FSC 497 – Field Study in Forensic Science
Washington, D.C.
Spring 2020 (March 12-21)

Instructor: Dean Bertram (Associate Teaching Professor)
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Tel: 601-266-5124
Office Hours: M: 9:15am – 12:15pm; 2:00-5:00pm {AKH 103}

Course Description: This course will give the student an opportunity to learn about and participate in a program of observation and professional experience with various federal agencies, including the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Army CID, Department of Homeland Security, Secret Service, CIA, DEA, USPS, FBI and Capitol Police. Students will attend approximately two lectures per day at various agencies and an evening colloquium. This study, by design, places student in an occupational environment of known cultural diversity.

Course Objectives: During this week-long study in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, GA, students will gain firsthand knowledge and experience with various federal law enforcement and related agencies; engage in ongoing police operations with a municipal police force; attend and participate in daily colloquiums with people in criminal justice related fields; and explore employment opportunities at the federal level.

Warning: The host agencies are subject to a changing schedule dictated by a continuously changing criminal environment; as such, we must also be prepared for change, as it will most assuredly happen.

Withdrawal Policy: Last day to add/drop without Academic/Financial Penalty is January 29. After this date, no tuition refund whatsoever will be issued, and all approved drops will result in a grade of W. After April 8, no course withdrawals are permitted (meaning students will receive an actual grade in the course).

Grading Scale: A=90+ B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=Below 60

Grading Policy: Students working on various levels of degrees will be participating in this study. As such, requirements for the grade will be addressed individually for each student.

33% Research of Agencies/PowerPoint Presentation
33% Attendance at all agency seminars
33% Detailed daily journals of agency visits

Research of Agencies: Students will be required to develop PowerPoint presentations regarding an agency of the instructor’s choice. Students will meet prior to the trip in order to thoroughly discuss each agency.

Attendance: Students must attend all lectures and meetings with federal agencies. For any absence, the student will have points deducted from the overall attendance grade.

Daily Journals: Students will be required to maintain a journal detailing their daily experience for each agency visit. The purpose of this journal is to help you reflect on the personal value of each experience.

Dress Policy: Students are expected to dress in business attire for all agency visits. Colloquiums are informal, and thus casual attire is allowed.
**Disability Accommodations:** If a student believes they have a disability which is covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and makes them eligible to receive classroom or housing accommodations, they should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information regarding the registration process. Disabilities covered by the ADA may include but are not limited to ADHD, learning disabilities, psychiatric disabilities, physical disabilities, chronic health disorders, temporary illnesses or injuries and pregnancies. Students should contact ODA if they are not certain whether their documented medical condition qualifies for ODA services. Students are only required to disclose their disability to the Office for Disability Accommodations. All information submitted to ODA by the student is held with strict confidentiality.

**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 emailing ODA at oda@usm.edu.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** All students at The University of Southern Mississippi are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but not limited to):

1. Cheating (including copying from others’ work)  
2. Plagiarism (representing another person’s words or ideas as your own; failure to properly cite the source of your information, argument, or concepts)  
3. Falsification of documents  
4. Disclosure of test or other assignment content to another student  
5. Submission of the same paper or other assignment to more than one class without the explicit approval of all faculty members’ involved  
6. Unauthorized academic collaboration with others  
7. Conspiracy to engage in academic misconduct  

Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting others who do so will result in academic penalties and/or other sanctions. If a faculty member determines that a student has violated our Academic Integrity Policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including the possibility of receiving a grade of “XF” for the course, which will be on the student’s transcript with the notation “Failure due to academic misconduct.” For more details, please see the University’s Academic Integrity Policy. Note that repeated acts of academic misconduct will lead to expulsion from the University.