

FORENSIC SCIENCE (FS)

FS 120. DNA in Forensic Science. 1 Credit.

In this course, we explore the amazing DNA molecule and how it is used in forensic science and the medico-legal system. We begin by learning about DNA composition and function, and then we expand our vision to develop a clearer picture of how forensic scientists use their knowledge of DNA to identify individuals through tissue and cell samples. You will have an opportunity to participate in simulations that allow you to apply theory to practice, and you will be able to work with others to tackle case studies that require you to synthesize and apply the information discussed in class.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: As needed

FS 130. Forensic Odontology. 1 Credit.

In this course, we will discuss how dental remains inform medico-legal contexts. We will examine the kinds of data that forensic odontologists may evaluate when trying to identify someone's identity from dentition, as well as other ways that forensic dentists may contribute to legal issues. We will review bitemark analysis and the ways that it has led to wrongful conviction.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: As needed

FS 140. Crime Fighting in Mass Media. 1 Credit.

This course examines mass media portrayals of "crime fighting by considering how "crime fighters" and their "crime fighting tools" are typically portrayed. Questions concerning portrayal of race and gender, and crime fighting technology, will be discussed along with implications of these portrayals for how people think about crime and justice.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: As needed

FS 150. Forensic Imaging. 1 Credit.

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of diagnostic imaging, and to demonstrate how imaging is used in forensic investigations. Topics will include an introduction to the imaging modalities, the basics of radiographic image production, the use of imaging for identification of individuals, as well as imaging's role in anthropology, gunshot wounds, and child abuse. The use of various technologies in postmortem investigations will also be explored.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: As needed

FS 199. Special Topics in Forensic Science. 1 Credit.

This course will introduce how a specific topic and/or discipline contributes to forensic science and the medico-legal system. Topics may include: forensic odontology, DNA technology, chemical instrumentation, forensics in mass media, forensic case studies, and physics of projectiles, among others.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Fall and Spring

FS 210. Fingerprint Analysis. 3 Credits.

This is designed to provide the students with an overview of the science of fingerprints. This course will include the history of fingerprints, development and recognition of fingerprints, various chemical and physical processing techniques, fingerprint comparison and identification, recording of inked fingerprint impressions and the latest advances in fingerprint identification will be discussed during this course. Additional discussion will include a case study of the FBI's erroneous fingerprint identification associated with the 2004 Madrid train bombing and the wrongful detention of Brandon Mayfield, the U.S. Department of Justice response, the recommended study's addressing latent print accuracy and reliability and conclusion limitations designated on the federal and state latent print communities.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, All

FS 299. Intermediate Special Topics. 3 Credits.

You will be introduced to a variety of topics dealing with a particular aspect of Forensic Science. The course may be repeated for credit if it concerns a different topic.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: As needed