he who asserts and thinks that he has found." Miguel de Unamuno

Class: Thursday, August 23, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Justice and Science, consequences of faulty Forensic Science

Assignments: Chapter 1 (Text), take home questionnaire assigned (to be completed on the original assignment paper, two sentences or less per question, due in class, Tuesday, August 28)

Film: "The Real CSI" (PBS Frontline documentary series)

Questions and Comments

DUE TODAY: Personal Bias Inventory due in class

Week 2 (Evidence)

Class: Tuesday, August 28, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Evidence: Film Discussion, problems within in the Criminal Justice System highlighted in the film ("white coat syndrome", bite mark evidence, eyewitness ID, etc.), "The Great Big Line of Evidence", Study Group meetings in class

Assignments: Chapter 2 (Text), Position Paper # 1 (posted to Blackboard), due in class on real paper, 9/11

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8 pm)

Questions and Comments

DUE TODAY: "The Real CSI" questionnaire (two sentence answers on original assignment paper)

Quotes of the Week:

"If the law has made you witness, remain a man of science. You have no victim to avenge, no guilty person to convict or save-you must bear testimony within the limits of science."

Dr. P.C. Brouardel, 18th Century Forensic Scientist

"If you don't document it, it didn't happen." Jane Pritchard (Graduate School, Forensic Science instructor, Oklahoma State University-Tulsa)

Class: Thursday, August, 30, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Evidence Origins, Types, and Admissibility of Evidence

Assignments: Chapter 2 (Text), Position Paper # 1 (Posted to Blackboard), due in class on real paper, not e-mailed, 9/12

Questions and Comments

Week 3 (Crime Scene Investigation)

Class: Tuesday, September 4, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Crime Scene Investigation, mystery case in England

Assignments: Chapter 3 (Text), Mystery Case in England

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8 pm)

Questions and Comments

Quote of the Week: Locard's Exchange Principle: "The basis for linking physical evidence from or to the victim, suspect and crime scene. Anyone entering a crime scene can alter or change the scene and its evidence; the exchange of materials, fluids, cells, fibers, hair, etc., moves in two directions: From the scene to the perpetrator AND from the perpetrator to the scene." (Dr. Edmond Locard, French forensic science pioneer, 1877-1966)

Class: Thursday, September 6, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: CSI, mystery case in England

Assignments: Chapter 3 (Text)

Mystery Case: Class review and discussion

Questions and Comments

Week 4 (Death Investigation)

Class: Tuesday, September 11, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Death Investigation (Cause, manner, mechanism, TOD, ID of victim)

Assignments: Chapter 5 (Text), Medico-legal investigation of death: A Glossary (Posted to Blackboard), Position Paper #2 (posted on Blackboard) due 10/9

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8 pm)

Questions and Comments

DUE TODAY: Position Paper # 1 due in class on real paper, 1-page limit

Quote of the Week: "...death hath ten thousand doors for men to take their exits." John Webster, from "The Duchess of Malfi"

Class: Thursday, September 13, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Death Investigation

Assignments: Chapter 5 (Text), Medico-legal investigation of death: A Glossary (Posted to Blackboard), Guest Visit summary due in class, Week 5, September 18

Questions and Comments

Guest Visit #1: Dr. Jami Skrade

Week 5 (Blood and Body Fluids)

Class: Tuesday, September 18, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: ID of Blood and Body Fluids

Assignments: Chapter 8 (Text)

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8 pm)

Questions and Comments

DUE TODAY: Guest Visit #1 Summary (1/2 page)

Quote of the Week: "I tended to faint when I saw accident victims in the Emergency Ward, during surgery, or while drawing blood." Michael Crichton, author (Jurassic Park, Twister, and others)

Class: Thursday, September 20, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: ID of Blood and Body Fluids

Assignments: Chapter 8 (Text)

Questions and Comments

DUE TODAY: Study Group Team Synopses due in class

Week 6 (Forensic DNA Analysis)

Class: Tuesday, September 25, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: DNA Identity Testing

Assignments: Chapter 9 (Text), Midterm Exam, 10/13, PP # 2 assigned, due on paper in class 10/18

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8 pm)

Questions and Comments

Quote of the Week: "The double helix is indeed a remarkable molecule. Modern man is perhaps 20,000 years old, civilization has existed for scarcely 10,000 years, and the United States for only just over 200 years; but DNA and RNA have been around for at least several billion years. All that time the double helix has been there, and active, and yet we are the first creatures on earth to become aware of its existence." Francis Crick (along with James Watson) discovered the double helix structure of DNA.

Class: Thursday, September 27, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: DNA Identity Testing

Assignments: Chapter 9 (Text)

Questions and Comments

Week 7 (Forensic Toxicology)

Class: Tuesday, October 2, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Forensic Toxicology

Assignments: Chapter 10 (Text), Midterm Exam on Thursday, October 4

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8 pm)

Questions and Comments

Quote of the Week: Acetaminophen (Tylenol, Tempra, Panadol, Acephen, Apacet, Datril, Feverall, Liquiprin) temporary relief of pain: Minor arthritis, backache, muscle aches, headaches, toothaches, reduces fever. Adverse reactions: Hematologic (hemolytic anemia, neutropenia, leukopenia, pancytopenia), Hepatic (Severe liver damage, jaundice), Metabolic (Hypoglycemia), Skin (rash, urticaria). Alert: Unsupervised long-term use can cause hepatic damage. Excessive ingestion of alcohol may increase the risk of hepatotoxicity.

Action (how does this medication work in the body?): **UNKNOWN**

Class: Thursday, October 4, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Forensic Toxicology

Assignments: Chapter 10 (Text)

DUE TODAY: Midterm Exam

Questions and Comments

Week 8 (Fingerprint Analysis)

Class: Tuesday, October 9, 3:30-4:45, Strong Hall, Room 202

Learning Focus: Fingerprint Analysis

Assignments: Chapter 13 (Text)

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8)

Questions and Comments

Quotes of the Week:

"Fingerprints offer an *infallible* means of personal identification." (FBI web site, prior to May 25, 2004)

"Federal judge yesterday cleared Portland Attorney Brandon Mayfield of ties to the Madrid bombings after the FBI made the stunning admission that it erred when analyzing a copy of his fingerprints."

(Seattle Times, May 25, 2004)

DUE TODAY: Position Paper # 2

Class: Thursday, October 11: FALL HOLIDAY, NO CLASS TODAY!

Learning Focus: Fingerprint Analysis

Assignments: Chapter 13 (Text)

Week 9 (Firearms and Tool Marks)

Class: Tuesday, October 16, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Firearms and Tool Marks

Assignments: Chapter 14 (Text)

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8)

Questions and Comments

Quote of the Week: "The trend regarding admissibility of firearms identification changed in 2005 in United States v. Green (405 F. Supp. 2d 104 (D. Mass. 2005), where the court ruled that the expert could only describe the way in which casings were similar but not that the casings came from a specific weapon, 'to the exclusion of every other firearm in the world'." Paul Giannelli

Class: Thursday, October 18, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Firearms and Tool Marks

Assignments: Chapter 14 (Text), Guest Visit summary due in class Week 10, Tuesday, Oct. 23

GUEST # 2: TBA

Week 10 (Questioned Documents)

Class: Tuesday, October 23, 8:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Questioned Documents

Assignments: Chapter 17 (Text)

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8 pm)

Questions and Comments

Quote of the Week: "This is the Zodiac speaking. By the way have you cracked the last cypher I sent you? My name is _____." Part of a letter from the alleged serial killer, "Zodiac". While this case remains unsolved, investigative focus included handwriting comparisons.

DUE TODAY: Guest # 2 Summary

Class: Thursday, October 25, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Questioned Documents

Assignment: Chapter 17 (Text)

Questions and Comments

Week 11 (Forensic Computing)

Class: Tuesday, October 30, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Forensic Computing

Assignment: Chapter 19 (Text)

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8 pm)

Questions and Comments

Quote of the Week: "I have no idea how that got on my computer!" Statement of an alleged pedophile just prior to arrest.

Class: Thursday, November 1, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Forensic Computing

Assignments: Chapter 19 (Text)

Questions and Comments

DUE TONIGHT: Study Group # 1 and # 2 Presentations

Week 12 (Behavioral Science)

Class: Tuesday, November 7, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Behavioral Science

Assignment: Chapter 20 (Text)

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8 pm)

Questions and Comments

Quote of the Week: "The truth is when you are found insane, you are locked up for life in the hospital. It is a death sentence. They're doping them up, they don't get any exercise, and they are smoking themselves to death. I'd be glad to get rid of all the hospitals. They're not doing good for anyone." Larry Ritchie, Law Professor, Roger Williams University (Bristol, Rhode Island)

Class: Thursday, November 9, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Behavioral Science

Assignment: Chapter 20 (Text)

Questions and Comments

DUE TONIGHT: Study Group # 3 Presentation

Week 13

Class: Tuesday, November 13, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Cases of Injustice

Assignment: TBA

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8 pm)

Questions and Comments

Quote of the Week:

"Wrongful convictions happen every week in every state in this country. And they happen for all the same reasons. Sloppy police work. Eyewitness identification is the most-the worst type almost because it's wrong half the time. Think about that." (John Grisham, author of "The Innocent Man")

Class: Thursday, November 15, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Cases of Injustice

Assignments: TBA

DUE TODAY: Study Groups # 4 and # 5 Presentations

Questions and Comments

Quote of the Week:

Week 14 (Cases of Injustice)

Fall Break: 11/21-11/26/18

Class: Tuesday, November 20, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Cases of Injustice

Assignments: TBA

Quote of the Week: "The man you see before you is here by the grace of God. The fact that it took 12 and a half years and a movie to prove my innocence should scare the hell out of everyone in this room, and if it doesn't, then that scared the hell out of me." (Randall Adams, convicted of murdering a police officer in OHIO and sentenced to die by lethal injection. His conviction was over-turned and he was released, in part due to the documentary film, "The Thin Blue Line.")

Class: Thursday, November 22-NO CLASS

Week 15

Class: Tuesday, November 28, 9:30-10:45, Strong Hall, Room 302

Leaning Focus: Cases of Injustice

Assignments: TBA

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8 pm)

Questions and Comments

Quote of the Week: "Given the irreversibility of the death penalty, the possibility of wrongful conviction can never be overstated." (George Gascon, District Attorney of San Francisco, California)

Class: Thursday, November 30, 9:30-10:45 Strong Hall, Room 302

Learning Focus: Cases of Injustice

Assignment: Guest # 3 Summary due in class, Tuesday, Dec. 5

Questions and Comments

Quote of the Week: "DNA evidence has revealed a finite but troubling class of convictions tainted by what is best described as 'false facts': forensic evidence that likely carried great weight with the original

jury, but which is now known, to a scientific certainty, to have been erroneous." (Peter Neufeld, coauthor of "Actual Innocence")

Guest # 3: Grant Rahmeyer

Week 16

Class: December 5, 3:30-4:45, Strong Hall, Room 202

Learning Focus: Final Exam

Assignment: Final Exam Preparation

Instructor Availability: After class or 417-863-9303 for appointments (after 8)

Questions and Comments

Class: December 7, 3:30-4:45, Strong Hall, Room 202

Learning Focus: Final Exam

Final Exam: 25-question, 100-point (format to be decided), comprehensive Exam from Week 8 to the end of this semester. Exam becomes available at 1230 am, Friday, December 8; goes away at 6 pm, Tuesday, December 12.