Huntingdon College
W. James Samford, Jr. School of Business and Professional Studies

COURSE NUMBER: CJ401
COURSE NAME: Criminalistics
Spring 2016, Session III, Rainsville, Health Education Rm. 241
Dates: 3/31, 4/7, 14, 21, 28
5:30-9:30

INSTRUCTOR’S NAME: Mr. Tyler St. Clair

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course surveys the various scientific investigations techniques used to gather and analyze evidence. It includes the following: comparison and identification of physical evidence; blood and body fluids; casts and molds; fingerprints; trace evidence. The course explains and discusses the crime laboratory and its procedures, functions, and duties. It also provides an overview of crime scene procedures and techniques for locating, preserving, and securing evidence. Topics for discussion include application of scientific and technical methods used in the investigation of a crime, including crime scene searches.

PREREQUISITE: CJ100 (or equivalent)


COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:
The student will understand and be able to explain the following:

- To explore the fields of criminalistics and forensic science.
- To investigate the techniques used in criminalistics and forensic science.
- To understand the role of evidence collection in forensic science.
- To understand, review, and address the legal and ethical issues surrounding forensic science.
- To understand the methods of DNA analysis.
- To have the ability to evaluate a crime scene and collect evidence for use in prosecution of a crime.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING CRITERIA:

Exams: Exams: Five quizzes. Each quiz is worth 100 points, for a total possible of 500 points from quizzes. Each quiz covers the subject matter of its respective class session and is not cumulative. However, for assessment purposes, the final quiz may contain questions on material previously covered in other exams. Each quiz will also include one discussion question which
may be answered at your option. Discussion answers will be evaluated, and points earned will be “bonus” points for the respective quiz. The purpose of the quiz is to make certain that you have read the text. Questions appearing on the quiz may not necessarily be taken from the presentation and discussion of the material during the class.

Writing Assignments: There will be a writing assignment due for each class. Each writing assignment will be worth 25 points, for a total possible of 125 points from writing assignments. The subject matter of each writing assignment will be taken from the material covered in the text for that class period. The purpose of the writing assignments is to assess your critical thinking skills and ability to apply what you have learned in the text to a real-life situation. Wherever you see instructions to “use the Internet and do a search,” please do the following: a) go to the Library’s web site, and use our online catalogue (Countess OneSearch); and b) go into the Library’s databases. If you do not find what you are seeking there, you may search the Internet at large, but do not use Google; use Google Scholar for your searches.

Quiz scores will be averaged and will be equivalent to 50 percent of your overall grade for the course. Written assignments will be equivalent to 40 percent of your overall grade for the course. Participation will make up the additional 10 percent of our overall grade for the course.

Grading Elements       Percentage:
Weekly Assignments     40%
Quizzes                50%
Participation          10%
Total Points           100%

GRADE POINT EQUIVALENTS - Describe the point range for each letter grade.
A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 59-below

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Absences and Tardiness – All students are required to attend the first session. Those who do not attend the first session will be automatically dropped from the course. Students with more than one absence will receive an "F" for the course. Since this class meets only five times, missing a single class meeting is equivalent to missing three weeks of a regular term. If you cannot attend a class you must let the instructor know via email as soon as possible. In case of absences you are responsible for obtaining all handouts and assignments. Tardiness may result in a deduction in your class participation grade. Excessive tardiness may count as an absence.
Participation – Participation is not the same as attendance. Participation requires students to come to class prepared to actively participate, which makes the classroom experience more meaningful. However, participation is not just speaking out in class. The contributions made by the student should be related to the course content and meaningful to the class discussion.

Late Assignments – Late assignments are **NOT** accepted unless under extreme emergency situations.

Accommodation of Special Needs– Huntingdon College makes every reasonable accommodation for disabilities that have been processed and approved through our Disability Services Committee in accord with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to request disability-related services at Huntingdon College, students must self-identify to the Disabilities Intake Coordinator, Camilla Irvin, and provide appropriate and up-to-date documentation to verify their disability or special needs. After the accommodations have been approved by the Disability Services Committee, the 504 Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Olenik Dorman, will notify your professor(s) of the committee's decision. If you have any questions regarding reasonable accommodation or need to request disability-related services, please contact Disability Services at (334) 833-4577 or e-mail at disabilityservices@huntingdon.edu.

Medical Considerations - If you have a medical condition that may preclude participation in this course or any aspect of this course, the College suggests you consult your physician. The College will work with you based upon physician recommendations to find the best means to address any concerns.

Title IX Statement - Huntingdon faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the College's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX, discrimination based upon sex and gender is prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the College the faculty member MUST report to the college's Title IX Coordinator what you share. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are people who can meet with you. Faculty can help direct you or you may refer to Huntingdon's Sexual Misconduct Policy at [http://www.huntingdon.edu/student-life/student-service/misconduct](http://www.huntingdon.edu/student-life/student-service/misconduct). You do not have to go through the experience alone.

Academic Honesty – Plagiarism is literary theft. Failure to cite the author of any language or of any ideas which are not your own creation is plagiarism. This includes any text you might paraphrase, as well. Anyone is capable of searching the Internet or any printed media; your research paper is intended to broaden your knowledge, stimulate your creativity, and make you think, analyze, and learn. It is not consistent
with the College Honor Code, nor with scholarly expectations to submit work which is not the product of your own thinking and research. Severe penalties will result upon the submission of any work found to be plagiarized, including potential failure of the entire course. It is easy and simple to properly cite all sources used in your paper. Take no risks – cite your sources.

Huntingdon College Library: As an EB student you have access to the full-range of electronic resources provided by the Library of Huntingdon College. Your first step upon enrollment at Huntingdon should be to register for a library account. You can do this by going to the Library’s web site at http://library.huntingdon.edu/ and under “EB Services” complete the “Library Card Application” form and submit it. You will receive shortly your personal library account information, which will then allow you to access a variety of resources including databases. Should you ever have a problem accessing the Library’ electronic resources, please contact the Library (specifically, Systems Librarian Brenda Kerwin at bkerwin@huntingdon.edu).

*Among the Library’s electronic resources, you will find a number of databases specific to the area of criminal justice and its allied fields of study. You will also find databases that support your core courses in such fields as English, history, communications, the arts, and the sciences. You may be familiar with the AVL (the /Alabama Virtual Library/) and have your own AVL card. As a student at Huntingdon College, you no longer need to maintain your own AVL card, if you access the AVL through our web site. Simply click on “Campus &Library” rather than “Home Access” within the AVL. A few other mentions: /Countess/ is the name of the Library’s online catalogue and among its holdings you will find electronic books. If you want to know what full-text electronic journals are available to you through the Library’s databases, you can use the /Serials Solutions/ link on our web site. You can limit your search by discipline (such as “Criminal Justice”). If you use Google for any of your research, we greatly encourage you to use /Google Scholar/ and /Google Books/. These features of Google will direct you to resources appropriate for academic research.*

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Week One

Reading Assignment
Chapter 1: Introduction
Chapter 2: The Crime Scene
Chapter 3: Physical Evidence
Chapter 4: Crime-Scene Reconstruction: Bloodstain Pattern Analysts

Writing Assignment #1
An investigator at a murder scene notes signs of a prolonged struggle between the attacker and victim. What types of physical evidence would the investigator probably collect as standard or
reference samples? Explain why the investigator would collect them. Answer the question in the form of an essay. Be prepared to present your essay to the class.

**Quiz #1 at the end of the session.**

**Week Two**

**Reading Assignment**
- Chapter 5: Death Investigation
- Chapter 6: Fingerprints
- Chapter 7: The Microscope
- Chapter 8: Firearms, Tool Marks, and Other Impressions

**Writing Assignment #2**
A Criminalist is collecting evidence from the scene of a shooting. After locating the revolver suspected of firing the shots, the Criminalist picks the gun up by the grip, unloads it, and places the ammunition in an envelope. She then attaches an identification tag to the grip. Searching the scene, the Criminalist finds a bullet lodged in the wall. She uses pliers to grab the bullet and pull it from the wall, then inscribes the bullet with her initials and places it in an envelope. What mistakes, if any, did the Criminalist make in collecting this evidence? Answer the question in the form of an essay. Be prepared to present your essay to the class.

**Quiz #2 at the end of the session.**

**Week Three**

**Reading Assignment**
- Chapter 9: Matter, Light, and Glass Examination
- Chapter 10: Hairs and Fibers
- Chapter 11: Drugs
- Chapter 12: Forensic Toxicology

**Writing Assignment #3**
You are investigating an arson scene, and you find a corpse in the rubble, but you suspect that the victim did not die as a result of the fire. Instead, you suspect that the victim was murdered earlier, and that the blaze was started to cover up the murder. How would you go about determining whether the victim died before the fire? Answer in the form of an essay. Be prepared to present your essay to the class.

**Quiz #3 at the end of the session.**
Week Four

Reading Assignment
Chapter 13: Metals, Paint, and Soil
Chapter 14: Forensic Serology
Chapter 15: DNA: The Indispensable Forensic Science Tool
Chapter 16: Forensic Aspects of Fire and Explosion Investigation

Writing Assignment #4
Police discover a badly decomposed body buried in an area where a man disappeared some years before. The case was never solved, nor was the victim’s body ever recovered. As the lead investigator, you suspect that the newly discovered body is that of the victim. What is your main challenge in using DNA typing to determine whether your suspicion is correct? How would you go about using DNA technology to test your theory? Answer the questions in the form of an essay. Be prepared to present your essay to the class.

Quiz #4 at the end of the session.

Week Five

Reading Assignment
Chapter 17: Document Examination
Chapter 18: Computer Forensics
Chapter 19: Mobile Device Forensics

Writing Assignment #5
A Criminalist is investigating the scene of a crime involving a computer. After he arrives, he photographs the overall scene and takes close-up shots of all the connections to the single computer involved, as well as photos of the serial numbers of the computer and all peripheral devices. He then labels the cord to each peripheral device, then disconnects them from the computer. After making sure that all data in RAM has been saved to the hard disk drive, the Criminalist unplugs the computer from the wall. What mistakes, if any, did he make? Answer the question in the form of an essay. Be prepared to present your essay to the class.

Quiz #5 at the end of the session.