

Spring 2023

FRSC 495-002: Senior Seminar

Kevin Parmelee

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**FRSC 495-002: Senior Seminar –
International Perspectives of
Forensic Science
MR 1:00PM – 2:20PM
(FMH 209)
Spring 2023 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: Forensic Science is the application of science to the law. This course introduces students to the international perspectives of forensic science and how science is used in criminal justice systems across the world. Students will be introduced to various criminal justice systems and how forensic science techniques are used in their crime laboratories throughout the United States and abroad. Guest lecturers and practitioners will offer insights into their day-to-day investigative work and how they face technological and legal challenges. The application of science to varying criminal justice systems and related cultural influences will be emphasized throughout the course. Finally, a large portion of the course will include a trip abroad to visit criminal justice, and forensic science, agencies and their place in the culture of a foreign country.

Number of Credits: 3

Prerequisites: NONE

Course-Section and Instructor

Course-Section	Instructor
FRSC 495-002	Dr. Kevin Parmelee
M & R 1:00-2:20pm (FMH 209)	Email: parmelee@njit.edu
	Office Hours: By Appt. C: 908-420-1102

Required Textbooks:

Title	A Study in Scarlet
Author	Arthur Conan Doyle (1886)
Edition	

Publisher	Penguin Books
ISBN #	0-140-43908-0

and additional readings and videos as assigned. You must also 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 3, 2023. It will be strictly enforced.

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

- Identify aspects of criminal justice systems from various countries across the world.
- Identify forensic science procedures, policies, and technologies used to examine and analyze physical evidence from other countries.
- Evaluate the significance of physical evidence in criminal investigations from cultures outside the US.
- Apply critical thinking skills when comparing policies, procedures, and practices of forensic science practitioners from different countries.
- Discriminate between accepted practices from various countries.
- Describe how science is used in the criminal justice system of other countries.
- Understand how data influences legal decisions and shapes scientific reporting requirements in countries outside the US.
- Understand forensic science failures and ethical violation cases from various countries.

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%
Three Assignments (5pts. Each)	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Group Research & Presentations	25%
Final Exam	30%

Late assignments: will be deducted 25% (from the 100% max) for each day late, commencing at 00:00hrs following the due day, and each subsequent day until the potential score is zero.

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.

Case Research & Presentation: The assignment is for you to select a modern international criminal case that has been previously adjudicated and discuss how the forensic science in that case played a critical role in the guilt or innocence of the defendant. The assignment is designed to evaluate your research, public speaking skills and your understanding of the forensics that were used in the trial. The presentation shall incorporate a power point presentation that can contain audio and video captions if needed. The presentation should be approximately 10-15 minutes in length. You **MUST** get approval from instructor for your case topic. No two people may choose the same topic. Please enter your paper topic by replying to the “Case Presentation” Announcement. The presentation is due on the last full days of class, prior to the final exam day, when it will be presented to the class.

1. Analyze a relevant international (NON U.S.) criminal case involving Forensic Science.
2. Develop a topic for the presentation.
3. Create an appropriate design and power point presentation.
4. Identify and show how forensic science impacted the case.
5. Explain the criminal justice system and forensic science practices of that country and their relationship to the case.
6. Provide at least 3 credible peer reviewed sources from scientific journals. The word “forensic” must appear in the title of these scientific journals. Ok to use other (i.e. news articles, media, etc.) sources in addition.
7. Communicate effectively through effective presentation media and public speaking methods.

For this presentation, you are expected to be able to locate and use library resources effectively and cite them Correctly on the last slide of the presentation. 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: 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 2023
Final Exam Period	May 3-11, 2023

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

The culmination of this course will be the field study trip to the United Kingdom (May 17 – 29, 2023). The trip will focus on the sites and locations in the area of London. Participants will meet speakers, professionals, and visit various forensic science related sites. This opportunity will provide insight into the forensic science profession and criminal justice system as it exists in the UK.

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.

Class Recordings: Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor. These recordings shall only be used as an educational resource and are not to be distributed or used outside of this class. Information on how to access recorded lectures will be made available by your instructor. Any recordings that contain identifiable information about students will not be used beyond this semester.

Class Recording Etiquette: Students are expected to respect their fellow students’ privacy and freedom to learn without disruption. Students are not allowed to capture or reproduce anyone’s name, image, or voice without permission. They must be polite and respectful in the online chat. Informal chat is okay, but typing is restricted to things that one would say out loud in front of the entire class. Students must always conduct themselves on their webcam video as they would in person in a classroom.

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/studentsuccess/disability-support-services/>

Important Dates:

Date	Day	Event
Jan 17	Tu	First Day of Classes
Jan 23	Tu	Last Day to Add/Drop Classes
March 13-18	M-Sat	Spring Break
April 3	M	Last Day to Withdraw
May 2	Tu	Friday Classes meet
May 2	Tu	Last Day of Classes
May 3-4	Wed-Th	Reading Days
May 5-11	F-Th	Final Exam Period

Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	January 16	Holiday	
	January 19	Introduction to course, expectations,	
2	January 23	History of Forensic Science	
	January 26	The UK legal system and Forensic Science	
3	January 30	Policing, CSI, and Criminal Justice in the UK	
	February 2	Student Presentations of Famous Cases	(#1) Famous Criminal Cases
4	February 6	Student Presentations of Famous Cases	(#1) Famous Criminal Cases

	February 9	Watch "A Study in Pink"	Group Work
5	February 13	"A Study in Pink", Discussion, & Study in Scarlet	Group Work
	February 16	AAFS	
6	February 20	Watch Jack the Ripper	Group Work
	February 23	Discussion & Study Jack the Ripper Case	Group Work
7	February 27	Forensic Science Standards, Accreditation	
	March 2	International Ethics	(#2) International Ethics Case
8	March 6	International Ethics topics presented	(#2) International Ethics Case
	March 9	Mid-term Exam	

9	March 13	SPRING BREAK	
	March 16	SPRING BREAK	
10	March 20	FSS & private marketplace	
	March 23	UK educational system & standards	
11	March 27	research, funding, UK Forensic Professional Associations,	
	March 30	Forensic Science careers	
12	April 3	International Human Rights,	
	April 6	The future of Forensic Science in the UK and EU	
13	April 10	CSI Effect	Group Work
	April 13	CSI Effect	Group Work
14	April 17	Visit to US COURT	
	April 20	Visit to US Forensic Lab	
15	April 24	Cap stone Presentations	(#3) Assignment
	April 27	Cap stone Presentations	(#3) Assignment
16	May 1	Last day of class; Review for Final	
	May 4	Reading Day	Study for Final
17	TBD	Final Exam	(TRIP TO UK May 17 – 27)

*Updated by Dr. Parmelee – Oct. 24, 2022
Department of Chemistry & Environmental Sciences
Course Syllabus, SPRING 2023*
