

FORENSIC ANALYSIS
Fall 2009
Thomas S. Pittman, Ph.D.
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Arthell Kelley Hall Office 101
Phone: 601-266-4176

Class: FSC 320

Time: M W F 8:00 – 8:50 AM

Place: AKH Room 107

Office Hours: By appointment.

Required Text: Forensic Chemistry; Suzanne Bell, Ph.D.

Description: 3 credit hours: Lecture and discussions covering aspects related to the analytical instrumentation used in forensic laboratories.

Drop Date: September 30, 2009 is the last day to drop the course without academic penalty. September 1, 2009 is the last day to drop and receive 100% financial refund.

Course Communication: Communication with students will primarily be during class lectures. 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 a given that each student is expected to have their USM email address activated for this purpose.

Class Procedures and Requirements: Each student is expected to attend all class lectures. Students are expected to be on time for the start of class as to not interrupt or distract the class once the lecture has begun. Cell phones **MUST** be turned **OFF** prior to the start of class.

Class Participation: Students should be prepared to participate in class discussions based on any assigned readings. Participation in class may help borderline students whose grade is just below the cutoff percentage for the next higher grade. Participation is expected to be professional and on a level commensurate with a college student.

Exams and Quizzes: There will be four exams given during the semester. The exams will account for 100% of your final grade (25% each). There may be quizzes given during the semester that may help your final grade with the lowest quiz score being dropped. Exam questions will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer type questions. There will be no essay or True/False questions on exams or quizzes. Each exam will have a minimum of 33 questions. Make-up exams are discouraged. However, if a student has a legitimate excuse for missing an exam then a time to take the exam will be arranged at the instructor's convenience. **NO** opportunity to make up a quiz will be given.

Final Exam: Friday December 10th at 8:00AM

Grading Scale: Grading will be done on a 10 point scale where:

90 – 100 = A
80 – 89 = B
70 – 79 = C
60 – 69 = D
<60 = F

Exam dates will be announced at least one week prior to the exam and state what material will be covered.

Lecture Outline: Lecture information (i.e. Chapters in text) will be given at the end of each class meeting that will be covered in the next meeting. Any deviations will be announced as stated above under “Course Communications”.

Course Objective: Forensic analysis is designed to give students a basic overview of the types of analyses and instrumentation used in forensic laboratories today.

Learning Outcome: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to classify/recognize types of testing protocols and instrumentation for specific type forensic analyses. Students will also be able to recognize and use the analytical methods/instruments and understand whether the methods used are sufficient to withstand judicial scrutiny for the analysis performed.

Holidays: Labor Day September 7th, Fall Break October 8th and 9th; Thanksgiving November 25th

ADA Syllabus Statement

If a student has a disability 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/disability qualifies.

Address:

The University of Southern Mississippi
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Drive #8586
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Voice Telephone: (601) 266-5024 or (228) 214-3232 Fax: (601) 266-6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the *Mississippi Relay Service* at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or email Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu.