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Spring 2022

### FRSC 307-102: Crime Scene Investigation & Lab

Kevin Parmelee

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**FRSC 307: Crime Scene  
Investigation & Lab**  
*T 8:30-11:20am (TIER  
209)*  
*W 11:30-1:25pm (FMH 314)*  
**Spring 2022 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
T 8:30-11:20pm (TIER 209)	Office:
W 11:30-1:25pm (FMH 314)	Office Hours: By appointment
	email: <a href="mailto:parmelee@njit.edu">parmelee@njit.edu</a>

**Required Textbook:**

<b>Title</b>	An Introduction to Crime Scene Investigation
<b>Author</b>	Aric Dutelle
<b>Edition</b>	4
<b>Publisher</b>	Jones & Bartlett Learning
<b>ISBN #</b>	978-1-284-16467-1

and additional readings as assigned.

**University-wide Withdrawal Date:** The last day to withdraw with a **W** is Monday, April 4, 2022. 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:

<b>Lab safety and cleanliness</b>	10%
<b>Class Participation</b>	10%
<b>Lab exercises</b>	30%
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	20%
<b>Final Exam</b>	30%
<b>Extra Credit will be given for attending NJIAI, NEAFS, or EAS</b>	5% per conference
<b>Extra Credit for attending Friday Forensic Seminar Series talks</b>	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 9
Final Exam Period	May 6-12

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.

**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](mailto: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 18	Tu	First Day of Classes
Jan 24	M	Last Day to Add/Drop Classes
March 14-19	M-Sat	Spring Break
April 2	F	Good Friday-No Classes
April 4	M	Last Day to Withdraw
May 3	Tu	Friday Classes meet
May 3	Tu	Last Day of Classes
May 4-5	Wed-Th	Reading Day
May 6-12	F-Th	Final Exam Period

**Course Outline**

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	Jan 18	Intro to CSI; Quality Assurance / ISO 17020; Lab check in	Sign lab safety; buy PPE; Ch 1 & 4
	Jan 19	First Officer at the Scene; The CSI; Specialized Personnel	Read Ch 5 & 6
2	Jan 25	Exercise 1 Crime Scene Prioritization	Materials on Canvas
	Jan 26	Processing the Crime Scene & Basic Photography	Read Ch 6
3	Feb 1	Evidence collection & Moot Crime Scenes	Lab 1; read NJSP Evidence Manual
	Feb 2	Crime Scene Sketch; Note taking; Forensic Photography	Read Ch 7
4	Feb 8	Crime Scene Sketch; Note taking; Forensic Photography	Lab 2
	Feb 9	Establishing Identity	Read Ch 8
5	Feb 15	Developing Latent Fingerprints (ACSR Conference)	Lab 3

	Feb 16	Blood, Forensic Biology, and DNA (ACSR Conference)	Read Ch 10
6	Feb 22	AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting	
	Feb 23	AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting	<a href="https://www.aafs.org/">https://www.aafs.org/</a>
7	March 1	Trace Evidence	Read Ch9
	March 2	Trace evidence lab	Lab 4
8	March 8	Blood Spatter Lab Part I	Lab 5; Read Ch 11
	March 9	Midterm	
9	March 15	SPRING BREAK	
	March 16	SPRING BREAK	
10	March 22	Blood Spatter Lab Part II	Lab 11
	March 23	Impression Evidence	Read Ch 12
11	March 29	Footwear and Tire Impression Lab	Lab 7
	March 30	Firearms Examination	Read Ch 13
12	April 5	Bullet Trajectory Lab	Lab 8
	April 6	Motor Vehicle Examination	Read Ch 18
13	April 12	Vehicle Exam Lab (Meet in parking garage on Summit St.)	Lab 9
	April 13	Burglary Investigation/Arson & Explosion	Read Ch 17
14	April 19	Burglary Investigation Lab	Lab 10
	April 20	Visit to Bergen or Union County Sheriff Crime Scene Unit	Read Ch 16
15	April 26	Homicide Investigation	Lab 11
	April 27	Testifying on the stand; Ethics; and Professional Practice	Read Ch 3
13	May 3	Last day of class; Review for Final	
	May 4	Reading Day	Study for Final
14	May 10	Final Exam (tentative date)	

*Updated by Kevin Parmelee - Nov 27, 2021  
Department of Chemistry & Environmental Sciences  
Course Syllabus, Spring 2022*

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