FRNSC 475 Forensic Science Seminar (Tentative syllabus)

MEETING TIME:  Tuesday  230-320 PM in 105 Osmond

Faculty:  Reena Roy, 325 Whitmore Laboratory, 814-867-2054,

Office Hours:  By web email (NO ANGEL PLEASE) appointment  rxr34@psu.edu

Changes in the content of the syllabus are at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified of any changes to the syllabus in lecture and/or email.

Course Schedule and Seminar Topics

January 14: Introduction
Dr. Roy

January 21
Cody Breon

Michelle Corbally

January 28
Johnny Cheng

Mark Filandro

February 4
Kathleen Connor

Nicholas Lyktey
February 11
Kristy Elwell

Julia Peter

February 18
AAFS NO CLASS

February 25
Kathryn Flanagan

Kerry Rohrbeck

March 04
Shelby Harriman

Tyisha Sweet

March 11
Spring Break

March 18
Maria Lay Mendoza

Jennifer Nolan
March 25
Brianna Tolliver

Yun Wang.

April 01
Erica Wolanin

Fred Alvin

Sarah Zapata

April 08
DNA Audit Quality Assurance Standard or QAS (FBI)-Power Point Presentation
Ten students divided into two groups of five students. Amongst their group they will decide a portion of Audit they will talk about.

April 15
ISO 17025-Power Point Presentation
Nine students (no one from the QAS group will be included in this presentation) divided into two groups of five/four students. Amongst their group they will decide on a portion of ISO they will talk about. Both teams will communicate with each other as to what they are presenting.

April 22
Resume and Interview Technique (all students must participate): Prepare a copy of your CV/Resume and share with class.

April 29
Document Examination and Handwriting Analysis-Power Point Presentation
Ten students divided into two teams of five students. Amongst their group they will decide a portion of document examination they will talk about. Both teams will communicate with each other as to what they are presenting.

May 02
SWGDAM-Power Point Presentation
Nine students (no one from Document examination and handwriting analysis will be in this presentation) divided into two teams of five/four students. Amongst their group they will decide on a portion of SWGDAM documents they will talk about. Both teams will communicate with each other as to what they are presenting.
Grading

Grades are based on an oral presentation given to the class, written summaries of each of the in-class presentations, and participation (attendance, contributing end-of-presentation questions and class discussions). Each student is required to provide one oral presentation (using Powerpoint) and also participate in group presentation. Guidelines for the oral presentations and written summaries will be discussed during the first class session and posted on the Angel website.

In fairness to the instructor who must grade the required course work, and to the other students, late work will not be accepted. Think about this. A substantial number of late or missing work will affect your grade. Stay caught up.

GOALS AND ASSESSMENT FOR FRNSC 475 (1 Credit Course)

1. Understand how to critique and review a scientific papers published in peer reviewed journals
   a. Reading and discussion
   b. The understanding of various aspects of forensic science

2. Understand what audit and laboratory accreditation means
   a. Presentation and discussion
   b. The understanding of the material will be assessed through their presentation

3. Understand the procedures involved in the ISO 17025 or similar standards adopted by various forensic laboratory
   a. Presentation and discussion
   b. The understanding of the International Standards as required in the forensic community

4. Understand what SWGDAM means to the forensic community
   a. Presentation and discussion
   b. The understanding of the material and the demeanor and delivery will be assessed through presentation of the material

5. Understand how to write resume/curriculum vitae
   a. Discussion of various aspects of resume/CV when applying for jobs in the field of forensic science

6. Understand the role of a document examiner and how to analyze handwriting
### Grading

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentation of Article</th>
<th>150</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of DNA Audit/ISO 17025</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWGDAM (50 points each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handwriting and Document Examination (50 points each)</td>
<td>250</td>
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<td>Resume writing</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>500 points</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>500-465</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>464-450</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>449-435</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>434-425</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>424-400</td>
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<td>399-375</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>349-300</td>
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There will be no grading curve for this course. The number of points earned determines your grade in this course.

Any questions regarding the grading of any assignment or exam, or of any missing grades, must be raised within two class periods after the graded assignments/exams are returned. Questions about the chemistry involved will, of course, be answered at any time.

**Attendance and Participation.** Your written work is important to your performance in this class, but so is your attendance and active participation in discussion. Therefore, you will be allowed to miss a total of 1 lecture session throughout the semester for any reason (you’re sick, you have an athletic absence, you’re asleep--whatever). **But each unexcused absence beyond this will lower your final course grade by one grade.** Being more than 10 minutes late to lecture will count as an absence, as will routine lateness of any sort. The only acceptable excuses beyond these first absences will be serious personal injury or illness (hospitalization), death in the family, and the like, and **you must let me know your reason for absence upon your first day back in class and have written documentation of it.** So, don’t use your 1 absence immediately, because you may get sick and need them later. The written summary for the presentation missed on the day of an absence will not be accepted for grading.

If you miss more than 3 lectures, even for excused absences, you may not earn a passing grade in the course. Withdrawing from the semester would likely be a better
option in case of a catastrophic illness or family crisis. Please come to see me if you
are facing an extended illness or other difficulty that is causing you to miss numerous
class sessions, so we can discuss your options.

Electronic Devices: Ah, the electronic age! Electronic devices like pagers, cell-
phones, iPods, watches with alarms, etc., are NOT welcome in lecture. Please show
some consideration and respect for your classmates and your professor. It is quite
distracting to have a phone ringing, for instance, during class. If a device in your
possession sounds more than once during the semester, you will lower your final
grade for the course by a letter. All electronic devices are to be kept stowed.

University Faculty Senate Policy 42-27: Class Attendance for further information).
Recurrent attendance issues may result in deductions from the final course score.

- Attendance will be monitored. You will be allowed to miss 1 lecture (for being late or
missing due to oversleeping, etc.). Each following absence will result in the loss of
course points unless documentation is provided.

- If you are more than 10 minutes late to lecture, you will be considered absent.

- Bonus points may be given for perfect attendance and arriving on time for all lectures.

Academic Integrity is an essential component of your education. The following is
quoted from the “PSU Faculty Senate Policies for Students”. “It is the pursuit of scholarly
activity free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution.
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.” All University and Eberly College of Science policies regarding
academic integrity/academic dishonesty apply to this course and the students enrolled
in this course. Refer to the following URL for further details on the academic integrity
policies of the Eberly College of Science
http://www.science.psu.edu/academic/Integrity/index.html.

Matters of academic dishonesty will be turned over to the University disciplinary system
and may result in the failing of the course.
The Eberly College of Science Code of Mutual Respect and Cooperation
(www.science.psu.edu/climate/Code-of-Mutual-Respect final.pdf) embodies the
values that we hope our faculty, staff, and students possess and will endorse to
make The Eberly College of Science a place where every individual feels
respected and valued, as well as challenged and rewarded.

The Eberly College of Science is committed to the academic success of students
enrolled in the College's courses and undergraduate programs. When in need of help,
students can utilize various College and University wide resources for learning assistance.

http://www.science.psu.edu/advising/success.

**EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT**

There will be no bathroom breaks during any examinations except during practical examination.

When possible, there must be at least one seat between each student during written examination.

No material should be on the desk while taking a written examination except writing materials.

**Disability Services**

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you have a disability that we should be aware of and that might hinder your easy access to participation and success in this course (for example, a learning disability, or difficulty hearing), you must let us know no later than the first week of class. Penn State and your professors will make every effort to accommodate your needs.

“Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University’s educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at 814-863-1807 (V/TTY). For further information regarding ODS, please visit the Office for Disability Services Web site at http://equity.psu.edu/ods/.

In order to receive consideration for course accommodations, you must contact ODS and provide documentation (see the documentation guidelines at http://equity.psu.edu/ods/guidelines/documentation-guidelines). If the documentation supports the need for academic adjustments, ODS will provide a letter identifying appropriate academic adjustments. Please share this letter and discuss the adjustments with your instructor as early in the course as possible. You must contact ODS and request academic adjustment letters at the beginning of each semester.”