SYLLABUS—Fall 2016

This syllabus is intended as a guide and is subject to change with advance notice. It is the responsibility of each student to be completely familiar with this document.

Required Textbooks


Supplemental reading will be provided (refer to REQUIRED READING on page 3).

Description & Goals

Classroom discussions will focus on scientific integrity, ethical behavior, ethics standards, and various examples of ethics violations and misconduct in the forensic science community. Ethical issues regarding evidence handling, data analysis, and courtroom testimony will be discussed and the students will be introduced to the important and sensitive issues surrounding professional integrity and ethics. At the end of the course, students should have an understanding of scientific integrity and ethics as they relate to criminalistics and forensic science. The students will also have been introduced to several professional codes of ethics and common ethical dilemmas that may confront criminalists and other forensic scientists.

Assessment

Team-led discussion 25%
Student-led discussion 50%
Paper 15%
Class participation 10%

Grade Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.00 ≤ x ≤ 100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A−</td>
<td>90.00 ≤ x &lt; 93.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.00 ≤ x ≤ 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 &lt; 60.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Grading Concerns

- Completion of Paper
  - 10% deduction/day (0000-2359 hr past due date & time) — maximum deduction = 100%
  - Extensions will be granted for exigent circumstances (documentation may be requested)

- Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend every lecture (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: 20% deduction
  - Four (4) unexcused absences: 40% deduction
  - NOTE: Two (2) late arrivals equal one (1) unexcused absence
## Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Discussion Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignments*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>AUG 24</td>
<td>Introduction and Course Overview</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>AUG 31</td>
<td>Assessing Potential Ethical Dilemmas</td>
<td>1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>SEP 07</td>
<td>Brief History of Ethics and the Forensic Practitioner’s Quest for Truth</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>SEP 14</td>
<td>General Forensic Ethical Dilemmas</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>SEP 21</td>
<td>Codes of Ethics in Forensic Science Societies and Other Organizations</td>
<td>7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>SEP 28</td>
<td>Criminal Investigation Ethics</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>OCT 05</td>
<td>Ethics in Lab and in Crime Scene Investigations</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>OCT 12</td>
<td>NO CLASS — NEAFS Annual Meeting, Atlantic City, NJ</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>OCT 19</td>
<td>Ethical Duties of Attorneys and Experts</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>OCT 26</td>
<td>Ethics in Testimony</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>NOV 02</td>
<td>Whistleblowers</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>NOV 09</td>
<td>Teaching Ethics and Implementing Ethical Codes</td>
<td>15-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>NOV 16</td>
<td>Experimental design issues and research integrity</td>
<td>17-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>NOV 24</td>
<td>NO CLASS — THANKSGIVING RECESS</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>NOV 30</td>
<td>Ethics Exercises/Scenarios in Criminalistics &amp; CSI</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>DEC 07</td>
<td>Ethics Exercises/Scenarios in Crime Scene Reconstruction</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Dec. 12-16 (M-F)</td>
<td>NO CLASS — FINAL EXAMINATIONS WEEK</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reading must be completed prior to scheduled class meeting. Refer to REQUIRED READING on the following page for citations.
Assignments

Student-led discussions

Students will be required to present and lead class discussions that revolve around the assigned discussion topic for the week. The order of the student presenters/leaders will be determined during the first class; either randomly and/or on a volunteer basis.

The student presenter/leader must provide the following:
- Review of assigned reading (≈15 minutes)
- Review of additional, relevant reference (≈10 minutes)
- Class discussion (≈25 minutes)

Each student must identify at least one additional, relevant reference or subject for presentation and discussion. This additional reference or subject may be a journal article, newspaper or periodical article, news story, or any other relevant publication that can be presented for discussion.

Paper

Students will be required to select a current (within last five years) ethical issue in criminalistics/forensic science and prepare a typewritten paper (Times or Times New Roman font (12 pt), double spaced, one (1) inch margins, 8-10 pages not including separate cover/title page) introducing, summarizing, and fully discussing the issue using the 7-step method as presented in class.

Assessment

Team-led discussion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review of assigned reading</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of additional reference</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead and quality of class discussion</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student-led discussion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relevance of topic</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion of topic</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar, syntax, etc.</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Late Submission of Paper

10% deduction/day (0000-2359 hr past due date & time) — maximum deduction = 100%

Extensions will be granted for exigent circumstances (documentation may be requested!)
REQUIRED READING


SUGGESTED READING


Grainger DW. Peer review as professional responsibility: a quality control system only as good as the participants. Biomaterials 2007;28:5199-5203.


Murphy JP. Expert witnesses at trial: where are the ethics? Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics 2000 Fall;14:217-239.


SELECT WORLD WIDE WEB (WWW) RESOURCES

Ethics Resource Center
Markkula Center for Applied Ethics
Public Responsibility in Research and Medicine
Penn State Rock Ethics Institute

National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature
AAAS Professional Ethics Report
Office of Research Integrity: US Dept. HHS
National Whistleblowers Center

SYLLABUS – ETHICS IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

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## Course Objectives

### Objectives

| Comprehension of importance and necessity of objectivity, integrity, and ethics in science. | Reading assignments that examine objectivity, development of ethical codes, and research integrity in the sciences.  
Class discussions of the reading assignments.  
Written paper to assess application of knowledge to real-life situations |
---|---|
| Introduction to ethical codes in various scientific professions and professional organizations. | Reading assignments that examine ethical codes from various scientific professions and professional organizations.  
Class discussions of the reading assignments. |
| Introduction to ethical codes and codes of professional conduct for various forensic science professional organizations; comprehension of importance and necessity of objectivity, integrity, and ethics in forensic science. | Reading assignments that examine general ethics in forensic science.  
Reading assignments that examine ethical codes from various forensic science organizations.  
Class discussions of reading assignments.  
Written paper to assess application of knowledge to real-life situations |
| Comprehension of potential ethical problems in forensic science including issues of professional practice, technical competence, and bias. | Reading assignments that examine professional issues in forensic science including problems such as bias, professional practice, and technical competence.  
Class discussions of reading assignments.  
Written paper to assess application of knowledge to real-life situations |
| Introduction to ethical responsibilities of forensic scientists and criminalists. | Reading assignments that examine professional and ethical responsibilities of forensic scientists and criminalists.  
Class discussions of reading assignments.  
Written paper to assess application of knowledge to real-life situations |
| Introduction to teaching ethics and issues of professional conduct in forensic science to students and working professionals. | Reading assignments that examine issues related to teaching ethics in forensic science.  
Class discussions of reading assignments. |
| Comprehension of potential ethical issues in oral and written communications including testimony, depositions, and reports. | Reading assignments that examine issues related to ethical responsibilities and pitfalls in expert testimony, depositions, and reports.  
Class discussions of reading assignments. |