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Spring 2-1-2018

CJUS 488.01: Forensic Science the Crime Lab and Beyond

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Forensic Science The Crime Lab and Beyond

CJUS 488

MWF 9:00-9:50 in SS 344

Dr. Randy Skelton 226 Social Sciences Building

Office Hours: MWF 8:00-8:50, TR 10:00-11:00

Email: randall.skelton@umontana.edu

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

In this class students will learn the following things:

- The fundamental theories and practices of forensic science
- How conclusions are drawn from forensic evidence
- The roles of forensic scientists, police officers, attorneys, and others in a criminal investigation
- The types of questions and analyses addressed by a broad spectrum of forensic sciences
- The existence and nature of new and emerging forensic sciences
- The application of forensic sciences to a variety of modern problems, such as wildlife and conservation, national security, organized crime, and history.

ADMINISTRIVIA

Text and other materials: Readings should be read before coming to class.

Skelton, RR. 2011. *A Survey of the Forensic Sciences*. www.Lulu.com. ISBN 978-1-4357-6762-1. You can purchase it from the bookstore, purchase it cheaper from www.lulu.com (search for “A Survey of the Forensic Sciences”, with quotes) or download it as a .pdf file from Moodle.

Lecture notes for this class are accessible through a Moodle supplement. Your instructor only provides content for Moodle and is not involved with its administration. If you need help with computing or with accessing Moodle Tech Support (243-4999, umonline-help@umontana.edu).

Student Conduct: Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the student conduct code, which can be found at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

Disability Accommodations: Students with disabilities are welcome. I assume that accommodation services will be provided by the Disability Services for Students office. See <http://www.umt.edu/dss/>.

Exams and Grading: Grades will be based on exams and participation in the class. 90% of your grade will be based on your three best of four exams offered over the semester with the remaining 10% based on participation/attendance. I will take attendance, at least randomly and sporadically. The four exams will consist of three midterms, and a cumulative final. I use this grading scale: A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-60, D = 59-50, F = 49-0. I reserve the right to modify these basic grades with a + or - in special circumstances. The grading mode is “open” meaning that you can take the class for a traditional grade or CR/NCR. If you take a class CR/NCR you cannot count it toward specific major, minor, option, or certificate requirements that require a minimum grade.

Graduate Increment: In addition to the other requirements of the class graduate students will produce a 10 to 15 page term paper on one of the forensic sciences, which describes the breadth of the forensic science, the type of court cases in which it is use (e.g. criminal or civil cases), and required qualifications and certifications for professionals. The paper must be in scientific paper format and include at least 15 sources.

CJUS 488: PROVISIONAL* LECTURE SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	LECTURE	READINGS FROM SKELTON TEXT
PART 1: Criminalistics			
1/11	F	1. Introduction to the Class	Chapter 1
1/14	M	2. Introduction to Forensic Science	Chapter 2
1/16	W	3. The Scientific Method	Chapter 3
1/18	F	4. Criminal Investigations	Chapters 4 & 5
1/21	M	!!! MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY!!!	
1/23	W	5. The Crime Scene	Chapter 6
1/25	F	6. Forensic photography, forensic art, and the Crime Lab	Chapter 7
1/28	M	7. Criminalistics and Trace Evidence	Chapter 10
1/30	W	8. Firearms and Toolmarks	Chapter 13 & 1 st half of 14
2/1	F	9. Prints	Chapter 16
2/4	M	10. Impressions and Questioned Documents	Chapter 17 & 2 nd half of 14
2/6	W	11. Forensic Botany, Entomology, and Geology.	Chapter 29
2/8	F	12. Jurisprudence	Chapters 46 & 52
2/11	M	*** MIDTERM 1 ***	
PART 2: Investigation of Deaths and Their Circumstances			
2/13	W	13. Toxicology, Chemistry, and Drugs	Chapters 22 & 23
2/15	F	14. Coroners, M.E.'s, Pathologists, and Autopsies	Chapters 24 & 25
2/18	M	!!! PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY!!!	
2/20	W	15. Forensic Anthropology	Chapter 27
2/22	F	16. Forensic Odontology	Chapter 28
2/25	M	17. Serology of Blood	Chapter 19
2/27	W	18. Serology of Other Bodily Fluids	Chapter 20
3/1	F	19. DNA analysis	Chapter 21
3/4	M	20. Forensic Engineering	Chapter 30
3/6	W	21. Fires and Explosives	Chapters 11 & 31
3/8	F	22. Forensic Databases	Chapter 37
3/11	M	23. Historical Forensic Science	Chapter 49
3/13	W	24. Wildlife Forensic Science	Chapter 48
3/15	F	*** MIDTERM 2 ***	
PART 3: Investigating Crimes of the Modern Era			
3/18	M	25. Forensic Computer Science	Chapter 32
3/20	W	26. Digital Evidence	Chapter 33
3/22	F	27. Networks and Security	Chapter 34
3/25-3/29		!!! SPRING BREAK !!!	
4/1	M	28. Forensic Audio and Video	Chapter 35
4/3	W	29. Surveillance and Biometrics	Chapter 36
4/5	F	30. Forensic Psychology & Psychiatry	Chapter 38
4/8	M	31. Lie Detection and Hypnosis	Chapter 39
4/10	W	32. Psychological Findings and Profiling	Chapter 40
4/12	F	33. Statistical and Geographic Profiling	Chapter 41
4/15	M	34. Forensic Accounting	Chapter 42
4/17	W	35. Occupational Fraud	Chapter 43
4/19	F	36. Organized Crime	Chapter 44
4/22	M	37. Homeland Security and Terrorism	Chapter 45
4/24	W	38. Other Forensic Sciences and Technologies: Forensic Knots, Linguistics, Phylogenetics, Mathematics, Economics, Meteorology, Nursing, Pharmacy, Medicine, Social Work	Chapter 47
4/26	F	*** MIDTERM 3 ***	
4/30	T	10:10-12:10 *** FINAL EXAM ***	

* This lecture schedule is provisional and tentative. Things may change. Changes to the schedule will be posted on Moodle and announced in class.