

## Forensic Analysis: FSC 320L, Fall 2009

Thomas S. Pittman, Ph.D

Thomas.S.Pittman@usm.edu

Arthell Kelley Hall 101, Phone: 601-266-4176

TA: Ashlyn Harmon      Ashlyn.Harmon@usm.edu, 601-266-5212, AKH 104

Class: FSC 320L, AKH 107

Time: Monday 6:30-9:15 p.m., Tuesday 8:00-10:45 a.m., Thursday 8:00-10:45 a.m.

**Description:** 1 credit hour: Discussions and experiments covering aspects related to instrumentation used in a typical forensic laboratory. This course is a co-requisite with FSC 320 lecture. Pre-requisites are FSC 140/140L and basic science requirements outlined in the students chosen emphasis area.

**Drop Date:** September 30, 2009 is the last day to drop the course without academic penalty.

**Course Communication:** Communication with students will primarily be during lab meetings. If there are any changes that arise in the syllabus or lab schedule between 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.** A departmental mailing list has been set up for the forensic science students. Please visit <https://mail.usm.edu/mail/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. Be aware of new updates.

**Laboratory Procedures and Requirements:** Each student is expected to attend all laboratory meetings. Each laboratory section will be limited to 10 students. Students are expected to be **on time** for the start of lab. **NO LABORATORY MEETING MISSED BY A STUDENT MAY BE MADE-UP.** If you know of a laboratory meeting you will miss, arrangements with the laboratory instructor **MUST** be made in advance to take the lab with another section. Cell phones **MUST** be turned **OFF** prior to the start of lab.

**SAFETY** is always a primary concern within any laboratory especially when conducting experiments. Safety glasses, gloves and a lab coat will be required for **EVERY** lab. Safety glasses must have lens containing UV protection.

## **Notebook Format:**

- ♥ Composition, Marble notebooks only! NO spiral notebooks!
- ♥ Notebook must be written in blue or black ink.
- ♥ No white out or erasable ink is allowed.
- ♥ Notebook should be legible and coherent.
- ♥ First page of lab notebook should include your name, the course, the semester, your lab partner's name, and the page number (1).
- ♥ The table of contents should be the next page (2) and should include a title and date for each experiment, as well as the page numbers of the experiment.
- ♥ All lab entries must include a title, purpose, equipment and materials, description of experiment, formulas used, data collected, diagrams, and any other important information included in the experiment. Each page should be numbered and initialed at the bottom.
- ♥ The notebook will be graded twice, once at midterm and once at the end of the semester.
- ♥ Any questions about the set up of your notebook should be asked **PRIOR** to the due date of your notebook.

**GRADES:** There will be two exams during the semester a mid –term and last exam. Each exam is worth **35%**. There will also be weekly quizzes, with the lowest quiz grade being dropped. The quizzes will be worth **15%** of total grade and the notebook will also be worth **15%** of total grade.

**Absences:** Students are allowed **ONE** excused absence. If a student attains 2-3 absences, they will drop one letter grade. If the student attains 4 absences, he/ she will drop an additional letter grade. Each absence after will result in additional letter grade being dropped.

**Lab Meetings for Monday Class:**

- ♥ August 31
- ♥ September 14, 21, 28
- ♥ October 12
- ♥ October 19 – Midterm Exam and Notebook Due
- ♥ October 26
- ♥ November 2, 9, 16
- ♥ November 30 – Final Exam and Notebook Due

**Lab Meetings for Tuesday Class:**

- ♥ September 1, 15, 22, 29
- ♥ October 13
- ♥ October 20 - Midterm Exam and Notebook Due
- ♥ October 27
- ♥ November 3, 10, 17
- ♥ December 1 – Final Exam and Notebook Due

**Lab Meetings for Thursday Class:**

- ♥ September 3, 17, 24
- ♥ October 1, 15
- ♥ October 22- Midterm and Notebook Due
- ♥ October 29
- ♥ November 5, 12, 19
- ♥ December 23- Final Exam and Notebook Due

**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**

**Course Objective:** The course objective is to familiarize students with forensic laboratory instrumentation commonly used in today's forensic labs. The laboratory is designed to follow the FSC 320 lecture class so that the student will be able to integrate theory with practice.

**Learning Outcome:** Students will learn to set up, maintain and use instrumentation. Students will also learn to troubleshoot instruments.

### **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 #5127  
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](mailto:Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu).

### **University Academic Honesty Policy**

The University's academic honesty policy will be strictly enforced. You are expected to understand the policy which is available in the University Bulletin at the following address:

<http://www.usm.edu/registrar/catalogs2007/undergraduate/pdfs/Student%20Life.pdf>. Plagiarism and/or

cheating will not be tolerated. There will be no excuse for lack of familiarity of the Student Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook.