

Administration of Justice Department
San Jose State University
Spring 2003
Saturday 0900 - 1145

Instructor: Larry D. Turner
Forensic Services
e-mail: lturner450@attbi.com

AJ 113

INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SCIENCES

COURSE CONTENTS

This course is designed as an introduction to the Forensic Crime Laboratory, its operation and its function with law enforcement in the judicial system. This class will expose its students to the forensically applied scientific concepts, analytical instrumentations, and microscopy. This course will provide the students with information on documentation, collection, and preservation of physical evidence and how it is connected with courtroom testimony. This course will provide knowledge on each area of the Crime Laboratory and their practical applications in the laboratory.

COURSE TEXT

Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science; Saferstein, Richard, Prentice Hall Education, Career & Technology, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, Seventh Edition, Spartan Bookstore.

COURSE DATES

January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, April 5, 12, 19, 26,
May 3, and 10.
Crime Laboratory Tour: February 15, 2002
Midterm Examination: March 15, 2002
Final Examination: May 17, 2002

INSTRUCTOR

Professor Turner holds a Forensic Science Degree from the University of Mississippi. He is presently a Supervising Criminalist at the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Crime Laboratory. He has over 21 years of experience in Criminalistics, Forensic Science, and Courtroom Testimony. He is an expert in 5 areas of Forensic Science. These areas include Forensic Biology/Serology, Bloodstain Pattern Interpretation, Blood Alcohol Analysis, Controlled Substance Analysis, and Crime Scene Interpretation, Collection, and Preservation.

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday: 1200-1300 or by appointments. Phone: 408-605-4933

COURSE GOALS

1. Provide basic knowledge of what a Forensic Laboratory is and its various areas of expertise.
2. Provide basic knowledge of what constitutes pertinent physical evidence during crime scene investigations.
3. Provide knowledge on the proper methods of collection and preservation of physical evidence.
4. Develop an understanding of the capabilities and limitations of laboratory analysis and of the kind of information laboratory analysis can provide.
5. Provide a basic understanding of the use of physical evidence in legal proceedings.
6. Provide basic knowledge of Trace Evidence including Hair/Fiber Analysis Arson Analysis, Paint Analysis, Gunshot Residue Analysis, and Glass Analysis.
7. Provide knowledge of what fingerprints are and techniques associated with their analysis and identification.
8. Develop an understanding of Firearms Arms and Toolmark Analysis and handling weapons.
9. Provide a basic understanding of Controlled Substance Analysis.
10. Provide basic knowledge of what Forensic Biology/DNA is, the instrumentation used in the section, and the cases it is most helpful in solving.
11. Provide basic hands on laboratory practical involving techniques involved in the presumptive and confirmatory analysis of body fluids.
12. Provide information on the area of Toxicology Analysis which includes E.I.A. Analysis and Blood Alcohol Analysis.
13. Provide information on Computer Crimes Analysis and its limitations.
14. Develop an understanding of Question Document Analysis and its instrumentations.
15. Help student to intelligently discuss each of the areas of the Forensic Crime Laboratory and how they aid the Judicial System in evaluating criminal cases.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Two Exams will be given in this course:
 1. Midterm Examination: March 15, 2002
 2. Final Examination: May 17, 2002Examination Format: Multiple Choice, True-False, and Short Essay.
- B. Laboratory Practicals: Due at the end of the semester
- C. Case Solving: Case I – Due March 29, 2002 ; Case II - Due April 19, 2002.
- D. Attendance/participation: There are 15 classes and all students are expected to attend each class

E. GRADING: Total point policy is adopted for grading as follows: 600 points

Midterm Examination:	150 points	540 – 600:	A
Laboratory Practicals:	100 points	480 – 539:	B
Case Solving :	100 points	420 - 479:	C
Group Participation	50 points	360 – 419:	D
Final Examination:	200 points	less than 360:	F

** *All exceptions and acceptable excuses will be solely at the discretion of the instructor. Students should sign a roster sheet for each class appearance.*

ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND INTEGRITY

All students are expected to act and function professionally at all times. Students enrolled at San Jose State University are expected to represent the university with the utmost respect to the classroom and the information presented in each. Any student that shows lack of respect for the instructor or fellow classmates may be subject to immediate removal from the class for the benefit of all other students. Scholarship, discipline, integrity, and professionalism are expected of each student in the classroom. Put forth the effort and make this class profitable for everyone. Plagiarism, cheating, turning in work from someone else should not occur and may result in negative points toward a final grade.

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours.

** ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES OR BEEPERS DURING CLASS

ADDITIONAL STAFF

Jeremiah Garrido: Teacher's Assistant / Laboratory Instructor
Ramona Solorzano: Teacher's Assistant