

Spring 2021

FRSC 498-102: Forensic Pathology

Andrew Falzon

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FRSC 498-102 : Forensic Pathology

Spring 2021

Mondays 6:00-8:50pm

Synchronous Online

<https://njit.webex.com/meet/alf22>

Course Syllabus

NJIT Academic Integrity Code: The shift to remote and converged teaching due to the COVID-19 pandemic has required that both instructors and students make changes to their normal working protocols for courses. Students are asked to practice extra care and attention regarding academic honesty, with the understanding that all cases of plagiarism, cheating, multiple submission, and unauthorized collaboration are subject to penalty. Students must properly cite and attribute all sources used for papers and assignments. Students may not collaborate on exams or assignments, directly or through virtual consultation, unless the instructor gives specific permission to do so. Posting an exam, assignment, or answers to them on an online forum (before, during, or after the due date), in addition to consulting posted materials, constitutes a violation of the University's Honesty policy. Likewise, unauthorized use of live assistance websites, including seeking "expert" help for specific questions during an exam can be construed as a violation of the honesty policy. All students should be familiar with the [NJIT Academic Integrity Code](#).

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: This course introduces students to the theory and practice of forensic pathology and underscores the importance of thorough death investigations within the criminal justice system. Topics covered include the role of the forensic pathologist, postmortem changes, autopsies, causes of death, classification and documentation of injuries, toxicology, and other related forensic disciplines.

Number of Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Course-Section and Instructor

Course-Section	Instructor
FRSC 498-102	Dr. Andrew L. Falzon
Mondays 6:00-8:50 pm	Office: https://njit.webex.com/meet/alf22
	Office hours: by appt.
	email: alf22@njit.edu

Required Textbook:

Title	Simpson's Forensic Medicine (14 th ed.)
Author	Jason Payne-James, Richard Jones, Steven B. Karch and John Manlove
Edition	14 th
Publisher	Taylor and Francis
ISBN #	9781498704298

The students will also be required to review additional readings and videos as assigned and have a computer with a reliable internet connection, webcam, and a microphone.

University-wide Withdrawal Date: The last day to withdraw with a **W** is Monday, April 5, 2021. It will be strictly enforced.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate the basic concepts of forensic pathology.
- Explain the role of the forensic pathologist in the criminal justice system.
- Discuss forensic pathology using the appropriate medical and forensic terminology.
- Evaluate the ethical and moral aspects of forensic pathology.
- Apply the basic concepts and theories of forensic pathology to occurrences in the criminal justice system
- List and explain the various causes of death that warrant an investigation by a forensic pathologist.
- Explain the importance of thorough death investigations in the criminal justice system.

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	10%
Term paper	20%
Midterm	30%
Final Exam	40%

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: This course will be delivered in a “[synchronous online](#)” format. Class attendance will be recorded and is mandatory. Webcams are expected to be turned on for the duration of each online class. Each class is a learning experience that cannot be replicated through simply “getting the notes.” After one unexcused absence, each subsequent absence will result in your class participation score being lowered by one percentage point. (All excused absences need to go through the Dean of Students). You are expected to read the relevant chapters and/or reading assignments prior to the lecture.

Term Paper: The topic for the term paper assignment can be selected from titles that will be posted at a later date. Students may request alternative topics, which will need prior approval. The term paper is designed to evaluate your writing skills and your understanding of forensic pathology as it relates to the criminal justice system. The term paper should be 5-6 pages long (not including title page or bibliography), double spaced, using Times New Roman 12 point font. The term paper is due on the last day of class. All papers will be run through Turnitin.com to check for plagiarism. (Turnitin.com is a software program that analyzes papers for plagiarism).

1. The student is expected to demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively through scholarly writing.
2. Provide a concise and articulate review of the subject and describe how this applies to the criminal justice system.
3. Provide **at least 3** credible peer reviewed sources from scientific journals. The use of other additional sources, such as news articles, media, etc. is acceptable.

For this paper, you are expected to be able to locate and use library resources effectively and cite them correctly. Googling alone will not suffice. Most of the library materials are available online 24/7 from anywhere. Joseph Mercuri is the NJIT librarian who provides assistance to students in Forensic Science. Contact him at jmercuri@njit.edu and take advantage of his expertise.

Exams: Exams will be taken on-line through Canvas. Exams will cover the readings and lecture. You will need to download Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor as the exams will be given through these platforms. You will also need a computer, webcam, and good internet connection when taking the exams. The Final Exam will be comprehensive and will test your knowledge of all the course material taught in the entire course.

Midterm	March 8, 2021
Final Exam	Final Exam Week (Date TBD)

Makeup Exam Policy: There will normally be **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS** during the semester. In the event that a student has a legitimate reason for missing an 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 problem. The student must also notify the Instructor that the exam will be missed. A written assignment will be given in place of any missed exam.

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](tel: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:

- <https://www.njit.edu/studentssuccess/accessibility>

Important Dates (See: [2021 Academic Calendar](#))

Date	Event
Jan 22	First Day of Classes
Jan 25	Last day to add or drop
Mar 14-21	Spring Break – no class
Apr 2	No classes scheduled – Univ closed
Apr 5	Last day to withdraw
May 4	Last day of class, Friday classes meet
May 5-6	Reading Days
May 7-13	Final Exams

Course Outline

Lecture	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Jan 18	MLK Holiday- No class	
2	Jan 25	Introduction; Death investigation in US and other jurisdictions; Ethics & medical aspects of death	Chapters 2,3
3	Feb 1	Postmortem changes and the Estimation of time of death	Chapter 5
4	Feb 8	The autopsy; Identification of human remains	Chapter 4
5	Feb 15	Sudden and unexpected deaths due to natural causes	Chapter 6
6	Feb 22	Classification and documentation of injuries; Blunt force injuries; Motor vehicle accidents	Chapters 8,9
7	Mar 1	Death by suicide; The Psychological Autopsy	
8	Mar 8	Review- EXAM I	
	Mar 15	Spring Break	
9	Mar 22	Sharp force injuries; Wound ballistics	Chapter 10
	Mar 29	Asphyxia, drowning	Chapters 15, 16
10	Apr 5	Deaths in custody; Sex related deaths	Chapters 11,12
11	Apr 12	Deaths and injuries in infancy and childhood	Chapter 7
12	Apr 19	Heath, cold and electrical trauma	Chapter 17
13	Apr 26	Drug and alcohol related deaths; Introduction to Postmortem Forensic Toxicology	Chapter 19, 20
14	May 3	Review for Final	Term Papers Due; Study for Final
	TBD	Final Exam	

*Updated by Andrew L. Falzon – Jan 19, 2021
Department of Chemistry & Environmental Sciences
Course Syllabus, Spring 2021*