Survey of Forensic Science – CRIJ 3375

SYLLABUS

Summer II 2021
06/28/2021 – 08/06/2021

Instructor: Dr. Milton C. Hill
Office: Liberal Arts North, Room 113
Phone: (936) 468-4408 (Ms. Joy) Online only (via email preferred)
Other Phone: (936) 355-1643 cell
E-mail: mhill@sfasu.edu

Class: CRIJ 3375: Survey of Forensic Science
Section 500
Time: Varied; Online only; Livestream
Location: Online

Course Description

“Introductory survey of forensic sciences; fingerprints, firearms, tool marks, documents, hairs, fibers, glass, soil and biological materials, such as blood and semen; crime scene procedures and methods of laboratory analysis.” (SFASU General Bulletin).

In this course, we will examine and discuss issues related to the processing of evidence at the crime lab AFTER it is collected by law enforcement at the crime scene (which is covered in CRIJ 3373). Because most students taking this course are not science majors, we will go no further into the scientific application of particular processes than is necessary to have a general understanding of each of those processes. This course will provide a general survey of several applications of “forensic science.” Each chapter covered in the textbook could be a book in itself.

Textbook/Readings

Access to the textbook is required!

Other readings as assigned, provided by professor.

Note regarding textbook: You are required to have access to the textbook. I do not require that you own the book; sharing is always an option if you can make that work. The book is available from your campus bookstore, off-campus stores, and through Internet sources.
Credit Hour Justification

Survey of Forensic Science (3 credit hours) is an upper-level course that, though not officially designated as writing-enhanced, is heavily dependent upon students’ writing, and focus is placed upon developing the student’s analytical and critical thinking skills. The course meets for 150 minutes per week (typically Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday) for 15 weeks with a 2-hour final exam in the sixteenth week. Students are assigned weekly essays in which they must read and critically analyze the reading(s) for the weeks. All exams have essay and short-answer questions in which the student must communicate their knowledge of the material and demonstrate assimilation of the lectures, readings, and current events. For each classroom “hour,” the student is expected to spend a minimum of 2 hours in preparation for upcoming classes and in completing assigned work.

Course Objectives

Program Learning Outcomes
This course meets the following CJS Program objective:
The student will demonstrate an understanding of the purposes and operation of the major components of the criminal justice system, and the student will be able to critically analyze the criminal justice system and its aims and outcomes.

Course-Specific Student Learning Outcomes
This course meets the following CJS Course objectives:
1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of criminal justice agencies and the way they operate in a comparative context.
2. The student will demonstrate a general understanding of the role of police, criminal court systems, correctional systems, purposes of punishment, and international forms of justice in a modern society.
3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the “overall picture” of the world’s different criminal justice systems by touching on examples from specific countries.
4. The student will demonstrate a better understanding of other countries and their cultures.
5. The student will be able to identify and explain the differences and similarities of their own and other criminal justice systems.
6. The student will demonstrate an understanding of different intertwining and interacting historical, socioeconomic and cultural factors affecting the administration of justice worldwide.
7. The student will develop critical thinking and writing skills through essay responses on examinations, QQTPs, and/or writing assignments.

Classroom Meeting Schedule and Location

You are expected to participate actively in the “courseroom.” There are no specific times for you to be present in the courseroom, but you should expect to visit the courseroom several times during the semester—at least once daily (more often is recommended).
**Student Responsibility**

You retain the responsibility to follow the guidelines of the course syllabus, to comply with university regulations, to read all assigned material and postings specific to this course, and to comply with due dates, submission guidelines, and my instructions.

You are an adult, and you retain the responsibility of regulating your behavior in a manner that will be conducive to learning and for attaining a passing grade in the course. You are expected to comply with the general rules of civility.

You are to participate in class discussions, and, though you are free to express your personal views, you must also respect the views of others. I maintain the right to censor any discussion that is becoming disruptive to the learning process.

The course syllabus is not a menu and you do not have the option of choosing which items to complete and/or which tasks to perform. Failure to submit required material or failure to participate in required discussions will result in a failing grade for those assignments. Note: Failure to comply with ALL requirements for written assignments will result in a grade of zero. Make sure that you read and understand all instructions and expectations!

You are participating in a course designed to prepare you for a career as a public servant. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld higher standards for those involved in public service—particularly in those professions related to criminal justice. You are expected to read carefully, and to fully comply with, the course requirements, the courseroom rules, and the academic honesty policy as explained in this syllabus.

**Originality Checking**

ALL written assignments submitted via the dropboxes in Brightspace will be routed through Turnitin.com for originality checking. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated!

**Participation**

Because participation is a very important part of learning, I place a strong emphasis upon discussion in ALL of the modules, so your participation is essential. NO ONE IS EXEMPT from participation; you must participate to be successful in this course!

**Module Discussions**

Note that the module discussions are detailed in the included Course Module Schedule, listed below. The schedule includes details of the prescribed reading assignments, and it includes a work due date. All items (posts, responses, quizzes, writing assignments, exams, etc.) detailed for that assignment must be completed by the work due date. If you are in any way confused, contact me via email. You have plenty of time before the course work begins to clarify any confusion.
Examinations

Four examinations will be given during the semester. The exams may have an objective section (multiple choice and true/false) and one or two subjective (short-answer and essay) sections. If there is an essay section, essay responses will be graded upon content, critical thinking skills, and grammar. The final exam will be comprehensive.

Students must complete all four exams for the semester. No grades will be dropped!

Keep in mind that material from the textbook may not cover all of the required information; a portion of any examination material may come from other sources as presented or discussed in the course modules.

Grading

Student grades will be earned according to the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>900-1000</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>800-899</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>700-799</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>600-699</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>Below 600</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The cumulative semester grade will be based upon the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam One</td>
<td>(0-100 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Two</td>
<td>(0-100 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam Three</td>
<td>(0-100 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td><strong>(0-200 pts)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>(10 @ 1-50 pts; 500 pts possible)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1000 points available

Make-Up Grades and Extra Credit

Not offered and not available, so do not ask.

I cannot stress strongly enough that late work will not be accepted! You may work ahead, but you may not work behind!

Justification of Credit Hours and Course Work Expectations

Per SFA policy, you are expected to spend a minimum of two hours on out-of-class work per every one hour of class time or direct faculty instruction over the 15-week semester (this does not include finals week). That means that you should plan on attending class for 45 hours and working on this course outside of class for at least 90 hours for a minimum 135 hours. In this course, this requirement is approximated in the following way:
Courseroom attendance  
(Discussions, quizzes, etc.)  
10 hours per week @ 6 weeks  
60
Reading the text/outside materials  
5 hours per week @ 6 weeks  
30
Study for exams  
3 exams @ 2 hours each  
6
Writing assignments  
3 hours @ 10 assignments  
30
136

Remember that this summer course is a 15-week course covered in a 6-week period. Basically, multiply the work hours per week expected by 3. From experience, I would recommend that you plan on spending 2-3 hours PER DAY on this course. This course is not “dumbed down” or reduced in any way from the long semester offering. I will expect the same work from you that I expect from students in the fall and spring semesters. (Remember, I am having to work 3 times as hard—or more—as well!)

Course Calendar

CRIJ 3375 Course Module Schedule
(You may work ahead, but these are the due dates for the work to be submitted.)

Remember that I do NOT take late work!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Discussion - Initial Response Opens</th>
<th>End of Module - Work Due; Discussions Close</th>
<th>Reading (See module for reading assignment)</th>
<th>Activity (see Course Modules for Specific Assignments)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intro</td>
<td>All start times are at 12:00 a.m. CST of the date listed</td>
<td>All end times are at 11:55 p.m. CST of the date listed</td>
<td>Included in Module</td>
<td>Course Introduction and Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6/28/2021</td>
<td>6/30/2021</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Getting Started and Introductory Module</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7/4/2021</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Evidence in the Legal System</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6/28/2021</td>
<td>7/7/2021</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Crime Scene Processing and Analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Discussion - Initial Response Opens</th>
<th>End of Module - Work Due; Discussions Close</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Activity (see Course Modules for Specific Assignments)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>All start times are at 12:00 a.m. CST of the date listed</td>
<td>All end times are at 11:55 p.m. CST of the date listed</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Examination and Interpretation of Patterns for Reconstruction</td>
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<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Examination of Physical Pattern Evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXAM #1</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>6/28/2021</td>
<td>7/14/2021</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Fingerprints and Other Personal Identification Patterns</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>6/28/2021</td>
<td>7/18/2021</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Questioned Document Examination</td>
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<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Toolmarks and Firearms</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXAM #2</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>6/28/2021</td>
<td>7/21/2021</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Digital Evidence and Computer Forensics</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6/28/2021</td>
<td>7/25/2021</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Blood and Physiological Evidence: Evaluation and Initial Examination</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>6/28/2021</td>
<td>7/28/2021</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>DNA Analysis and Typing</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXAM #3</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>6/28/2021</td>
<td>8/1/2021</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>Arson and Explosives</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>6/28/2021</td>
<td>8/4/2021</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td>Drugs and Drug Analysis</td>
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<td>Chapter 14</td>
<td>Materials Evidence</td>
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<td>EXAM #4</td>
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<td>8/6/2021</td>
<td>8/6/2021</td>
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* You should post your initial module discussion post on the "open" date shown for each module. The two required responses must be posted by the “end of module” date for each module.
Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/ inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Courseroom Rules

1. Maturity – Certain topics within this course may stir emotional reactions in some. So as not to derail the discussions, mature behavior is required. Please treat others with respect and courtesy. If you flame, insult, or intentionally offend someone in this class—or if you disrespect others’ opinions, feelings, or beliefs—you will be warned (the first time); you will be removed from the class for a second offense.

2. When others say something in a discussion or during a chat, you are expected to listen and be respectful of the person’s right to have an opinion that may differ from your own.

3. I do not “give” grades, I merely report them. You are in complete control of your final grade. Everyone starts with an A; where you go from there depends entirely upon you. Do NOT come to me at the end of the semester asking me to “give” you anything—and that includes make-up work and extra credit work; it will not happen.

4. The tentative class schedule in the syllabus is a general guide. Coverage of the material may be accelerated, decelerated, rearranged, augmented, diminished, or otherwise modified when the change would be to the benefit of the class.

5. This syllabus will act as the final word in the event of a discrepancy, error, or misunderstanding. Make sure you read and understand it completely—and make sure you keep a copy for reference during the semester.

6. Cheating, plagiarism, or any other violation of the University’s Statement on Academic Integrity, will result in IMMEDIATE and irreconcilable removal from the class.

7. If you quote it, cite it;
   If you paraphrase it, reference it;
   If you don’t know, contact me.
SFASU Policy Statements

Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf

Any occurrences of cheating or plagiarism will be dealt with according to University policy, provided to you in your student handbook. (A-9.1) Specifically, we will first meet together to discuss same in my office where you will be given the opportunity to explain your position. If it is determined that academic dishonesty has occurred, I will then make a decision as to the penalty therefore. Penalties may include reprimand or no credit for the assignment or exam, or re-submission of the paper, or make-up exam, or failure of the course. I will then refer the incident to the Chair of the Department and the Dean of the College. This Report of Academic Dishonesty form, along with supporting documentation shall be made a part of the student’s record and remains on file with the Dean’s office for at least four (4) years. A second or subsequent offense shall be referred to the Committee on Academic Integrity pursuant to policy.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

Policy: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf
For additional information: http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Withheld grades Semester Grades Policy (A---54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.
SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
SFASU Counseling Services  
[www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)  
3rd Floor Rusk Building  
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic  
[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)  
Human Services Room 202  
936-468-1041

**Crisis Resources:**
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343  
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)  
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741