

University of Maryland
Department of Anthropology
Introduction to Forensic Sciences
ANTH 221 Summer 2014
MTWThF 9:00 – 12:00 Francis Scott Key 0123
Teaching Assistant: Lawrence Seastrum

Marilyn R. London, MA
mlondon@hers.com

Course Description

The role of forensic scientists can be broadly defined in terms of skills, technology, experience, research, and contributions to the literature. This course will provide a brief history of forensic sciences, an introduction to some of the techniques used, and a demonstration of some of the applications of forensic sciences. There will be several hands-on activities in the classroom. This course is not a training course, but a survey course designed to give the student some exposure to the kinds of scientific knowledge and techniques applied to the medico-legal investigation of death and other crimes.

Attendance to all lectures is mandatory since much of the material in the examinations will be based on these class lectures, and the in-class activities will not be repeated.

Exams and Grading

The course will be graded on the basis of 300 points. There will be an examination each week on Friday morning. Each exam is worth 50 points. In-class exercises are part of the class and are not optional. Each student is required to submit a written summary of five of these exercises (instructions will be given in class). Each of these write-ups will be worth 20 points, so that all five together will be worth 100 points. The write-ups are due by the following class and no exceptions will be made. The final 50 points will be earned with class participation, which includes discussion. You will lose points for missing class. In addition, students **MAY NOT** use their computers, iPods, cell phones, Blackberries, or other electronic devices during class time except for class-related activities such as taking notes. This means **you may NOT tweet, IM, text, surf the web, or email during class time. You will lose 10 points each time you break this rule.**

Under most conditions, no makeup examinations will be provided. Incomplete (I) grades will be given only if a student has already completed at least 75% of the coursework and has a legitimate excuse for not finishing the work on time.

Other Course Information:

If any student has any special study or test-taking needs such as test anxiety, dyslexia, poor vision or hearing or special seating requirements, please let the instructor know by the second class (July 15) so that we can make your participation in this course a rewarding one. In addition, the instructor will gladly make students aware of special services/facilities on this campus that might be of assistance in the course of your studies here at UMCP.

Required Text

You will need to purchase or rent the following book for this course:

Saferstein, Richard, 2014. *Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Sciences*. 11th edition, Prentice Hall. ISBN 978-0133458824

You may NOT use an earlier edition of the book.

Academic Integrity

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.shc.umd.edu>.

To further exhibit your commitment to academic integrity, remember to sign the Honor Pledge on all examinations and assignments: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment). "

Course Schedule

The following course schedule includes weekly lecture topics, reading assignments and exam dates. One "field trip" to a forensic laboratory is also being arranged.

**July 14 - Introduction to Forensic Sciences: What is a forensic expert, what kind of training is required, when is a forensic expert needed?
History of Forensic Anthropology.**

July 15 - Statistics in Forensic Sciences

In-class activity: Anthropometrics and Statistical Analysis

Reading: Chapter 1, Introduction

July 16 – Fine Art of Baloney Detection: How to make a good argument and detect a bad one

July 17 – Human Skeletal Biology: Basics

July 18 – Examination

Human Skeletal Biology: Analytical Techniques

In-class activity: Identification of human bones; determination of age and sex from the skeleton; normal versus pathological specimens

July 21 – Identity and Personal Identification

In-class exercise: interviews for descriptive identification of missing persons.

July 22 – Archaeological Recovery versus Crime Scene Investigation

Reading: Chapters 2 & 3

In-class exercise: Crime Scene Simulation

July 23 – Inheritance and DNA; Race

Reading: Chapter 15

July 24 – Forensic Evidence: Biological Fluids

Reading: Chapter 14

July 25 – Examination

Forensic Evidence: Hair and Fibers

In-class activity: hair and fiber analysis

Reading: Chapter 10

July 28 – Forensic Evidence: Questioned Documents

Reading: Chapter 17

In-class exercise: Handwriting comparison

July 29 –Forensic Evidence: Fingerprints

Reading: Chapter 6

In-class exercise: Fingerprint scoring

July 30 – Mass Disasters and Multiple Fatality Incidents

July 31 – Testimony; Ethics in Forensic Sciences

Other forensic sciences: Psychiatry, Engineering, Jurisprudence, Digital and Multimedia

Science
Reading: Chapter 19

August 1 – Human Rights and Forensic Science; Examination

Sample