

**FSC 140: Introduction to Forensic Science  
Spring 2009**

**Instructors:**

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**REQUIRED TEXT:** *Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science* 9<sup>th</sup> Edition by Richard Saferstein, Prentiss Hall

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course is intended to be an introductory course in the field of forensic science. Little or no prior knowledge of science will be assumed. Enough background information will be supplied in lecture and in the readings to enable the student to understand forensic field tests, laboratory procedures, and processing techniques. No forensic scientist is an expert in all the disciplines; they must specialize to be considered an expert. This course is intended to survey several disciplines to make the student aware of how large the field of forensic science is. Upon completion of this course, students should understand the potential value of forensic science and also the limitations.

**DROP DATE:** FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup> is the last day to drop the course without academic penalty.

**COURSE COMMUNICATION:** Communication with students will be primarily during class. If there are any changes that arise in the syllabus or class schedule between class meetings, each student will be notified of the change via USM email. Therefore, it is given that each student is expected to have their USM email address active.

**MAILING LIST/WEBSITE:** A departmental mailing list has been set up for forensic science students. Please visit <https://mail.usm.edu/mailman/listinfo/forensics> to sign up if you have not already. Also, a webpage is under construction at [www.usm.edu/forensics](http://www.usm.edu/forensics). This page will contain syllabi and lab information.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. THREE MAJOR EXAMS            | 25% each for 75% of total grade        |
| 2. SIX QUIZZES (one drop grade) | Average of five for 25% of total grade |

**GRADING POLICY:**

Each exam will count 25% of the final grade with the remaining 25% coming from the average of five quiz grades. NO make-ups for major exams will be allowed.

A= 89.5% - 100%

B= 79.5% - 89.4%

C= 69.5% - 79.4%

D= 59.5% - 69.4%

F= 59.4% - 0%

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

Overview of Forensic Science	Fingerprints	Drugs and Toxicology
The Crime Scene	Firearms	Serology
Organic and Inorganic Analysis	Fiber and Paint	DNA
Physical Evidence	Glass and Soil	

**ADA STATEMENT:** If a student has a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition qualifies. Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the *Mississippi Relay Service* at: 1-800-582-2233 (TTY).

**Voice Telephone:** 601-266-5024 or 228-214-3232

**Fax:** 601-266-6035

**Address:** The University of Southern Mississippi, Office for Disability Accommodations  
118 College Drive #8586, Hattiesburg, MS 39406.

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