

Fall 2020

FRSC 498-101: Forensic Nursing

Christina Ruggiero

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**FRSC 498: Intro to Forensic
Nursing**
Fall 2020 Syllabus
Tuesdays 6pm to 8:50pm
Online

[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: Forensic nursing is multidimensional, addressing issues related to both health care and the law. This course will introduce students to the many subspecialties in forensic nursing, and how they are utilized in the criminal justice system. Forensic nursing draws from the knowledge of several disciplines: Forensic sciences, Medical science, Sociology, Psychology, Criminal Justice and public health. Students will be introduced to the science of forensic nursing, and how it works in conjunction with crime labs, law enforcement agencies, and in the criminal court system. Guest lecturers and practitioners will offer insights into their day to day investigative work how they face challenges and successes.

Number of Credits: 3

Prerequisites: none

Course-Section and Instructor

Course-Section	Instructor
FRSC 498	Christine Ruggiero
Tuesday 6 pm-8:50 pm	Virtual Office: https://njit.webex.com/meet/cruggiero
Course meets online	Office Hours: M & T 1-3 pm & by appt.
	Email: car63@njit.edu

Required Textbook:

Title	Forensic Nursing-A Handbook for Practice
Author	Rita Hammer, Barbara Moynihan, and Elaine M. Pagliaro
Edition	2 nd
Publisher	Jones and Bartlett Publishing
ISBN #	978-0-7637-9200-8

And additional readings and videos as assigned. You must also have a computer with a reliable internet connection, a webcam, and a microphone.

University-wide Withdrawal Date: The last day to withdraw with a W is November 9, 2020. It will be strictly enforced.

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

- Describe the social, political, and public health issues that have contributed to the evolution of forensic nursing as a nursing specialty.
- Discuss the various roles and subspecialties in which forensic nurses practice.
- Evaluate the significance of physical evidence in criminal investigations.
- Apply critical thinking skills and scientific methods to case studies.
- Describe specific, vulnerable populations that the forensic nurses are likely to encounter in practice.
- Recognize ethical dilemmas that the forensic nurses may encounter.
- Discuss emerging issues in forensic nursing.
- Describe the role of the forensic nurse in the judicial/legal system.
- Understand general principles involved in providing testimony as fact or expert witness.

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:

Class Participation (you must have a webcam for this course)	15%
Quizzes/Homework	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Term Paper	15%
Final Exam	25%

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

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(s) prior to the lecture. Students who participate in lecture will receive points towards their class participation grade.

Quizzes: 5 quizzes will be given during the semester. These will be taken on-line through Canvas. You will have until the beginning of the following class to complete the quiz on your own time . The quizzes will cover the reading and the lecture. Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor as the quizzes will be given through these platforms. You will need a computer and good internet connection when taking the quizzes.

Term Paper: The term paper is designed to evaluate your writing skills and your understanding of the various roles and subspecialties in forensic nursing, and the relationship between the forensic nurse and judicial system. The term paper should be 4-5 pages in length, double spaced, using Times New Roman 12 point font. Term papers should be submitted using Turnitin.com and are due by 1:00pm on the last day of class. You must also turn in a hard copy of your paper to me on the last day of class. To successfully complete this paper, you will be expected to:

1. Choose a public health topic in which forensic nursing is a vital part of.
2. Develop a topic explaining which type of forensic nursing you chose and how that works in conjunction with your public health issue.
3. Identify the role and responsibility of the forensic nurse specialist that best fits your public health issue.
4. Provide credible academic sources (at least 3) with sources from other sources as well.
5. Communicate effectively through scholarly writing.

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

Midterm Exam October 13, 2020

Final Exam TBA

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

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.

Important Dates: (See Fall 2020 Academic Calendar, Registrar)

Exams: There will be one comprehensive final exam. The final exam will test your knowledge of all the course material taught in the entire course.

Final Exam	TBA
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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.

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 (See: [Fall 2020 Academic Calendar, Registrar](#))

Date	Event
September 1	First Day of Class
September 8	Last Day to register
November 9	Last Day to Withdraw
November 26-29	Thanksgiving Recess No Classes
December 8	Last Day of class
December 23	Final Grades Due

Course Outline

Lecture	Date	T	Assignment
1	September 1	Introduction to Forensic Nursing	Ch. 1
2	September 15	Violence, Ethics	Ch. 3, 4 Quiz 1
3	September 22	Vulnerable populations	Ch. 6, 7, 8
4	September 29	Sexual Abuse, Elder Abuse	Ch. 9, 10, Quiz 2
5	October 6	Death Investigation	Ch 13
6	October 13	Midterm	Ch 14
7	October 20	Evidence Collection, DNA, Photography	Ch. 15, app.3
8	October 27	Internet Crimes, Human Trafficking	Ch. 16.17, Quiz 3
9	November 3	Sexual Assault and Exams	Ch. 18
10	November 10	Correctional Nursing	Ch 19, Quiz 4
11	November 17	Forensic Nurse Witness	Ch 20
12	November 24	Trial and Testimony (Guest Lecture)	App. 2, Quiz 5
13	December 1	Review for Exam	
14	December	Final Exam TBD	Paper Due

*Updated by Christine Ruggiero
Department of Forensic Sciences
Course Syllabus, Fall 2020*
