

**CHS 3501: An Introduction to Forensic Science**  
**Fall Semester 2016**  
**Section: 001-LEC (89628)**

Instructor: Dr. Candice Bridge, CHM 328, 407.823.2120 (office hours office)  
NCFS 316D, 407.823.1263 (main research office)  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:00-4:30pm or By Appointment in CHM 328

**Classroom Location:** BLDG HPA1, Room 119  
**Class Days & Time:** T 6:00 – 8:50pm  
**Class Duration:** Aug 23, 2016 – Dec 6, 2016

**UCF Forensic Faculty:** Jack Ballantyne, Matthieu Baudelet, Candice Bridge, Dana-Marie Dennis, Tamra Legron-Rodriguez and Michael Sigman.

**Guest Lecturers:** Forensic scientists from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement [FDLE], Indian River Crime Laboratory (IRCL), Orange County Sheriff's Office [OCSO], Orlando Police Department [OPD], Seminole County Sheriff's Office [SCSO], and selected forensic consultants and UCF faculty.

**Textbook:** *Criminalistics, Introduction to Forensic Science. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition* – Richard Saferstein

Course Description:

This three credit hour course examines the development of forensic science as an international phenomenon, driven by the need to recover, examine and identify the sources of evidence found at crime scenes. The author of the course textbook defines forensic science as "...the application of science to law." Forensic science is an integral and important part of the legal system and assists investigators by providing credible science to support the arrest and interrogation of suspects and by offering clear, concise and factual reports of their findings to a trial judge and jury.

Guest lecturers and UCF faculty will offer insights into the investigative and technological challenges facing the profession. No photography is allowed in this course. The lecturer(s) may display sensitive material.

Grading: 100-point scale

**30% Homework Quiz:**

Online quiz based on the assigned chapter reading and the previous lecture. Online quizzes will be administered through Webcourses (access through [webcourses.ucf.edu](http://webcourses.ucf.edu) or through [my.ucf.edu](http://my.ucf.edu) and then the "Online Course Tools" tab). The lowest quiz grade will be discarded to make a total quiz count of 12. To have an absence considered as excused, you must submit a written explanation for evaluation. Make-up quizzes will not be administered.

**30% Midterm Writing Assignment:**

Essay paper designed to evaluate your writing skills and the understanding of the topic you select. Administered online through Webcourses.

**40% Cumulative Final Exam:**

Multiple-choice examination administered online through Webcourses.

### Grading Scheme

A	100 – 90
B	90 – 80
C	80 – 70
D	70 – 60
F	60 and Below

*Regrading Policy:* If you feel that the midterm or the final exam need to be regraded, prepare a 3 sentence justification explaining why your exam should be regraded. Bring a copy of your exam, the comments for your exam (located in the essay rubric), and your justification to my office hours. With these documents we will discuss your exam and its associated grade. You may also contact the TA for a discussion of your grade via the Webcourses email system.

This policy does not apply to quizzes. Since the quizzes are administered through Webcourses, which will generally grade written answers incorrectly even due to minute differences, I will always check those answers without justification.

**Federal Financial Aid Requirement:** As of Fall 2014, all faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following activity by the end of the first wee or classes or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than August 28<sup>th</sup>. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

To fulfill this requirement, all student must take Quiz 1 on Webcourses. This quiz will be based on the Introduction Lecture on August 25, 2014 and Chapter 1 from the required text.

**Email Policy:** If you have any questions regarding the course or need to email me for any reason, please use the email system through Webcourses. Emails sent directly to me, outside of the Webcourse system, will not be answered.

### **Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**

"Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone."

*Cell phones and other personal digital communication devices will not be allowed during examinations.*

*Any online quiz/homework assignments are to be completed by you. **No student collaboration is allowed.***

Plagiarism includes any attempt to take credit for another person's work. This includes quoting directly from a book or web site, without crediting the source. Sources should always be referenced or a link to the website added and, where direct quotes have been used, quotation marks must be placed around the quoted material. However, we expect more than simply cutting and pasting in an undergraduate

level course. Students are expected to review, evaluate and comment on material they research, rather than simply copying relevant material. Your work will be graded accordingly.

**Academic Honesty:** All students are expected to abide by the student honor code. To review the student honor code read the information on standards of Ethical Conduct at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

### **Tentative Schedule Fall 2016**

*Note: We must be flexible with this schedule because of court and other obligations by the guest lecturers. Check your email and bulletin postings frequently!*

Week 1	Aug 23	Course overview and requirements – Bridge [UCF] The history and development of forensic science Crime Laboratory Sections and Organization <b>Read Chp 1 &amp; 2</b>
Week 2	Aug 30	Crime Scene Investigation – Ms. Jacqueline Grossi [SCSO] <b>Read Chp 4</b>
Week 3	Sep 6	The Lead Detective – Det. Mike Moreschi [OPD] <b>Read Chp 14 &amp; 15</b>
Week 4	Sep 13	DNA/Serology – Mr. Wayne Walker [IRCL] <b>Read Chp 17</b>
Week 5	Sep 20	Forensic Documents – Mr. Tom Vastrick [Consultant] <b>Read Chp 5</b>
Week 6	Sep 27	Medical Examination – Dr. Julia Hegert [Consultant] <b>Read Chp 12</b>
Week 7	Oct 4	Toxicology – Mr. Mattheu Miller [FDLE] <b>Read Chp 16</b>
Week 8	Oct 11	<b>Midterm Exam</b> Writing Assignment ( <b>ONLINE</b> )
Week 9	Oct 18	Fire Debris & Explosives – Dr. Michael Sigman [UCF] <b>Read Chps 18 &amp; 19</b>
Week 10	Oct 25	Digital Examination – Dr. Mark Pollitt [Consultant] <b>Read Chp 8</b>
Week 11	Nov 1	Firearm & Toolmarks Analysis – Ms. Christine Murphy [FDLE] <b>Read Chp 11</b>
Week 12	Nov 8	Drugs/Controlled Substances – Mr. Orlando Ramos [FDLE] <b>Read Chp 7</b>
Week 13	Nov 15	Legal Court Proceedings – Ms. Alisha Marie Scott [Federal Public Defender] <b>Read Chp 3</b>
Week 14	Nov 22	Entomology – Dr. Barbara Sharonowski [UCF] <b>Read Chp 6</b>
Week 15	Nov 29	Latent Prints Analysis – Mr. Brandon Edwards [SCSO]
Finals	Dec 6	<b>Final Exam 7:00 – 9:50pm (ONLINE)</b>