



CHS 5503 – Syllabus DRAFT

Topics in Forensic Science

Fall 2010: August 23 thru December 6

Final Exam Week of December 7-13

University of Central Florida (UCF, <http://www.ucf.edu>)

Section 0W61 (3 graduate credit hours)

Online Course

This class is one of the required courses for students in the Graduate Certificate in Computer Forensics (GCCF), <http://www.cs.ucf.edu/csdept/info/gccf> and the Master of Science Digital Forensics (MSDF) <http://msdf.ucf.edu/> for either College credit or Continuing Education credit.

Instructor: Carrie M. Whitcomb, MSFS, FAAFS*

- Director, the National Center for Forensic Science (NCFS, <http://www.ncfs.edu>)
- Masters of Science in Forensic Science (MSFS) (George Washington University)
- Bachelors of Science in Zoology (BS) (University of Kentucky)
- * Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences; www.aafs.org

E-mail: Use Web Courses Mail Function at all times. Emergency whitcomb@mail.ucf.edu

Your **computer must be compatible** with Web Courses. For best functionality, users are encouraged to use one of the following browsers:

- **Windows XP:** Firefox 2.0, Internet Explorer 6 or 7
- **Windows Vista:** Internet Explorer 7
- **Mac OS X:** Firefox 2.0, Safari 2.0.4

Communications via WebCourse Email:

The Value: Communication is **Very, Very important** for online courses. Nothing is worse than a mistaken communication. We must handle our communications carefully, succinctly, and for a purpose.

The Problem: Having 70 students sending me emails, 24 hours per day, is intolerable especially when the majority of the emails are about the same issues.

My Suggestions: If you have general questions, about WebCourse, assignments, etc. ask your Group Leader, you're Group or the entire class to assist you. Most students are very helpful. Contact me when you have questions that only I can solve.

Purchasing Text Book: The text book has all the information and links needed for this course. Please try to purchase the assigned text from the college bookstore at the beginning of the semester. The bookstore will not keep copies of textbooks on its shelves indefinitely, and students will be responsible for all assigned texts regardless of their availability status. It can also be purchased elsewhere. The 10th version has many attributes that were not in the previous editions.

**Saferstein, Richard, *Criminalistics*, Tenth Edition, Prentice-Hall, 2006;
ISBN 13: 978-0-13-504520-6; ISBN 10: 0-13-504520-7**

Course Place and Time:

This course is completely online via Web Courses. Chapters are assigned on Monday.

Group Leaders Responsibilities: (each group will have a leader)

- The Group Leaders will be assigned by the instructor
- Each Group Leader insures the next Group leader alphabetical list by last names of the students.
- The Group Leader will lead their Group in such areas: sending relevant e-mail to Instructor, answering questions, leading the Discussion topic, organizing, make suggestions to Instructor.
- Each DISCUSSION TOPIC is finalized by a consensus statement by each group (details to be worked out)
- Leaders will rotate through-out the course.

Students Responsibilities:

- You will be assigned to a Group of approximately 6 -9 people.
- Your Group is your “assisted web-learning group”.
- Your Group will sort, resolve and send emails to the Group Leader to Reply or send to Instructor, if needed.
- Course Chapters begin on Mondays and are completed in 7 days and end at 11:30 PM Sundays.
- Chapter Quizzes will be completed before 11:30 PM on Sundays.
- Everyone in a Group is to participate equally in DISCUSSION TOPICS.
- Assignments: Read text book chapters as assigned and other forms of relevant information as assigned in the Syllabus below, including:
 - **Headline News**
 - **Learning Objectives**
 - **Chapters**
 - **Key Terms-Summary**
 - **Questions**
 - **Review Questions**
 - **Critical Thinking**
 - **References**
 - **MyCrimeKit**
 - **Case Analyses**
 - **Virtual Lab**
 - **Appendixes I - IV**
 - **Links that team members locate**
- Participate in your discussions. (I will ask one question in each discussion so I can track your participation)
- Your group will be your learning team, each member will participate equally.
- **No Group work on Midterm and Final Exams**
- PhD students will complete a research project, with a deliverable mutually agreed upon by the student and the instructor.

- Assessments:
 - The Discussions are 10% of your grade, Quizzes are 25% of you final grade, your Mid-term Examination is 30% and the Final Examination, which covers the entire course, is 35% of your grades. The grades are recorded as A, B, C, D (+/-)

	% of Grade
Discussions	10%
Chapter Quizzes	25%
Mid-Term Exam	30%
Final Exam	35%
Total	100%

Course Schedule by Topics Fall 2010:

CHS 5503.0W61 “Topics in Forensic Science”

Brief Outline:

Instructor: Carrie M. Whitcomb, M.S.F.S.

Text Book: Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science, by Saferstein, 10th Edition

E-mail: Use the Web-CT email function; Schedule for 2010 (Subject to Change)

Before Class visit the UCF Learning Center at: <http://learn.ucf.edu>

For Web-Courses Assistance: techranger@mail.ucf.edu

This is the **BRIEF OUTLINE ONLY, DETAILED ASSIGNMENTS** will be given each week:

Week	Date	Chapters, Headline News, Learning Objectives, Key Terms, Summary, Review Questions, Application and Critical Thinking, References, Case Analysis, Virtual Lab, MyCrimeKit, Appendixes: I - IV; See detailed Assignments
1	Aug 23-29 th	Chapter 1, Introduction; read pages 4-25 Chapter 2, The Crime Scene; read pages 26-57
2	Aug 30- Sept 5 th	Chapter 3, Physical Evidence; pages 58-91 Chapter 4, Physical Properties: Glass and Soil; read pages 93-118
3	Sept 6-12 th	Chapter 5, Organic Analysis; read pages 119-144 Chapter 6, Inorganic Analysis; read pages 145-164
4	Sept 13-19 th	Chapters 7, The Microscope; read pages 165-188
5	Sept 20-26 th	Chapter 8, Drugs; read pages 189-211 Chapter 9, Forensic Toxicology, read pages 212-239
6	Oct 3-10 th	Chapter 10, Forensic Serology, pages 240-265
7	Oct 11-17th	Midterm Examination on Chapters 1 - 10
8	Oct 18-24 th	Chapter 11, DNA, pages 266-295
9	Oct 25-31 st	Chapter 12, Crime Scene Reconstruction, pages 296-319 Chapter 13, Hair, Fibers, and Paint, pages 320-351
10	Nov 1-7 th	Chapter 14, Forensic Aspects of Fire Investigation, pages 352-371 Chapter 15, Forensic Investigation of Explosions, pages 372-387
11	Nov 8-14 th	Chapter 16, Fingerprints, pages 388-415

12	Nov 15-21 st	Chapter 17, Firearms, tool marks, and other impressions, 416-449
13	Nov 22-28 th	Chapter 18, Document Examination, pages 450-469 Chapter 19, Computer Forensics, pages 469
14	Nov 29- Dec 6 th	Chapter 20, The Future, pages 500-505
15	Dec 7-13th	Final Exam on All of the above