

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY ADJ 171 - FORENSIC SCIENCE I (4 CR.)

Course Description

Surveys concepts and basic principles of forensic chemistry, drug identification, thin-layer chromatographic methods, arson materials examination, important legal cases in forensic science, expert testimony strengths and weaknesses in forensic science, instrumentation, anthropology, entomology, pathology, serology, ballistic crime scene identification, collection, preservation, and reconstruction techniques. Part I of II. Lecture 3 hours. Laboratory 3 hours. Total 6 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an exposure to crime scene investigations, selected areas in forensic science and an in-depth review of forensic issues in the courtroom.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Review the history of forensic science.
- Critically analyze forensic science issues in the courtroom.
- Understand proper identification, collection, and preservation techniques of forensic evidence.
- Recognize quality assurance and control measures by forensic professionals.
- Describe various instruments used by forensic scientists.
- Define serology, entomology, pathology, and anthropology and the subject's relationship with modern forensic science.

Major Topics to be Included

- Latent fingerprint identification and evidence techniques.
- Serology.
- Pathology.
- DNA analysis.
- Blood spatter evidence analysis.
- Trace evidence analysis.
- Tool mark and ballistic analysis.
- Crime scene searches.
- Proper identification, collection, and preservation techniques.
- Mock crime scenes.
- Photographic and sketch evidence.
- Controlled dangerous substance identification and evidence.
- Courtroom issues associated with forensic science.

Extra Topics (optional)

Related subjects at the discretion of the instructor.

