The University of Southern Mississippi  
School of Criminal Justice  
FSC 141 - Introduction to Forensic Science II  
Syllabus Fall 2017  
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Class: FSC 141
Class time: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30 – 4:45 PM
Place: AKH 107
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00am–12:00 pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00–11:00 am.
Credit hours: 3

Description: Lecture and discussions covering aspects related to introduction to analytical and biological disciplines in forensic science. Class will concentrate on terminology and instrumentation used in these two areas of forensic science. The analytical area covers toxicology, drug testing, and trace analysis. The biological area will cover serology and DNA testing.

Drop date: Last day to drop and receive 100% financial credit: August 23rd, 2017 (No tuition credit issued after this date)
Drop date: Last day to drop class without instructor permission: August 23rd, 2017.
Drop date: Last day to withdraw and receive grade of W: October 27th, 2017. After this date, the student will receive the actual letter grade earned in the course.

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 a 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 reading. Participation in class may help those 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 three exams total (including the final exam). The exams will account for 60% of your final grade (20% each). Exam questions will be a combination of multiple choice type and short answer 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. There will be three quizzes which will account for 30% of the final grade. Attendance will count for 10% of the total marks.

Attendance: All students are expected to attend all classes. Two absences are excused; a third absence will forfeit the 10% allocated for attendance.

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 6, 2017: 4:15-6:45 PM. Final exam will count 20% of final grade.

Grading Scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; < 60 = F

Lecture Outline: Information on the next class lecture subject will be given at the end of each class. Any deviations will be announced as stated above under “Course Communications”.
Course Objective: Introduce students to terminology and instrumentation used in the areas of analytical forensic science as well as serology and DNA. Process samples in preparation for analysis, and be familiar with the types of analyses and/or instrumentation required to perform such analyses.

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

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious offense. Any written and/or oral presentation in which the writer or speaker does not distinguish clearly between original and borrowed material, or cheats, constitutes plagiarism. An act of plagiarism may lead to a failing grade on the work involved and in the course. This also applies to quizzes and exams. Please refer to the USM Student Handbook for more details.

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 (Bond Hall 114)
118 College Drive # 8586
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Telephone: (601)266-5024 (Hattiesburg campus)
(228)214-3232 (Gulf Coast campus)

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
All students at The University of Southern Mississippi are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all that they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are 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 content 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.