

Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2026
Previous Value Summer 2012

Course Change Information

What change is being proposed? (If more than one, what changes are being proposed?)

Drop "Introduction to" from name; update description; restructure of course

What is the rationale for the proposed change(s)?

Restructuring of the course to make it more of a traditional lecture class, which students have requested based on their SEI feedback. Removing "Introduction" to reflect the intermediate level of the course.

What are the programmatic implications of the proposed change(s)?

(e.g. program requirements to be added or removed, changes to be made in available resources, effect on other programs that use the course?)

NA

Is approval of the request contingent upon the approval of other course or curricular program request? No

Is this a request to withdraw the course? No

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Anthropology
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Anthropology - D0711
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences
Level/Career Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog 3211
Course Title Forensic Science
Previous Value Introduction to Forensic Science
Transcript Abbreviation Forensic Sci
Previous Value Intro to Forensics
Course Description Forensic science is the study and application of science to the process of law and involves the collection, examination, evaluation and interpretation of evidence. This course surveys the principals, theories, and practices of the forensic sciences commonly utilized within the U.S. legal system.
Previous Value This team-taught interdisciplinary course will give students an introduction to the major concepts, issues and techniques used in forensic science. It is designed to expose students to different disciplines and career paths within forensic science.
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 12 Week
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No
Grading Basis Letter Grade
Repeatable No
Course Components Lecture
Grade Roster Component Lecture
Credit Available by Exam No

Admission Condition Course	No
Off Campus	Never
Campus of Offering	Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites	
Exclusions	
Previous Value	Not open to students with credit for 211.
Electronically Enforced	No

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code	45.0202
Subsidy Level	Baccalaureate Course
Intended Rank	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior

Requirement/Elective Designation

Required for this unit's degrees, majors, and/or minors

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprehend the breadth of the field of forensic science• Exhibit a basic knowledge of the methods & measures used in forensics• Identify the social factors that impact forensic science• Categorize types of evidence
Content Topic List	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forensic techniques• Forensic evidence in the courtroom• Collection and analyses of crime scene evidence
Sought Concurrence	No

Attachments

- Forensic Sci 3211 Syllabus.docx: Syllabus New
(Syllabus. Owner: Palazzo, Sarah Rose)
- Intro forensic sci Syllabus.pdf: Syllabus Old
(Syllabus. Owner: Palazzo, Sarah Rose)

Comments

- Hi Sarah -- Here is 3211 again! *(by Guatelli-Steinberg, Debra on 02/18/2025 11:06 AM)*
- - Please provide current syllabus (old number) and future syllabus (new number) so that the reviewing committee can see the difference. *(by Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal on 02/14/2025 11:36 AM)*

COURSE CHANGE REQUEST
3211 - Status: PENDING

Last Updated: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette
Chantal
03/04/2025

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Palazzo, Sarah Rose	02/14/2025 10:11 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Guatelli-Steinberg, Debra	02/14/2025 10:24 AM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	02/14/2025 11:37 AM	College Approval
Submitted	Guatelli-Steinberg, Debra	02/14/2025 12:42 PM	Submitted for Approval
Revision Requested	Guatelli-Steinberg, Debra	02/18/2025 11:06 AM	Unit Approval
Submitted	Palazzo, Sarah Rose	02/18/2025 02:28 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Guatelli-Steinberg, Debra	02/18/2025 03:21 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	03/04/2025 10:31 AM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Jenkins, Mary Ellen Bigler Hanlin, Deborah Kay Hilty, Michael Neff, Jennifer Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal Steele, Rachel Lea	03/04/2025 10:31 AM	ASCCAO Approval



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**Anthropology Department
Course: ANTHROP 3211 - Sec 0010
Forensic Science**

**Autumn 2024
Monday/Wednesday 11:10am-12:30 pm
4012 Smith Lab**

Instructor Information

Instructor: **TBD**

Email: **TBD**

Office hours: **Monday 10:00-11:00 & Wednesday 9:00-11:00am, or by appointment**

Office: **4108 Smith lab**

(Note: when e-mailing instructor, include course number (e.g. ANTHROP 3211) at the beginning of the subject line)

Course Information

Course Description: Forensic science is the study and application of science to the process of law and involves the collection, examination, evaluation and interpretation of evidence. This course surveys the principals, theories, and practices of the forensic sciences commonly utilized within the United States legal system.

Course Prerequisites: None. Not open to students with credit for ArtsSci 211.

Required Textbook:

Bell S. 2019. Forensic Science: An introduction to scientific and investigative techniques (5th edition). CRC Press.

Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the basic principles and history of forensic science
 - a. List significant milestones in the history of forensic science.
 - b. Explain key forensic science principles and their relevance to criminal investigations.

- c. Compare and contrast different forensic science subfields and their contributions to solving crimes.
2. Apply forensic techniques to the analysis of crime scene evidence
 - a. Assess the reliability and validity of different forensic techniques used in evidence analysis.
3. Integrate knowledge from multiple scientific disciplines to understand forensic science comprehensively
4. Recognize the ethical and societal implications of forensic science
 - a. Describe ethical issues commonly faced by forensic scientists.
 - b. Critically analyze the societal impact of high-profile forensic science cases.
 - c. Propose guidelines for ethical conduct in forensic investigations to address common dilemmas.
5. Develop an appreciation for the meticulous nature of forensic work and its importance
 - a. Identify the steps required to maintain the chain of custody for forensic evidence.
 - b. Demonstrate meticulous techniques in evidence documentation and preservation.
6. Enhance research and communication skills relevant to forensic science
 - a. Conduct a literature review on a forensic science topic using academic databases.
 - b. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of forensic reports and research articles.
 - c. Present a forensic case study analysis through both written reports and oral presentations.
7. Understand the ethical and legal standards governing forensic science
 - a. Outline the legal standards for the admissibility of forensic evidence in court.
 - b. Explain the role of forensic experts as witnesses and their responsibilities in court proceedings.
 - c. Assess the ethical considerations involved in providing expert testimony and the potential impacts on legal outcomes.

Course Assessments

Quizzes (7 x 30 points)

One 30-point quiz will be administered in Canvas every other week to ensure students are attending class and engaging with the material and learning the content. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice, short-answer, true/false, matching, ordering, and/or graphic-based questions. There are a total of seven quizzes throughout the semester. **Your lowest quiz grade is dropped.**

Short Essay 1: Forensic Topic of Interest (40 points)*

Choose a specific subtopic within forensic science that particularly interests you, such as (but not limited to) DNA analysis, forensic anthropology, forensic entomology, or digital forensics. Explain why you are drawn to this subfield and its significance within the broader context of forensic science. Discuss the key techniques and methodologies used in this subfield and their applications in criminal investigations. Reflect on any recent advancements or challenges faced within this area of forensic science. Provide examples or case studies to illustrate the importance and impact of this subfield on the pursuit of justice.

- Due date: **October 30th @ 11:59 PM**
- Paper Format Requirements:
 - 3-4 pages long (not including bibliography)
 - Double spaced, consistent font, page numbers, name
 - Minimum of 10 sources, 5 of which need to be peer-reviewed
 - APA citation style for sources and bibliography
- Rubric will be provided on Canvas

Short Essay 2: Limits of Forensic Science (40 points)*

Discuss the limitations of forensic science, addressing both its methodological constraints and the potential for human error. How do these limitations impact the accuracy and reliability of forensic evidence in criminal investigations? Consider the role of forensic science in the courtroom and how varying levels of expertise can influence the interpretation of evidence. Reflect on ethical concerns related to the use of forensic techniques and propose ways to mitigate these issues. Provide specific examples or case studies to support your arguments.

- Due date: **November 27th @ 11:59 PM**
- Paper Format Requirements:
 - 3-4 pages long (not including bibliography)
 - Double spaced, consistent font, page numbers, name
 - Minimum of 10 sources, 5 of which need to be peer-reviewed
 - APA citation style for sources and bibliography
- Rubric will be provided on Canvas

Final Exam (150 points)

The in-person cumulative final exam will assess your understanding of the material covered throughout the semester. The exam will include a variety of question formats designed to evaluate your knowledge and critical thinking skills, including multiple choice, short-answer,

true/false, matching, ordering, and graphic-based questions. You will have an hour and 45 minutes to complete the exam during our final's week.

***Note:** Papers will be submitted via CANVAS using Safe assign.

Course Policies and Expectations

Expectations of Students: As adults attending OSU, you are paying to obtain a specialized education, an advanced degree, and to be treated as a professional in the workforce. In addition to educating students on course topics (i.e., hard skills), it is also the job of the professor to instruct you as to what it means to be a professional (i.e., soft skills). As students attending OSU you are the individuals responsible for academic success. You are expected to be in class on time and to turn in your assignments on time. You are expected to be familiar with course policies via the course syllabus and you are expected to use CANVAS for course information, emails, updates, and materials. Before Emailing the instructor about a question, please check to make sure it hasn't already been answered in the syllabus or by a general course Email/Announcement on CANVAS. If you have any issues, confusion, etc., about course policies, material, or grades please see the instructor **during office hours** to resolve these issues.

Spirit and Intent: As adults and professionals, all students are expected to act towards the spirit and intent of the course and its assignments. In all aspects, quality is preferred over quantity. Behaviors such as increasing font sizes or changing page margins in order to meet minimum requirements are outside of the spirit and intent of the assignment and will be treated accordingly. Additionally, the use of AI to create course materials is prohibited. AI is a great tool, but you must first demonstrate that you are capable of performing the work, so that you can properly apply AI assistance.

Professional Conduct: Medicolegal Death investigation is a serious and graphic profession which necessitates a standard of behavior higher than that of other scientific disciplines. Students are expected at all times to treat human remains and case discussions with dignity and respect, and to maintain confidentiality when confidential or privileged information is disclosed, or when students are given access to information of a private or otherwise sensitive nature. Professional decorum is expected and behaviors such as posting information/pictures online or inappropriate humor will not be tolerated. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in a failing grade in the course, as well as the imposition of discipline under the Code of Student Conduct <https://trustees.osu.edu/bylaws-and-rules/code> or applicable University Policy.

Intellectual Property - Course Materials: All lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, exams, and similar materials are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of copyright of those materials I create. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own use. You may not and may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly whether or not a fee is charged, without my written consent. Similarly, you own copyright of your original papers and exam essays. If I am interested in sharing your answers or papers, I will ask for your written permission.
<https://legal.osu.edu/topics/intellectual-property>

Make-Up Assessments/Examinations: If you have a known conflict with an assessment or exam date, please see the instructor immediately in order to determine a solution. Students with a doctor's note or documentation of other emergency or excused absence will be allowed to make-up assessments/examinations without penalty. Otherwise, no make-ups will be given.

Technology and Media: Most importantly, be respectful to your instructor and your fellow students. Technology should not be disruptive to class. Laptops may be used during class to take notes, etc., cell phones and all other devices must be silenced during class. The use of recording devices is prohibited except with prior permission of the instructor.

Institutional Policies

Software

We will be making use of several technologies, and it will be important for you to have access to a computer that can handle the various pieces of software and file formats that will be used in this class. All these technologies are available in the OIT computer labs on all OSU campuses.

- a. **Internet Access.** First and foremost, you will need internet access, and be able to access it reliably throughout each week of the semester.
- b. **Video Formats.** There will be a number of times throughout the semester where you will need to watch videos online, either on YouTube or other sites you will be directed to. You will need to have the most up-to-date versions of Adobe Flash, Quicktime, and Realplayer. If you do not have the most up-to-date versions, certain videos will not work for you. If and when this occurs you will most likely be prompted by your browser program how and where to get updated versions.
- c. **Canvas.** Aspects of this course will take place in CarmenCanvas, Ohio State University's course management system (CMS). If you have not used CarmenCanvas before, or not very extensively, you may wish to take some time to explore it before the course begins. A basic overview of the tools we will be using within CarmenCanvas can be found in a later portion of the syllabus. Please make sure that your computer can handle the use of CarmenCanvas. To do so, please go to carmen.osu.edu. Click the "Login" button. On the next page, click the "Canvas System Check" link beneath the grey "Login" button. A series of green check marks will appear if your system checks out and red marks if you need to make changes or updates. If you cannot make these changes or updates, all computers at OSU libraries and OIT computing centers should meet these requirements.
- d. **Zoom.** CarmenZoom provides faculty, students and instructional staff with all the functionality of a Zoom pro account. Reach out to me and I will set up a Zoom meeting, forward you the link via email, and send you an outlook meeting invite. Please make sure that you have access to a webcam (built-in or external) and microphone (built-in or external) for our Zoom meetings. It is also possible to call in to Zoom meetings via cell phone (audio only). CarmenZoom Instructional Guides can be found at [Instructional Guides | Teaching & Learning Resource Center \(osu.edu\)](#).
- e. **Microsoft Office.** I post files in the most recent format of Microsoft Word, and occasionally PowerPoint. You will need to be able to open and view .doc and .ppt files.

Grading:*

Final grades are based on a standardized scale using the total number of points available for the course. **NO EXTRA CREDIT IS OFFERED IN THIS COURSE.** For a general guide of how you are doing in the class, refer to the grade scale below.

Students experiencing distress may request an incomplete (I), however you must have completed more than 75% of the course, including attendance and assignments, in order for the request to be considered.

A	92.45 - 100	C	72.45 - 76.44
A-	89.45 - 92.44	C-	69.45 - 72.44
B+	86.45 - 89.44	D+	66.45 - 69.44
B	82.45 - 86.44	D	59.44 - 66.45
B-	79.45 - 82.44	E	Below 60
C+	76.45 - 79.44		

*Please note that grades below a C- are less than satisfactory and may not meet particular program and/or course requirements.

Statement on Audio and Video Recording and Photography

Given the sensitive nature of the content covered in this course and the use of real case studies, audio/video recording and photography are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity

There has been a significant increase in the popularity and availability of a variety of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including **Grammarly**, ChatGPT, Sudowrite and others. These tools will help shape the future of work, research and technology but when used in the wrong way, they can stand in conflict with academic integrity at Ohio State.

All students have important obligations under the [Code of Student Conduct](#) to complete all academic and scholarly activities with fairness and honesty. Our professional students also have the responsibility to uphold the professional and ethical standards found in their respective academic honor codes. Specifically, students are not to use unauthorized assistance in the laboratory, on field work, in scholarship or on a course assignment unless such assistance has been authorized specifically by the course instructor. In addition, students are not to submit their work without acknowledging any word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of writing, ideas or other work that is not your own. These requirements apply to all students undergraduate, graduate, and professional.

To maintain a culture of integrity and respect, these generative AI tools should not be used in the completion of course assignments unless an instructor for a given course specifically authorizes their use. Some instructors may approve of using generative AI tools in the academic setting for specific goals. However, these tools should be used only with the explicit and clear permission of each individual instructor, and then only in the ways allowed by the instructor.

Students with Disabilities

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If you are ill and need to miss class, including if you are staying home and away from others while experiencing symptoms of viral infection or fever, please let me know immediately. In cases where illness interacts with an underlying medical condition, please consult with Student Life Disability Services to request reasonable accommodations. You can connect with them at slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; or slds.osu.edu.

Mental Health Statement

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 by dialing 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Title IX Statement

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a community to reflect diversity and to improve opportunities for all. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from

harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Office of Institutional Equity:

Online reporting form at equity.osu.edu,
Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,
Or Email equity@osu.edu

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Office of Institutional Equity to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

Diversity Statement

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity of people and ideas. We believe in creating equitable research opportunities for all students and to providing programs and curricula that allow our students to understand critical societal challenges from diverse perspectives and aspire to use research to promote sustainable solutions for all. We are committed to maintaining an inclusive community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among all members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach their own potential. The Ohio State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment.

Religious accommodations

Ohio State has had a longstanding practice of making reasonable academic accommodations for students' religious beliefs and practices in accordance with applicable law. In 2023, Ohio State updated its practice to align with new state legislation. Under this new provision, students must be in early communication with their instructors regarding any known accommodation requests for religious beliefs and practices, providing notice of specific dates for which they request alternative accommodations within 14 days after the first instructional day of the course. Instructors in turn shall not question the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system in reviewing such requests and shall keep requests for accommodations confidential. With sufficient notice, instructors will provide students with reasonable alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements with respect to students' sincerely held religious beliefs and practices by allowing up to three absences each semester for the student to attend or participate in religious activities. Examples of religious accommodations can include, but are not limited to, rescheduling an exam, altering the time of a student's presentation, allowing make-up assignments to substitute for missed class work, or flexibility in due dates or research responsibilities. If concerns arise about a requested accommodation, instructors are to consult their tenure initiating unit head for assistance.

A student's request for time off shall be provided if the students sincerely held religious belief or practice severely affects the student's ability to take an exam or meet an academic requirement and the student has notified their instructor, in writing during the first 14 days after the course begins, of the date of each absence. Although students are required to provide notice within the first 14 days after a course begins, instructors are strongly encouraged to work with the student to provide a reasonable accommodation if a request is made outside the notice period. A student may not be penalized for an absence approved under this policy.

If students have questions or disputes related to academic accommodations, they should contact their course instructor, and then their department or college office. For questions or to report discrimination or harassment based on religion, individuals should contact the [Office of Institutional Equity](#). Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#)

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute Academic Misconduct.

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University or subvert the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not

limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Weather or Other Short-Term Closing

Should in-person classes be canceled, I will notify you as to which alternative methods of teaching will be offered to ensure continuity of instruction for this class. Communication will be via Canvas.

ANTHROP 3211 Schedule

Autumn 2024

Subject to Change

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Week 1 -				
Aug. 19		Aug. 21 Topic: Intro to the Course Reading: None		
Week 2 -				
Aug. 26 Topic: Intro to Forensic Science Reading: Chapter 1		Aug. 28 Topic: Evidence and admissibility Reading: Chapter 2		
Week 3				
Sept. 2 – Labor Day! NO CLASS		Sept. 4 Topic: Intro to Medicolegal Death Investigation Reading: Chapter 5		
Week 4 -				
Sept. 9 Topic: Frontline Documentary: CORONERS & Last Week tonight – Death Investigations https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnoMsftQPY8&feature=emb_imp_woyt Reading: None		Sept. 11 Topic: Crime scene investigation Reading: Chapter 3		Sept 13. Last day to drop without a W
Week 5 – Exam #1				
Sept. 16 Topic: Review Reading: None		Sept. 18 Exam #1		
Week 6				
Sept. 23 Topic: Biological evidence Reading: Chapter 9		Sept. 25 Topic: Bloodstain patterns Reading: Chapter 4		
Week 7				
Sept. 30 Topic: DNA as evidence Reading: Chapter 10		Oct. 2 Topic: Forensic Genetic Genealogy Reading: NA		

Week 8				
Oct. 7 Topic: Drugs and poisons Reading: Chapter 11		Oct. 9 Topic: Toxicology Reading: Chapter 6		
Week 9 – Exam #2				
Oct. 14 Topic: Review for Exam #2		Oct. 16 Exam #2		
Week 10 –				
Oct. 21 Topic: Trace evidence Reading: Chapter 17		Oct. 23 Topic: Fingerprints Reading: 14		
Week 11 - Short Essay #1 Due				
Oct. 28 Topic: Firearms and toolmarks Reading: 15		Oct. 30 Topic: Tread impressions Reading: Chapter 16		
Week 12				
Nov. 4 Topic: Fire investigation Reading: Chapter 12	<small>Election Day</small>	Nov. 6 Topic: Questioned documents Reading: Chapter 18		
Week 13 -				
Nov. 11 – Veteran’s Day! NO CLASS		Nov. 13 Topic: Dogs and sensors Reading: NA		
Week 14 – Paper Due!				
Nov. 18 Topic: Forensic engineering Reading: Chapter 19		Nov. 20 Topic: Computer forensics Reading: Chapter 20		
Week 15 - Thanksgiving Break, Short Essay #2 Due				
Nov. 25 Topic: Forensic accounting Reading: NA		Nov. 27*Thanksgiving Break NO CLASS		
Week 16 – Exam #3				
Dec 2 Topic: Review For Exam #3		Dec 4 Topic: Exam #3		Dec 6 *Last Day of Classes
Week 17 – FINALS WEEK				
Final Exam Week				
Optional Final Exam available on CANVAS Wednesday 11 December 2024 10:00am-11:45am				



COURSE INFORMATION

Course Number: ANTHROP 3211

Learning Type: Lecture

Course Title: Introduction to Forensic Science

Meeting Time: Wednesdays & Fridays 8am-9:20am

Course Term: Autumn 2022

Meeting Location: Ramseyer Hall 100

Course Units: 3 Units

Prerequisites: None

FACULTY INFORMATION

Instructor: Angela L. Harden, PhD.

Department: Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Phone Number: 614.685.2203

Office location: 3019 Graves Hall

Email: Angela.Harden2@osumc.edu

Office Hours: By Request

Instructor: Amanda M. Agnew, PhD.

Department: Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Phone Number: 614.366.2005

Office location: 2066 Graves Hall

Email: Amanda.Agnew@osumc.edu

Office Hours: By Request

COURSE MATERIALS

Required:

- Houck M, Siegel, J. 2015. *Fundamentals of Forensic Science, Third Edition*. Academic Press.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This team-taught interdisciplinary course will give students an introduction to the major concepts, issues, and techniques used in forensic science. It is designed to expose students to different disciplines and career paths within forensic science.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Goals: Students will...	Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to...
Learn about what forensic science is and different areas of forensic science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Define forensic science and discuss broad and specialized areas of forensic scienceDiscuss the history of forensic science and the modern role of forensic laboratories in the public and private sectors
Become familiar with specializations within forensic science and their role in a medicolegal context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Explain various professional roles in the field of forensic science and the services these roles provideSummarize the relationship between forensic science, law enforcement, and the judicial system
Become familiar with education and training requirements for different areas of forensic science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Describe the education, formal training, and experience necessary to work as a forensic scientistSummarize certifications necessary for various specializations in forensic science
Engage in professional discussions with forensic scientists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engage in discussions with forensic scientists across areas of expertise
Understand the public perception of forensic science and the impact in a medicolegal context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Describe the role of forensic science in the criminal justice systemExplain the requirements and considerations of expert testimonyDiscuss public bias concerning forensic science
Become familiar with forensic science processes across areas of specialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Summarize standard protocols for different areas of forensic scienceExplain what information different forensic scientists can contribute to a forensic case
Learn about volunteer, internship, and training opportunities within the field of forensic science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engage in discussions with forensic scientists about current and future opportunities to learn and train in various forensic science careers

COURSE POLICIES

All policies at both the College and Program level apply to this course. The College of Arts and Sciences academic policies are available [online](#). The established code of conduct by the Department of Anthropology also applies to this course and can be reviewed [on the department website](#).

COURSE TECHNOLOGY

For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available [online](#), and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

Self-Service and Chat support: [IT Service Desk](#) • Phone: 614-688-HELP (4357)

Email: 8help@osu.edu • TDD: 614-688-8743

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Up-to-date [university policies](#) are available from the Office of Undergraduate Education, and these policies apply to this course. You can view the following statements and policies:

- Disability Statement
- Excused absence guidelines (COVID)
- Academic Misconduct
- Grievances and solving problems
- Creating an environment free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct
- Diversity Statement
- Counseling and Consultation Services/Mental health statement
- Lyft Ride Smart

YOUR MENTAL HEALTH-COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION SERVICES

The Ohio State University's Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) is here to support you. If you find yourself feeling isolated, anxious or overwhelmed, on-demand resources are available at go.osu.edu/ccsondemand.

You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766, and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org. The [Ohio State Wellness app](#) is also a great resource.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Quizzes are due prior to the start of class.

Late assignments will not be accepted.

Assigned readings are to be completed prior to the start of class.

Assignment type:

- **Independent Work:** Strictly non-collaborative, original work. You may discuss this assignment only with your instructor(s). Discussions with other individuals, either in person or electronically, are strictly prohibited.

Assignment Name	Points / Weight	Assignment Type
Quizzes	10 points x 10 quizzes = 100 points	Independent
Midterm	150 points	Independent
Final Exam	150 points	Independent
TOTAL COURSE POINTS	400 points	

GRADING SCALE

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	E
100–93%	92.9–90%	89.9–87%	86.9–83%	82.9–80%	79.9–77%	76.9–73%	72.9–70%	69.9–67%	66.9–60%	59.9–0%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week #	Dates	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
1	Aug 24	Introduction and Course Review	None	None
	Aug 26	Guest Speaker – Coroner	Textbook – Chapter 1, p. 3–22	Quiz 1
2	Aug 31	Guest Speaker – Archaeology	Forensic Archaeology – posted in Carmen	
	Sept 2	Guest Speaker – Firearms	Textbook – Chapter 21, p. 545–576	

3	Sept 7	Guest Speaker – Microscopy	Textbook – Chapter 4, p. 69–91	Quiz 2
	Sept 9	Guest Speaker – Evidence Receiving	Textbook – Chapter 3, p. 43–65	
4	Sept 14	Student Wellness Center	None	Quiz 3
	Sept 16	Guest Speaker – Entomology	Textbook – Chapter 9, p. 215–232	
5	Sept 21	Guest Speaker – Latent Prints	Textbook – Chapter 19, p. 493–517	Quiz 4
	Sept 23	Discussion and Midterm Assignment	None	
6	Sept 28	Guest Speaker – Photography	Forensic Photography – posted in Carmen	Quiz 5
	Sept 30	Digital Evidence	Textbook, Chapter 23, p. 599–618	
7	Oct 5	Guest Speaker – Toxicology	Textbook, Chapter 14, p. 353–379	Quiz 6
	Oct 7	No Class – Midterm	None	
8	Oct 12	Impression Evidence	Textbook, Chapter 22, p. 577–598	Midterm
	Oct 14	No Class – Autumn Break	None	
9	Oct 19	Guest Speaker – Bureau of Criminal Investigation	Textbook, Chapter 25, p. 651–666	
	Oct 21	Guest Speaker – Imaging	Textbook, Chapter 5, p. 93–119	
10	Oct 26	Guest Speaker – Drug Chemistry	Textbook, Chapter 13, p. 315–352	Quiz 7
	Oct 28	Guest Speaker – Engineering	Forensic Engineering – posted in Carmen	
11	Nov 2	Guest Speaker – Forensic Centers	None	Quiz 8
	Nov 4	Midterm Review and Discussion	None	
12	Nov 9	Guest Speaker – Law Enforcement	Textbook – Chapter 2, p. 23–41	
	Nov 11	No Class – Veterans Day	None	
13	Nov 16	Guest Speaker – Anthropology	Chapter 8, p. 181-213	Quiz 9
	Nov 18	Guest Speaker – Crime Analysis	None	
14	Nov 23	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	None	

	Nov 25	No Class – Indigenous Peoples’ Day	None	
15	Nov 30	Guest Speaker – Law	Chapter 24, p. 621–649	
	Dec 2	Review – Guest Speakers	None	Quiz 10
16	Dec 7	Review – Readings	None	
Finals	Dec 14	Final Exam – 8am–9:45am	None	Final Exam

***Bolded** dates indicate classes which will be led by another instructor

ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Attendance will be recorded the first week of class via a Carmen quiz. Attendance is mandatory; all quizzes and the final will consist of questions taken from the guest speakers and lectures throughout the semester. The presentations from the guest speakers will not be available at any other time other than when they are scheduled. Additionally, guest speakers may need to change their dates due to work conflicts, so attendance for all classes is necessary to be successful in this course.

Attending class also means being present in class. Cell phone disruptions, sending text messages, sleeping, listening to headphones, and unrelated chatting in class is unacceptable behavior. Please help to maintain a pleasant learning environment for all involved. Be prepared to interact and engage in this class through discussion and questions.

ABSENCE AND MAKEUP POLICY

Should extenuating circumstances arise resulting in missing of an in-class assignment (e.g., COVID illness), please contact the course instructor to discuss options of alternative assignments as soon as possible.

LATE ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS

Late assignments will **not** be accepted. Students should utilize best practices in time management to ensure all assignments (e.g., quizzes) are completed prior to class. Should circumstances arise resulting in missing of a class assignment, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible.

INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK AND RESPONSE TIMES

Please allow for 48 hours during weekdays for email responses. In order to facilitate faster responses, please include “ANTHROP 3211” in the header of the email.

Quizzes will be immediately graded and available upon completion on Carmen. All written work will be graded within two weeks of turn in.

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THIS SYLLABUS, THE COURSE ELEMENTS, POLICIES, AND SCHEDULE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.