Course Description

In this course, you will learn many of the cardinal principles and techniques of crime scene investigation. The necessity of a rigorous scientific approach will be stressed. This course uses an intensive, hands-on style to learn the basics of scene management and investigation including recognition, evaluation, enhancement, documentation, control, and collection of evidence. Students will be introduced to:

- Documentation with notes, sketches, and photography
- Specialized techniques for the recognition and enhancement of physical evidence
- Preparation and maintenance of case folders for records including notes, sketches, photographs, and contacts/communications
- Communication of results and preparation of reports
- Management of scenes and available resources including equipment and personnel

Mock crime scene exercises will be used for demonstrations and to assess student knowledge, skills, and abilities. Scenes will be indoor and outdoor (regardless of weather) and one exercise/scene may be scheduled either late evening or early morning. Scenes will encompass criminal and non-criminal activities including homicide, sexual assault, burglary, suicide, accidental death, etc.

The primary aim of the course is to introduce students to scientific philosophy, integrity, scene investigation procedures and techniques, criminalistics, and the role of the criminalist in crime scene investigations.

Required References


Supplemental References


Additional useful references may be found in the Bibliography (page 7).
General Course Information

Enrollment Requirements:
- Undergraduate students: FRNSC 410
- Graduate students: FRNSC-MPS program

Other Required Materials:
- Access/knowledge of CANVAS, Internet, and World Wide Web

Course Syllabus Modifications:
- Changes to this syllabus may be made as deemed appropriate by the instructor. Students will be notified of changes in writing or by e-mail.
- Changes to the syllabus, class schedule, announcements, etc., will be communicated in class and/or via CANVAS/e-mail. Students are REQUIRED to check their Penn State and CANVAS e-mail daily.
- NOTE: Some syllabus changes may occur with little, if any, notice. These changes will be announced as soon as possible but announcements may occur as late as the start of the laboratory session. Due to unpredictable events including hazardous weather and other uncontrollable circumstances, changes to the course syllabus, calendar, and scheduled events can occur at any time.

Information Literacy:
Students will recognize when research is required and will have the ability to access, analyze, integrate, and evaluate information from a variety of sources. These sources include, but are not limited to, Penn State library databases, published and other written materials, and computer sources (Internet, World Wide Web, databases, etc.).

Expected Course and Laboratory Behavior:
- Students are expected to be actively involved in their acquisition of knowledge. Every student is responsible for all assigned reading, material presented in laboratory sessions, and computer-assisted and delivered instructional material.
- All students are expected to behave ethically and with honor and integrity (refer to Academic Integrity Policy).
- Cell phones MUST BE SILENCED AT ALL TIMES during laboratory sessions.
- Behavior deemed as disruptive to the instructor or fellow students (i.e., cell phone use, texting, excessive chatting, etc.) may result in the student being asked to leave the laboratory session. If you are asked to leave, you will be counted as absent for the entire session. If the behavior continues, the instructor has the right to ask that the student be removed from the course.
- There is a dress code for this course; it will be strictly enforced.

Attendance Considerations (refer to Attendance Policy):
- The instructor reserves the right to require written documentation of any event(s) leading to missed laboratory sessions and practical examinations (funerals, hospitalization, physician's office visit, etc.).
- If a student is absent from a laboratory session, they will be responsible for all content that has been covered on that day. This includes laboratory and lecture content, demonstrations, announcements, assignments, and any other material distributed to the class. The student is also responsible to be prepared for the next laboratory session.

Mock Crime Scene Exercises and Practical Examinations:
- Cell phones must be silenced and not on the person during quizzes or examinations.
- No electronic/wearable devices are allowed during quizzes or examinations.
- No food or drink items are allowed in the testing room during quizzes or examinations.
- No head coverings (hats, etc.) are permitted to be worn during quizzes or examinations.
- If a student misses an examination:
  - The student must e-mail the course instructor within 24 hours of the absence with a plan for completing the missed course assessment or assignment. If emergent circumstances prevent e-mail correspondence within 24 hours, the instructor must be notified as soon as possible.
  - Documentation of the event must be provided to the course instructor and a plan for completing the missed assessment or assignment must be implemented by the student.
  - If a quiz or examination is missed, it must be completed before the next class session. If emergent circumstances prevent a make-up before the next class session, the instructor must be notified as soon as possible.
  - It is the instructor's prerogative to administer an alternative format examination for any make-up examination.
- Additional requirements/instructions may be given at the start of an examination.
- **DISCUSSION OF MOCK CRIME SCENE EXERCISES WITH OTHERS IS PROHIBITED.**
- Mock crime scene exercises are graded assessments.

Other Assessment Requirements:
- Students are responsible for keeping a back-up copy of all submitted take-home work (crime scene reports, etc.).
- All reports and case folders are due on the date and time specified unless otherwise determined by the instructor (refer to Late Submission Policy).
- Additional requirements/instructions may be given at the time an assessment is assigned.

Duplication, Distribution, and Copyright of Course Materials:
- Students are prohibited from distributing or sharing any materials from this course with others who are not enrolled in the course.
- Students are prohibited from posting any course materials electronically without the permission of the instructor; this includes online note-taking, note-sharing, tutoring, and mentoring services (refer to Penn State Administrative Policy AD-40).
- Violations will result in disciplinary sanctions.
### Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date (Day)</th>
<th>Exercise Description</th>
<th>Exercise</th>
<th>REVIEWS &amp; SUBMISSIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUG 27 (T)</td>
<td>Introduction; Documentation: notes, sketches</td>
<td>EX01</td>
<td>EX01 review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUG 29 (R)</td>
<td>Documentation: D-SLR photography</td>
<td>EX02</td>
<td>EX02 review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 03 (T)</td>
<td>Documentation: notes, sketches, photography</td>
<td>EX03</td>
<td>EX03 review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 05 (R)</td>
<td>Mock scene exercise: documentation only</td>
<td>CSX01</td>
<td>CSX01 folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 10 (T)</td>
<td>Impression evidence: friction ridge skin</td>
<td>EX04</td>
<td>EX04 review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 12 (R)</td>
<td>Impression evidence: 2D/3D footwear impressions</td>
<td>EX05</td>
<td>EX05 review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 17 (T)</td>
<td>Trace and biological evidence</td>
<td>EX06</td>
<td>EX06 review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 19 (R)</td>
<td>Laser distance measuring; 3D laser scanning</td>
<td>EX07</td>
<td>EX07 review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 24 (T)</td>
<td>MIDTERM PRACTICAL EXAM #1</td>
<td>PE01</td>
<td>CSX01 report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 26 (R)</td>
<td>Mock scene exercise: documentation only</td>
<td>CSX02</td>
<td>CSX02 folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 01 (T)</td>
<td>Firearm evidence</td>
<td>EX08</td>
<td>EX08 review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 03 (R)</td>
<td>Blood trace analysis</td>
<td>BTA01-02</td>
<td>BTA01-02 review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 08 (T)</td>
<td>Blood trace analysis</td>
<td>BTA04-07</td>
<td>BTA04-07 review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 10 (R)</td>
<td>Blood trace analysis</td>
<td>BTA03, 08-11</td>
<td>CSX02 report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 15 (T)</td>
<td>Blood trace analysis</td>
<td>BTA12-13</td>
<td>BTA12-13 review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 17 (R)</td>
<td>Mock scene exercise</td>
<td>CSX03</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 22 (T)</td>
<td>Scotia Range</td>
<td>EX09</td>
<td>EX09 review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 24 (R)</td>
<td>Management and search techniques</td>
<td>EX10</td>
<td>EX10 review/CSX03 folder &amp; report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 29 (T)</td>
<td>Management and search techniques</td>
<td>EX10</td>
<td>EX10 review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 31 (R)</td>
<td>MIDTERM PRACTICAL EXAM #2</td>
<td>PE02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 05 (T)</td>
<td>Mock scene exercises</td>
<td>CSX04 to</td>
<td>DUE DATES TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 07 (R)</td>
<td>Mock scene exercises</td>
<td>CSX??</td>
<td>DUE DATES TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 12 (T)</td>
<td>Mock scene exercises</td>
<td>CSX04 to</td>
<td>EX09/BTA PAPER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 14 (R)</td>
<td>Mock scene exercises</td>
<td>CSX??</td>
<td>DUE DATES TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 19 (T)</td>
<td>Mock scene exercises</td>
<td>CSX04 to</td>
<td>DUE DATES TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 21 (R)</td>
<td>Mock scene exercises</td>
<td>CSX??</td>
<td>DUE DATES TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 26 (T)</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING RECESS — NO LAB SESSIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 28 (R)</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING RECESS — NO LAB SESSIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 03 (T)</td>
<td>Mock scene exercises</td>
<td>CSX04 to</td>
<td>DUE DATES TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 05 (R)</td>
<td>Mock scene exercises</td>
<td>CSX??</td>
<td>DUE DATES TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 10 (T)</td>
<td>Mock scene exercises</td>
<td>CSX04 to</td>
<td>DUE DATES TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 12 (R)</td>
<td>Mock scene exercises</td>
<td>CSX??</td>
<td>DUE DATES TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 16-20</td>
<td>FINAL PRACTICAL EXAM (date/time TBA)</td>
<td>PE03</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Case Folders and Reports

**Due Dates/Times**
- Case folders due before **END** of lab session on date indicated in table above
- Case reports due before **START** of lab session on date indicated in table above

**NOTE:** It is the responsibility of each student to ensure work is submitted on time!

### Laboratory Exercises, Mock Scene Exercises, and Practical Exams

**EX01-03**
- Documentation exercises

**EX04**
- Impression evidence: friction ridge skin

**EX05**
- Impression evidence: 2D/3D footwear impressions

**EX06**
- Trace and biological evidence

**EX07**
- Laser distance measuring; 3D laser scanning

**EX08**
- Firearm evidence and elements of shooting reconstruction

**EX09**
- Scotia Range field trip (transportation may be required)

**EX10**
- Scene management and search techniques

**BTA01-13**
- Blood trace analysis

**CSX01-02**
- Mock scene exercise: documentation

**CSX03**
- Mock scene exercise: biological and/or fingerprint evidence

**CSX04-??**
- Mock scene exercises

**PE01**
- Midterm practical examination #1

**PE02**
- Midterm practical examination #2

**PE03**
- Final practical examination
Assessment of Knowledge and Skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSESSMENT METHOD</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT WEIGHT</th>
<th>FINAL WEIGHT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL COURSE SCORE</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.000%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td>60.000%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Practical Examinations (×2)</td>
<td>22.000%</td>
<td>44.000%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Practical Examination</td>
<td>16.000%</td>
<td>16.000%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LABORATORY EXERCISES, REPORTS, AND PAPER</td>
<td></td>
<td>40.000%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock Crime Scene Exercise — CSX01 (individual)</td>
<td>2.000%</td>
<td>2.000%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock Crime Scene Exercises (×2) — CSX02-03 (individual)</td>
<td>4.000%</td>
<td>8.000%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock Crime Scene Reports (×3) — CSX01-03 (individual)</td>
<td>0.500%</td>
<td>1.500%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper — EX09/BTA (individual)</td>
<td>0.500%</td>
<td>0.500%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock Crime Scene Exercises — CSX04-?? (team)</td>
<td>26.000%</td>
<td>26.000%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock Crime Scene Reports — CSX04-?? (team)</td>
<td>2.000%</td>
<td>2.000%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All team exercises will account for 15% of total course score; all team reports will account for 2% of total course score. All team members will receive identical scores for these exercises/reports except in cases where infractions are the primary responsibility of a single team member; additional deductions will be levied against individuals in such situations.

Additional Grading Concerns

- Assignment Submission
  - *Late submissions will NOT be accepted.*
  - Extensions will be granted for unavoidable, emergent circumstances and may be granted for exigent circumstances (documentation will be requested and may be required).

- Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend every laboratory session (refer to University Faculty Senate Policy 42-27: Class Attendance for further information). Recurrent attendance issues will result in deductions from the final course score.
  - Two (2) unexcused absences: 10% deduction
  - Three (3) unexcused absences: 25% deduction
  - Four (4) unexcused absences: 40% deduction
  - NOTE: Two (2) late arrivals equal one (1) unexcused absence

- Teamwork: Some laboratory exercises will require teamwork. Attendance is required and students are expected to contribute equally. *Deductions will be levied upon students who have not fairly contributed to the workload.*

- Dress and Safety: *DRESS AND SAFETY ISSUES WILL INCUR PENALTIES AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENTS MAY BE DISMISSED FROM LAB.* Appropriate attire must be worn at all times while in the laboratory (cottages) and field. Dress guidelines include:
  - Trousers or long pants only.
  - Shorts, skirts, and dresses are prohibited.
  - Shirts must fully cover the upper torso (neck to below navel) and a portion of the arms.
  - Exposure of chest/arms — tank tops, sleeveless tops, unbuttoned button-down tops, and low-cut or plunging halter-neck, scoop-neck, and V-neck tops are prohibited.
  - Exposure of belly/midriff — tube tops, crop tops, and other short tops are prohibited.
  - Fully enclosed footwear only.
  - Sandals, flip-flops, and other open-toed shoes are prohibited.
  - High heels and other potentially unstable footwear are prohibited.
  - Very loose-fitting clothing, long hair, neckties, and jewelry may pose safety hazards.
  - Revealing or potentially offensive attire is prohibited.

- Lab Cleanliness: Penalties will be levied for repetitive failure to properly use, handle, and store/return equipment and supplies.

Grade Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Score (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.00 ≤ x ≤ 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A−</td>
<td>90.00 ≤ x &lt; 93.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.00 ≤ x &lt; 90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.00 ≤ x &lt; 87.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B−</td>
<td>80.00 ≤ x &lt; 83.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.00 ≤ x &lt; 80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70.00 ≤ x &lt; 77.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.00 ≤ x &lt; 70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>x ≤ 60.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Grades are NOT rounded up. For example, a final course score of 59.99% will result in a failing grade.
## Course Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>STRATEGIES AND ASSESSMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehension of the techniques used to preserve the crime scene record (notes, sketches, and digital SLR photography).</td>
<td>• Repetitive, scored exercises and practical examinations to ensure mastery of recording techniques</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Comprehension of the techniques used to recognize, enhance, document, collect, handle, and package physical evidence. Comprehension of importance of chain of custody and evidence integrity. | • Repetitive, scored exercises to ensure mastery of basic techniques  
• Written examination questions to assess fundamental knowledge |
| Comprehension of common field tests for the presumptive identification and enhancement of different types of physical evidence. | • Repetitive, scored exercises to ensure mastery of common techniques |
| Comprehension of incident/crime reconstruction including basic blood trace analysis and projectile trajectory analysis. | • Repetitive, scored exercises to ensure mastery of basic blood trace analysis and projectile trajectory analysis |
| Comprehension of proper preparation and maintenance of case folders.        | • Repetitive, scored exercises to ensure proper use of forms and preparation of case folders |
| Comprehension of techniques to communicate results including verbal and written communication. | • Typewritten reports will be required to communicate procedures performed at a scene and results, when applicable |
| Comprehension of scene management techniques including allocation of personnel, resources, and time. | • Students will be required to supervise at least one mock crime scene to demonstrate ability to manage personnel (classmates), available equipment, and time |
| Comprehension of importance of science and scientific, objective, critical thought processes in scene investigations. | • Students will be required to scientifically investigate several mock crime scenes to demonstrate ability to analyze scene and physical evidence, select and utilize appropriate scientific techniques, and manage personnel (classmates), equipment, and time |
| Comprehension of the role and impact of the criminalist in incident scene investigations. | • Students will be required to scientifically investigate several mock crime scenes to demonstrate ability to analyze scene and physical evidence, select and utilize appropriate scientific techniques, and manage personnel (classmates), equipment, and time |
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
All Penn State policies regarding ethics and honorable behavior apply to this course (refer to links below for policy statements). Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution. All University policies regarding academic integrity apply to this course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. For any material or ideas obtained from other sources, such as the text or things you see on the web, in the library, etc., a source reference must be given. Direct quotes from any source must be identified as such. All examination answers must be your own, and you must not provide any assistance to other students during examinations. Any instances of academic dishonesty WILL be pursued under the University and Eberly College of Science regulations concerning academic integrity.

Discussion of course concepts and cooperative study are encouraged; however, collaboration, discussion, assistance, cheating, plagiarism, etc., are NOT permitted during examinations or other assignments as specified by the instructor. Integrity and ethics are considered exceptionally important by the instructor.

CODE OF MUTUAL RESPECT
The Code of Mutual Respect and Cooperation was developed to embody the values that we hope our faculty, staff, and students possess, consistent with the aspirational goals expressed in the Penn State Principles. The University is strongly committed to freedom of expression, and consequently, the Code does not constitute University or College policy, and is not intended to interfere in any way with an individual’s academic or personal freedoms. We hope, however, that individuals will voluntarily endorse the 12 principles set forth in the Code, thereby helping us make the Eberly College of Science a place where every individual feels respected and valued, as well as challenged and rewarded.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS
Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University’s educational programs. Every Penn State campus has an office for students with disabilities. Student Disability Resources (SDR) Web site provides contact information for every Penn State campus: http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/disability-coordinator. For further information, please visit Student Disability Resources Web site: http://equity.psu.edu/sdr.

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. You must follow this process for every semester that you request accommodations.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES
Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional wellbeing. The university offers a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings. These services are provided by staff who welcome all students and embrace a philosophy respectful of clients’ cultural and religious backgrounds, and sensitive to differences in race, ability, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

- Counseling and Psychological Services at University Park: +1-814-863-0395 http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/
- Penn State Crisis Line (24 hours/7 days/week): +1-877-229-6400
- Crisis Text Line (24 hours/7 days/week): Text LIONS to 741741

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY AND BIAS REPORTING
Penn State takes great pride to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and staff. Acts of intolerance, discrimination, or harassment due to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or veteran status are not tolerated and can be reported through Educational Equity via the Report Bias webpage (http://equity.psu.edu/reportbias/).

MANDATED REPORTING (TITLE IX)
Penn State’s policies require faculty to share information about incidents of sex-based discrimination and harassment (discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation) with Penn State’s Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators, regardless of whether the incidents are stated in person or shared by students as part of their coursework. For more information regarding the University’s policies and procedures for responding to reports of sexual or gender-based harassment or misconduct, please visit http://titleix.psu.edu. Additionally, faculty members are required to report on any reasonable suspicion of child abuse in accordance with the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law.


---

**WORLD WIDE WEB (WWW)**

American Board of Criminalistics (ABC)  
California Association of Criminalists (CAC)  
American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)  
International Association for Identification (IAI)

---

**SYLLABUS – LABORATORY IN CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION**

Page 7 of 8
Frequently asked questions (FAQ’s)

Will hazards be encountered in this course?

Hazards may be present in various forms. Chemicals, dusting powders, LASERs, and ultraviolet (UV) illumination will be used occasionally. Mock scenes will involve use of animal blood, broken glass, sharp metal, knives, etc. Always use caution; immediately alert instructor of safety issues or concerns. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is available and will be required for many exercises, dependent upon inherent hazards.

How stringent is the course attendance policy? Why is attendance monitored?

Very! Attendance will be taken within the first five (5) minutes of each laboratory session. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor in advance of any session that will be missed due to predictable circumstances. In the event of an emergency or safety issue, inform the instructor ASAP.

The course is extremely time-intensive. Excessive absences from the laboratory sessions will negatively influence the ability to complete the required assignments and will ultimately hinder comprehension of the subject matter and ability to learn the requisite skills. Since teamwork is an integral part of this course, other students (your class/teammates) will be required to perform additional work if you are absent.

Is there a “dress code?” Why? Will it be enforced?

YES; refer to Dress, Safety, and Hygiene in Additional Grading Concerns within the Assessment of Knowledge and Skills section. These guidelines exist primarily for your safety. Also, crime scene investigation is often performed in locales visible to the public, including journalists and members of other news media outlets. As such, appropriate and respectable attire is required while in the field. The dress code in this course will be strictly enforced.

Will there be a “curve” at the end of the course?

NO! However, if the class mean (final score) is less than 75.00%, a constant may be added to each student’s final score. This possibility, and its magnitude, will remain unknown until after all methods of assessment have been received and graded at the end of the semester.

What is the instructor’s philosophy regarding this course?

The instructor believes that students must accept more responsibility in their education. When individuals are forced to solve problems on their own, critical thought processes are promoted and the educational process is enhanced. Students will learn that the laboratory manual offers some guidance; however, much of the information required will have been provided in FRNSC 210 and FRNSC 410. Students will be expected to:

• Utilize information from FRNSC 210 and FRNSC 410 in lab exercises and locate additional information, if needed
• Be self-reliant, inquisitive, and enthusiastic
• Work well with others in team exercises, including mock scene exercises
• Recall basic scientific and mathematical knowledge

Students are cautioned against seeking guidance from classmates; all important questions should be directed to the instructor without hesitation. Students are strongly encouraged to verify procedures and proper equipment usage with the instructor prior to use.

Can the instructor offer additional advice?

• Take this course seriously! It is an intense, challenging experience that requires considerable effort.
• Utilize all available laboratory time to learn and practice the various skills learned.
• Do not forget concepts learned in FRNSC 210 and FRNSC 410.
• Be considerate of your classmates and contribute equally in team exercises.
• Be familiar with basic concepts of algebra, geometry, general chemistry, general physics, and basic statistics.
• If you are experiencing any problems during the semester, contact the instructor immediately. Delay will likely lead to undesirable and possibly irreversible circumstances.