SCI150: Intro to Forensic Science  
Spring 2019  
Class meets Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 – 12:30 in Hoyt 369  
Lab meets Tuesday, 2:00 – 5:00 in Hoyt 359

Professor: Dr. Patrick Lackey  
Email: lackeyp@westminster.edu  
Office: Hoyt 363  
Phone: 724-946-7295

Office hours: Monday, 10:00 – 11:30; Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:00; Thursday, 2:00 – 3:30; or by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course description: As described by the Westminster Course Catalog: A study of the science behind forensic investigations. Case studies will be used to link science with real world examples. Laboratory experiences involve using forensic analysis to solve a “crime.”

Required text: Criminalistics, Saferstein

Website: Course material can be found on the SCI 150 D2L page.

Course outcomes: By the end of this course, students will ...

- Become familiar with the forensic process, from the crime scene to the courtroom.
- Obtain hands-on experience performing various forensic techniques.
- Understand the science behind significant forensic cases in history.
- Acquire a better scientific background in order to evaluate current criminal cases and forensic applications.
- Get real-world exposure to the field of forensic science.

Methods of Instruction:  
Classes will consist of a variety of activities to enhance the learning process. Demonstrations, group work, laboratories, discussions, videos, guest speakers, cases studies, and lecture will be incorporated throughout the semester.

- Lectures and Discussion- all lectures and discussions will follow a tentative schedule (posted on D2L) in order to ensure adequate emphasis to all meaningful themes, topics, and concepts related to the field of forensic investigation. I expect you to attend class, pay attention, and participate “actively” in discussion by answering questions, asking questions, and making appropriate comments. You will get more out of the lecture and discussion if you have read the material in the textbook ahead of time.

- Readings and Assignments- readings will enhance the lecture and provide excellent material for class discussion. Additional reading materials will be assigned as we progress. The reading assignments should be taken seriously and may be subject to quizzes during class. Specific assignments/projects, and their due dates, will be addressed as the course progresses.
• **Laboratories and Demonstrations**- Laboratory activities are a key part of this course. SCI 150 will provide both an introduction to a scientific laboratory, and laboratory exercises that parallel class discussions and lecture to increase understanding of specific topics and to provide alternative insight. Lab may also be used to increase your understanding of topics we cannot fully cover in class. *Remember, SCI 150 is a lab course and laboratory attendance is mandatory!*  
  **Safety goggles and appropriate clothing are REQUIRED for all experiments.**
• **Final Crime Scene Investigation**- The culminating lab, “The Crime Scene,” is a multi-week lab in which students investigate a mock crime scene as would be done by a real-world forensic team. This includes “working the scene,” collecting and processing the evidence, analyzing evidence, and submitting a report of the results.

**Attendance policy:** Many classes will include discussions, quizzes, or in-class assignments that are due at the end of class (announced and unannounced). Unexcused absences will result in any classwork that for the day being recorded as a zero. Attendance at the laboratory sections is mandatory.

• **More than 2 unexcused lab absences will result in a failing grade for the course.**
• If you plan to miss any classes, make arrangements for completion of coursework before you leave. Acceptable completion of work after course deadlines is at the discretion of the instructor (which includes reasonable emergencies but does not include poor planning.)
• Assigned work (homework, lab reports, projects) are due at the beginning of class; anything handed in after this will be considered late. Late assignments will have 20% deducted from their score per day late. After one week, the assignment will be recorded as a zero.
• **Students WILL NOT be permitted to make up an exam or a lab unless permission is granted by the instructor prior to the scheduled event.**

**Course policies**

• **Working in Groups:** Discussion of coursework may include brainstorming and verbally walking through possible solutions, but *should not* include one person telling the others how to solve the problems. **Each student must write independent solutions to all assignments.** You may not look at another student’s written solutions to prepare your own!

• **Academic Integrity Policy:** Students should refer to the Westminster Course Catalog, which lists violations to the Academic Integrity Policy as including, but not being limited to: plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts or experimental results, unauthorized use of or intentional intrusion into another’s computer files and/or programs, intentional damage to a computer system, and unauthorized use of library materials and privileges. There are extensive examples of each these behaviors in the catalog, but it is important to remember that copying or significantly replicating online material is plagiarism. **Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.** The first citation of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. The second citation will result in a failing grade for the course. **All citations of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of the College, in accordance with the College policy.**
- **COURSE GRADING**

**Grade distribution:**

- Exams (two exams, 20% each): 40%
- Lab: 20%
- Final Crime Scene analysis: 20%
- Homework, quizzes, reading assignments, in-class projects: 20%

**Grading scale:**

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90–100%</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87–89%</td>
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