

Introduction to Forensic Science Laboratory
FSC140L
Spring 2010

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This laboratory will introduce students to the various disciplines of forensic science. The lab exercises will attempt to parallel the lectures in the Introduction to Forensic Science (FSC140) lecture. The labs are designed to help students explore their interests in the many different disciplines of forensic science and given students a more well rounded knowledge of the subjects. A USM email address (or other active email address) is requested for course communications between instructor and students.

Grading: Points will be awarded throughout the semester in the following manner:

- Laboratory Attendance/Participation (10 Labs @ 2 pts each = 20pts)
- Laboratory Notebook (10 Labs @ 10 pts each = 100 pts)
(Submit for grading at Final Exam)
- Papers (2 Papers @ 40 pts each = 80 pts)
- Quizzes (10 Labs @ 10 pts each = 100 pts)
- Midterm Exam (50 pts)
- Final Exam (50 pts)

The total amount of possible points is 400.

Grading Scale:

A = 89.5-100%	(358-400 pts)
B = 79.5-89.4%	(318-357 pts)
C = 69.5-79.4%	(278-317 pts)
D = 59.5-69.4%	(238-277 pts)
F = Below 59.5%	(below 277 pts)

Attendance Policy: Laboratory attendance is mandatory. NO MAKE-UP LABS WILL BE GIVEN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. If the student knows that he/she will miss a laboratory, it is his/her responsibility to make the necessary arrangements with the instructor to meet with another laboratory **that week**.

Lab Times: Mondays- 10 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
Mondays- 12 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.

Wednesdays- 10 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

Because ample opportunity is given to the students to make up labs, only one unexcused absence will be allowed. When a student misses two labs unexcused then he/she will be dropped one letter grade. If three classes are missed by a student then he/she will automatically be given a grade of an (F) for the semester.

All students must have the materials necessary for the lab. This includes closed toe shoes, a lab coat and safety goggles/glasses. If the student does not have the necessary materials for that lab, he/she cannot attend the lab and will receive a "0" for the lab. Because of time and laboratory safety, tardiness will not be tolerated. If the student arrives to the lab after the quiz has been given, that student will not be allowed to participate in the lab and will receive a "0" for the lab.

Lab Notebooks: A laboratory notebook will be maintained by the student detailing each laboratory experiment covered throughout the semester. The contents of this notebook will be discussed in detail during the first week's laboratory proceedings. Notebooks will be turned in for grading when the final exam is taken. Any questions about the notebook should be directed to the instructor prior to turning it in for grading. Students are responsible for notebook entries for any missed labs.

Quizzes: A quiz will be given each week at the beginning of the laboratory period. The quizzes will be based off the material covered in the previous lab.

Writing Assignments: Topics for two papers will be assigned by the instructor. A handout detailing the requirements for the papers will be given to each student.

Schedule: *The Instructor retains the right to alter or change the schedule as needed.*

Weekly Schedule

Week 1	Jan 25	Exercise 1: Introduction and Laboratory Safety
Week 2*	Feb 1	Exercise 2: Crime Scene Documentation
Week 3	Feb 8	Exercise 3: Impression Evidence & Tool Marks
Week 4	Feb 15	Mardi Gras Break: NO CLASS
Week 5	Feb 22	Exercise 4: Questioned Documents (Handwriting/Ink Analysis)
Week 6**	Mar 1	Exercise 5: Fingerprinting
Week 7	Mar 8	MIDTERM EXAM
Week 8	Mar 15	Spring Break Holiday: NO CLASS
Week 9	Mar 22	Exercise 6: Soil Analysis
Week 10	Mar 29	Exercise 7: Glass Reconstruction
Week 11	Apr 5	Exercise 8: Forensic Chemistry (Tox., Drug ID, Arson, TLC)
Week 12	Apr 12	Exercise 9: Hair and Fiber Analysis
Week 13	Apr 19	Exercise 10: DNA Analysis & Blood Spatter/Pattern Analysis
Week 14	Apr 26	FINAL EXAM & LAB NOTEBOOK SUBMISSION

* Drop Date (and receive 100% refund) is February 1st 2010

**Drop date (without academic penalty) is March 3rd 2010

Plagiarism: The University's academic honesty policy will be strictly enforced. You are expected to understand the policy which is available in the University Student Handbook at the following address: <http://www.usm.edu/union/downloads/handbook0809.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.

ADA: If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans 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 (Hattiesburg Campus):

The University of Southern Mississippi
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Drive # 8586
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Telephone: (601) 266-5024
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.