

# **Introduction to Forensic Science, CJ 115**

## **DRAFT**

## **Syllabus**

Course: CJ 115, Introduction to Forensic Science

Location:

Meeting day and time: online or in the classroom

Instructor:

Office:

Phone:

E-mail:

Office Hours:

Course text:

Saferstein, Richard (2013). Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science 11 ed. Pearson Prentice Hall

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to forensic science. This survey course introduces students to the history and contemporary field of forensic science. Limitations and uses will be explained as will the role that forensic science plays in the US criminal justice system. Various aspects of crime scene and evidence collection and preservation will be presented.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will become familiar with the various roles played by forensic scientists from evidence collection, to analysis, and courtroom testimony.
2. Students will become aware of the history and limitations of current forensic science.
3. Students will become exposed to various equipment, tools, and technology used by forensic scientists to collect and analyze evidence.

### Course Expectations:

1. There will be 4 exams given during the semester. They will vary in point value from 50-100 pts. Each exam will cover a "Part" as signified in the text.
2. There will be a comprehensive final worth 200 pts.
3. There will be various assignments due either in class or at determined dates as specified by the instructor. The point value of assignments will vary.
4. There is an expectation that students will attend class as scheduled and be prepared to contribute to classroom discussions, projects, etc. Any instances of academic dishonesty can result in failure of the class.

### Grading Scale

A= 100-90%  
B=89-80%  
C=79-70%  
D=69-60%  
F=Below 59%

Your final grade will be the average of all points earned throughout the semester. Graded material can be handed in after the due date BUT with a 25% reduction. No graded materials will be accepted one week after the due date.

Attendance and Course Policies: There is no formal attendance policy. However, students are expected to attend each class period as scheduled. Students should also review the material for each class prior to the start of class. This helps with classroom participation and allows for the success of the entire class. It also makes class much more interesting when all members are informed and invested in the class. A student's failure to attend class on a regular basis WILL impact your final grade because your graded material submitted or not submitted will reflect your investment and thus your grade.

\*\* No audio and/or video recording of class is allowed unless the instructor provides previous approval.

### **Mission of the University:**

Washburn University enriches the lives of students by providing opportunities for them to develop and to realize their intellectual, academic, and professional potential, leading to becoming productive and responsible citizens. We are committed to excellence in teaching, scholarly work, quality academic and professional programs, and high levels of faculty-student interaction. We develop and engage in relationships to enhance educational experiences and our community. *Washburn University Board of Regents, 2010*

### **Definition of a Credit Hour:**

For every credit hour awarded for a course, the student is typically expected to complete approximately one hour of classroom instruction, online interaction with course material, or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two additional hours of student work each week for approximately 15 weeks for one semester or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time.

**Academic Misconduct Policy:**

All students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately and ethically in their academic work. Inappropriate and unethical behavior includes (but is not limited to) giving or receiving unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of papers or other assignments, or knowingly misrepresenting the source of academic work. Washburn University's Academic Impropriety Policy describes academically unethical behavior in greater detail and explains the actions that may be taken when such behavior occurs. For guidelines regarding protection of copyright, consult <http://www.washburn.edu/copyright>. For a complete copy of the Academic Impropriety Policy, contact the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center Suite 200, or go on-line to: <http://www.washburn.edu/academic-impropriety>.

**Student Health Services:**

Student Health Services (SHS) provides support for students experiencing challenges with learning and adapting to university life. SHS offers urgent care for illness and injury; sports, school, and travel abroad physicals (including TB testing); well woman exams; STD and pregnancy testing; immunizations/vaccinations; and care of chronic illness. Services are provided by Board Certified Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) who collaborate with WU Student Counseling Services and physicians in the Topeka area. More information can be found at <http://www.washburn.edu/health>

**WU Counseling Services**

Licensed mental health professionals are available in the Counseling Services' office for personal, academic, and mental health support. This is accomplished by providing a variety of counseling services as well as resources and referrals to students. More information can be found at <http://www.washburn.edu/counseling>

**Disability Services:**

The Student Services Office is responsible for assisting in arranging accommodations and for identifying resources on campus for persons with disabilities. Qualified students with disabilities must register with the office to be eligible for services. The office MUST have appropriate documentation on file in order to provide services. Accommodations may include in-class note takers, test readers and/or scribes, adaptive computer technology, brailled materials. Requests for accommodations should be submitted at least two months before services should begin; however, if you need an accommodation this semester, please contact the Student Services Office immediately.

Location: Student Services, Morgan Hall Room 135 (new location)

Web: <http://www.washburn.edu/student-services>

Phone: 785-670-1629 or TDD 785-670-1025

E-Mail: [student-services@washburn.edu](mailto:student-services@washburn.edu)

Students may voluntarily identify themselves to the instructor for a referral to the Student Services Office.

**Center for Student Success:** As a Washburn student, you may experience difficulty with issues such as studying, personal problems, time management, or choice of major, classes, or employment. The Center for Student Success (Office of Academic Advising, Tutoring Programs, First Year programming, and Testing and Assessment) is available to help students either directly through academic advising, mentoring, testing and developing learning strategies or by identifying the appropriate University resource. If you feel you need someone with whom to discuss an issue confidentially and free of charge, contact the

office in Morgan 122 (or Mabee Library after October 1), 785-670-1942, [advising@washburn.edu](mailto:advising@washburn.edu).

**Withdrawal Policy:**

During fall and spring semesters, students may go online and withdraw from full semester courses through the second week of class with no recorded grade. From the third through the eleventh week a “W” is recorded for any dropped course. After the eleventh week, there are NO withdrawals, and a grade will be assigned for the course. These deadlines will be different for short-term, out-of-sequence, or summer courses. To view the deadline dates for your courses visit the “Last Day” Deadlines web page at: <https://www2-prod.washburn.edu/self-service/coursedates.php> Depending on the timing of the request to withdraw from a course, students may be responsible for repaying all or a portion of their financial aid. **Students who do not attend their courses and fail to officially withdraw themselves will receive a grade of “F” and may also be required to repay all or a portion of their financial aid based on their non-attendance.** For further information, contact the Financial Aid Office at 785.670.1151 or e-mail [financialaid@washburn.edu](mailto:financialaid@washburn.edu).

**Attendance/Administrative Withdrawal:**

Although it is the student's responsibility to initiate course withdrawals, an instructor, after due notice to the student, may request withdrawal of the student from a course because of nonattendance through the same date as the last day a student may withdraw from a course. This would NOT absolve the student of financial responsibility for tuition/fees for the course in question. The inclusion of this information in the course syllabus is considered due notice.

**Official E-Mail Address:**

Your Washburn University e-mail address will be the official address used by the University for relaying important messages regarding academic and financial information and the University will consider this your official notification for important information. It may also be used by your instructors to provide specific course information. If you prefer to use an alternate e-mail address to receive official University notices, you can access your MyWashburn e-mail account, choose the "Options" tab, and select "Settings", scroll to the bottom of the screen, click enable forwarding and enter the e-mail address you would like your Washburn emails forwarded to in the “mail forwarding” area. Click add and then click on save changes. This will complete the process of forwarding your Washburn e-mail. It is your responsibility to ensure that your official e-mail box does not exceed your message quota resulting in the inability of e-mail messages to be accepted into your mailbox.

**Success Week:**

Success Week for undergraduate students is designated as the five week days preceding the first day of scheduled final examinations each Fall and Spring semester. Success Week is intended to provide students ample opportunity to prepare for final examinations. For academic programs, the following guidelines apply:

A. Faculty are encouraged to utilize Success Week as a time for review of course material in preparation for the final examination. If an examination is to be given during Success Week, it must not be given in the last **three** days of Success Week unless approved by the Dean or Department Chair. Assignments worth no more than 10% of the final grade and covering no more than one-fourth of assigned reading material in the course may be given.

B. Major course assignments (extensive research papers, projects, etc.) should be due on or before the Friday prior to Success Week and should be assigned early in the semester. Any modifications to assignments should be made in a timely fashion to give students adequate time to complete the assignments.

C. If major course assignments must be given during Success Week, they should be due in the first **three** days of Success Week. Exceptions include class presentations by students and semester-long projects such as a project assignment in lieu of a final. Participation and attendance grades are acceptable.

The Success Week policy excludes make-up assignments, make-up tests, take-home final exams, and laboratory examinations. It also does not apply to classes meeting one day a week for more than one hour. All University laboratory classes are exempt from this policy.

### **CJ 115, Introduction to Forensic Science Tentative Schedule**

Week 1

Intro to class, review syllabus  
Review Chp. 1

Week 2

Review Chp. 1  
Review Chp. 2

Week 3

Review Chp. 3  
Review Chp. 3

Week 4

Review Chp. 4/ Review for Test I  
**Test I**

Week 5

Review Chp.5  
Guest Speaker

Week 6

Review Chp.6  
Review Chp.6

Week 7

Review Chp.7  
Review Chp.7

Week 8

Review Chp.8  
Review Chp.8/ Review for Test II

Week 9

**BREAK**

Week 10

Review Chp.9  
Review Chp.9

Week 11

Review Chp.11  
Review Chp.11/ Review for Test III

Week 12

**Test III**  
Review Chp.12

Week 13

Review Chp.13  
Review Chp.13/ 14

Week 14

Review Chp.14/15  
Review Chp.15

Week 15

Week 16  
SUCCESS WEEK