

Spring 2020

FRSC 307-102: Crime Scene Investigation and Lab (Revised for Remote Learning)

Kevin Parmelee

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.njit.edu/chem-syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Parmelee, Kevin, "FRSC 307-102: Crime Scene Investigation and Lab (Revised for Remote Learning)" (2020). *Chemistry and Environmental Science Syllabi*. 240.
<https://digitalcommons.njit.edu/chem-syllabi/240>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the NJIT Syllabi at Digital Commons @ NJIT. It has been accepted for inclusion in Chemistry and Environmental Science Syllabi by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ NJIT. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@njit.edu.

**FRSC 307: Crime Scene
Investigation & Lab**
*M 6:00-8:50pm (TIER
209)*
R 5:45-7:40pm (TIER 114)
*Spring 2020 Course
Syllabus*

[NJIT Academic Integrity Code](#): All Students should be aware that the Department of Chemistry & Environmental Science (CES) takes the University Code on Academic Integrity at NJIT very seriously and enforces it strictly. This means that there must not be any forms of plagiarism, i.e., copying of homework, class projects, or lab assignments, or any form of cheating in quizzes and exams. Under the University Code on Academic Integrity, students are obligated to report any such activities to the Instructor.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: This course gives an overview of the cardinal principles and techniques of crime scene investigation, with an emphasis on a rigorous scientific approach. Students will be introduced to: crime scene documentation, sketches, and photography; specialized techniques for the recognition and enhancement of physical evidence; preparation and maintenance of case folders for records including notes, sketches, photographs, and contacts/communications; communication of results and preparation of formal reports; and ethics and bias in crime scene investigation. The primary aim of the course is to introduce students to scientific philosophy, integrity, CSI procedures, and the role of the crime scene investigator.

Number of Credits: 4

Prerequisites: FRSC 201

Course-Section and Instructor

| Course-Section | Instructor |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| FRSC 307-102 | Dr. Kevin Parmelee |
| M 6:00-8:50pm (TIER 209) | Office: Tiernan 323B |
| R 5:45-7:40pm (TIER 114) | Office Hours: By appointment |
| | email: parmskev@gmail.com |

Required Textbook:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Title | Techniques of Crime Scene Investigation, 8 th ed. |
| Author | Barry Fisher & David Fisher |
| Edition | 8 |
| Publisher | CRC |
| ISBN # | 978-1439810057 |

and additional readings as assigned.

University-wide Withdrawal Date: The last day to withdraw with a **W** is Monday, April 6, 2020. It will be strictly enforced.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Apply crime scene procedures and techniques to reveal physical evidence.
- Use the appropriate techniques to document the crime scene (notes, sketches, 3D scans, photography and video).
- Recognize, enhance, document, collect, handle, and package physical evidence using field-specific techniques.
- Maintain chain of custody.
- Identify and describe common field tests for the presumptive identification and enhancement of different types of physical evidence.
- Reconstruct a crime scene, including basic bloodstain pattern analysis and shooting scene trajectory analysis.
- Organize management of a crime scene, including allocation of personnel, resources, and time.
- Code of ethics for CSI's.
- Articulate the necessity of ethics in forensics and CSI and the potential ethical problems.
- Evaluate the physical evidence for a criminal investigation in terms of its significance.
- Identify applications of scientific investigative methods when examining crime scenes and physical evidence.
- Describe how science is used in the criminal justice system.
- Be able to testify in a clear and unbiased manner as to your findings at a crime scene under both direct and cross examination

POLICIES

All CES students must familiarize themselves with, and adhere to, all official university-wide student policies. CES takes these policies very seriously and enforces them strictly.

Grading Policy: The final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Lab safety and cleanliness | 10% |
| Class Participation | 10% |
| Lab exercises | 30% |
| Midterm Exam | 20% |
| Final Exam | 30% |
| Extra Credit will be given for attending NJIAI, NEAFS, or EAS | 5% per conference |
| Extra Credit for attending Friday Forensic Seminar Series talks | 1% per seminar |

Your final letter grade in this course will be based on the following grading scale:

| | | | |
|----|--------|---|-------|
| A | 90-100 | C | 70-76 |
| B+ | 87-89 | D | 60-69 |
| B | 80-86 | F | <60 |
| C+ | 77-79 | | |

Attendance Policy: Attendance at classes will be recorded and is **mandatory**. Each class is a learning experience that cannot be replicated through simply “getting the notes.” After two unexcused absences, each subsequent absence will result in your class participation score being lowered by one percentage point. You are expected to read the relevant chapter and/or reading assignment prior to the lecture. Students who participate in lecture will receive points towards their class participation grade.

Exams: There will be one midterm exam held in class during the semester and one comprehensive final exam. The following exam periods are tentative and therefore possibly subject to change:

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Midterm Exam | March 12 |
| Final Exam Period | May 8-14 |

The final exam will test your knowledge of all the course material taught in the entire course.

Makeup Exam Policy: There will normally be **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES OR EXAMS** during the semester. In the event that a student has a legitimate reason for missing a quiz or exam, the student should contact the Dean of Students office and present written verifiable proof of the reason for missing the exam, e.g., a doctor’s note, police report, court notice, etc. clearly stating the date AND time of the mitigating problem. The student must also notify the CES Department Office/Instructor that the exam will be missed so that appropriate steps can be taken to make up the grade.

Research Paper Objectives

A template with formatting and font is provided on canvas for you to use. To successfully complete this paper, you will be expected to:

1. Analyze relevant criminal cases or current event involving Forensic Science.
2. Develop a topic for the paper.
3. Create an appropriate design.
4. Provide credible academic and peer reviewed resources.
5. Present the final draft formatted according to specification.
6. Communicate effectively through scholarly writing.

(Alternative to Paper) Research Project, Case Study, Objectives

To successfully complete this project, you will be expected to:

1. Analyze relevant criminal cases that involve the use of Forensic Science.
2. Develop a research project topic from one of the cases.
3. Create an appropriate research design.
4. Provide credible academic and peer reviewed resources
5. Identify and show how the application of forensic science impacted the criminal case.

6. Present the case study using various audio and or visual materials. (ex. WebEx, Quicktime, etc)
7. Communicate effectively the case study to the class through written (Power Point), technological (Canvas, WebEx), and/or verbal discussion (Audio, either recorded or live is required when presenting this assignment).

To achieve a successful project experience and outcome, you are expected to meet the following requirements.

Synthesize the content you have learned throughout this course into a research paper or project, which includes the following components:

- Class content, laboratory experiences and assignments
- A final draft of the project.

In addition to completing the components outlined above, use the following guidelines when creating your research plan:

- **Written or verbal communication:** Communication is free of errors that detract from the overall message.
- **APA formatting:** Resources and citations are formatted according to APA Style and Formatting (sixth edition).
- **Font and font size:** Arial, 12 point.

Cellular Phones: All cellular phones and other electronic devices must be switched off during all class times. Such devices must be turned in during exams.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Accommodation of Disabilities: Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (*formerly known as Disability Support Services*) offers long term and temporary accommodations for undergraduate, graduate and visiting students at NJIT.

If you are in need of accommodations due to a disability please contact Chantonette Lyles, Associate Director at the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services at 973-596-5417 or via email at lyles@njit.edu. The office is located in Fenster Hall Room 260. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the Office of Accessibility Resources Services office authorizing your accommodations will be required.

For further information regarding self-identification, the submission of medical documentation and additional support services provided please visit the Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) website at:

- <http://www5.njit.edu/studentssuccess/disability-support-services/>

Important Dates:

| Date | Day | Event |
|-------------|------------|------------------------------|
| Jan 21 | Tu | First Day of Classes |
| Jan 31 | F | Last Day to Add/Drop Classes |
| March 15-22 | Su-Su | Spring Break |
| April 6 | M | Last Day to Withdraw |
| April 10 | F | Good Friday-No Classes |
| May 5 | Tu | Friday Classes meet |
| May 5 | Tu | Last Day of Classes |
| May 6-7 | Wed-Th | Reading Day |
| May 8-14 | F-Th | Final Exam Period |

Course Outline

| Week | Date | Topic | Assignment |
|-------------|-------------|--|---|
| 1 | Jan 23 | Intro to CSI; Quality Assurance / ISO 17020; Lab check in | Sign lab safety contract; buy PPE; Ch 1-3 |
| 2 | Jan 27 | First Officer at the Scene; The CSI; Specialized Personnel | Read Ch 4 & 5 |
| | Jan 30 | Processing the Crime Scene | |
| 3 | Feb 3 | Crime Scene Sketch; Note taking; Forensic Photography | Lab 1; Read Ch 6 |
| | Feb 6 | Establishing Identity | |
| 4 | Feb 10 | Developing Latent Fingerprints | Lab 2; Read Ch 7 |
| | Feb 13 | Trace Evidence | |
| 5 | Feb 17 | AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting - PRESIDENTS DAY | |

| | | | |
|----|----------|--|-------------------|
| | Feb 20 | AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting | |
| 6 | Feb 24 | Trace evidence lab | Lab 3; Read Ch 8 |
| | Feb 27 | Blood, Forensic Biology, and DNA | |
| 7 | March 2 | ACSR Conference Reno , NV | |
| | March 5 | ACSR Conference Reno , NV | |
| 8 | March 9 | Blood Spatter Lab Part I | Lab 4 |
| | March 12 | Midterm | |
| 9 | March 16 | SPRING BREAK | |
| | March 19 | SPRING BREAK | |
| 10 | March 23 | Blood Spatter Lab Part II (Research Report Topics) | Lab 5; Read Ch 9 |
| | March 26 | Impression Evidence (WEBEX-Discussion thread on Canvas) | |
| 11 | March 30 | Footwear and Tire Impression Lab | Lab 6; Read Ch 10 |
| | April 2 | Firearms Examination (WEBEX-Discussion thread on Canvas) | |
| 12 | April 6 | Bullet Trajectory Lab | Lab 7; Read Ch 15 |
| | April 9 | Motor Vehicle Examination (WEBEX-Discussion thread on Canvas) | |
| 13 | April 13 | Vehicle Exam Lab (Meet in parking garage on Summit St.) | Lab 8; Read Ch 14 |
| | April 16 | Burglary Investigation (WEBEX-Discussion thread on Canvas) | |
| 14 | April 20 | Burglary Investigation Lab (Case Study-lab) | Lab 9; Read Ch 16 |
| | April 23 | Visit to Bergen County Sheriff Crime Scene Unit | |
| 15 | April 27 | Homicide Investigation (Case Study-lab) | |
| | April 30 | Testifying on the stand; Ethics; and Professional Practice (WEBEX-Discussion thread on Canvas) | |
| 13 | May 4 | Last day of class; Review for Final (Research Report Due) | |
| | May 7 | Reading Day | Study for Final |
| 14 | May 11 | Final Exam (Open Book-on Canvas) | |

*Updated by Kevin Parmelee - Jan 23, 2020
Department of Chemistry & Environmental Sciences
Course Syllabus, Spring 2020*
