**Instructor:** Lt. Dave Castle

**Phone:** 304.617.6331 (primary) or 304.360.6237 (secondary)

**Email:** [castleda@marshall.edu](mailto:castleda@marshall.edu)

**Office Hours:** Call for appointment

**Class Location/Time**: Smith Hall 416, Monday 4:00-6:20 PM

**Prerequisite:** CJ 211 – Intro to Law Enforcement

**Required Texts:**

Saferstein, R. (2016)*. Forensic science: From the crime scene to the lab (3rd ed.).* Hoboken, NJ: Pearson.

**Required/Permitted Classroom Technology:** The only required technology in this class is a scientific calculator. Most smart phones have one. Cellphones, tablets, and laptop computers are permitted in class, but are ONLY to be used for classroom purposes such as note-taking or to follow along with a Power Point. All electronic devices are to be turned off and put away during exams and quizzes. This includes all laptops, tablets, cellphones, smart watches, smart glasses, heads-up displays, holograms, crystal balls and anything else that I don’t know about because I’m more than twice your age.

**Course Description:** This course exposes students to crime scene evidence, collection techniques, and the various uses of modern technology in preserving and analyzing evidence. Crime Scene Investigation presents an overview of forensic science techniques utilized at the scenes of crimes and in the laboratory. Subjects discussed include: The history of forensic science and the pioneers in relevant disciplines, techniques of crime scene and evidence documentation and collection, various laboratory applications (DNA, trace, firearms/toolmarks etc.), CSI methodology, scientific method, crime scene reconstruction, blood pattern analysis, fingerprint identification, shooting reconstruction, toxicology, and arson investigation. Practical exercises will be conducted to gain hands-on experience in the application of various CSI techniques. Case studies will also be discussed and used as examples to illustrate how these methods have been applied in real-life scenarios.

**University Policies:** By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to [www.marshall.edu/adademic-affairs](http://www.marshall.edu/adademic-affairs) and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.” Or, you can access the policies directly by going to [www.marshall.edu/academic-afairs/policies/](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-afairs/policies/). Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ Sexual Harassment.

**University Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend punctually all class meetings, laboratory sessions and field experiences and to participate in all class assignments and activities as described in the Course Syllabus. Absences are counted from the first class meeting after the student registers.  Students registering late are expected to make up all missed assignments in a manner determined by the instructor.  Students should be aware that excessive absences, whether excused or unexcused, may affect their ability to earn a passing grade.

The instructor of each class shall establish a policy on class attendance and make-up work, and provide the policy to students in the Course Syllabus. This policy must not conflict with university policies, including this policy. Class attendance may be a criterion in determining a student’s final grade in the course if the instructor provides a statement to this effect in the course syllabus.

Students must promptly consult with their instructors about all class absences. Instructors will work with students to identify appropriate documentation and discuss any missed class time, tests, or assignments. Except in the case of University Excused Absences, it is the decision of the instructor to excuse an absence or to allow for additional time to make up missed tests or assignments. A student may not be penalized for an excused absence, provided that the student, in a manner determined by the instructor, makes up the work that has been missed.

Instructors are required to honor valid University Excused Absences and to provide reasonable and equitable means for students to make up work missed as a result of those absences.  Academic obligations that cannot be made up should be addressed by the course instructor in consultation with the student to ensure that continued enrollment is feasible while there is still an opportunity to drop the course within the established withdrawal period.

This policy excludes academic endeavors that require the completion of a specific number of clock hours, such as clinical experiences, practica, and internships.  For those courses, the department chair or program supervisor will determine the maximum number of absences. This policy does not supersede program accreditation requirements.

This policy also excludes laboratory courses that require significant preparation and monitoring. For such courses, departments will determine the minimum number of laboratories a student must complete to pass the course. If a student cannot complete this number of labs, the instructor my recommend that the student withdraw from the class.

If the instructor believes that the number of absences accrued under the terms of this policy (whether excused or unexcused) is such that a student cannot fulfill the learning experience and mastery that a course requires, the instructor may recommend that the student withdraw from the class.

**University Excused Absences**: These are addressed by the instructor or the Dean of Student affairs as described in each item.  Appropriate documentation is required for each absence. The Dean of Student Affairs will notify course instructors of his or her actions using the University email system.

* **University-sponsored activities.** Student participation in authorized activities as an official representative of the university. Such activities include official athletic events, ROTC, student government and student organization activities, regional or national meetings or conferences when endorsed by an academic or organization faculty advisor, performances, debates, and similar activities. The Dean of Student Affairs addresses these absences.
* **Medical circumstances.** 
  1. A student who is briefly ill or injured with fewer than three consecutive hours of class, and is therefore unable to attend class, should first consult with his or her course instructor about the absence. If necessary, the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Student Affairs.
  2. The Dean of Student Affairs will address absences of three or more consecutive hours of class. This includes absences of three consecutive one-hour class meetings, one three-hour class meeting, etc.
* **Death or critical illness of an immediate family member.** Immediate family is defined as parents, legal guardians, siblings, children, spouse or life partner, grandparents, and grandchildren. The Dean of Student Affairs addresses these absences.
* **Other official activities.**
  1. **Short-term military obligations.** The Dean of Student Affairs addresses these absences. Students who are subject to federal military activation are covered by a separate policy. Please consult the catalog for this policy.
  2. Jury duty, subpoenas for court appearance, religious holidays, and other official activities deemed by the Dean of Student Affairs to warrant an excused absence.

**Extreme personal emergencies.** Examples of such events include house fires, serious crimes, and other grave emergencies deemed by the Dean of Student Affairs to warrant an excused absence.

**Instructor’s Attendance Policy**: Attendance is necessary to all scheduled classes. Consideration is given to unforeseeable events that may prevent attendance. Incidents may also occur in which the instructor may be called away for major crime scene response. If/when such an event occurs; class will be rescheduled to a time most convenient for all.

Roll will be called at the beginning of class; if you are not there when your name is called you will not be counted as present. If you miss an exam, quiz, or assignment with no legitimate documented University Excused Absence, a zero will be given for that requirement with no make-up given. For those students who have a legitimate documented excuse, an alternative time to take the exam/quiz or turn in an assignment will be determined by the instructor. The format of the make-up exam/quiz/assignment will be left to my discretion. In addition, students who are late on exam day will not be permitted to take the exam if another student(s) has already completed the exam and has left the classroom; the exam in this case has been compromised. In other words, you will NOT be able to take the exam or take a make-up the exam. If you are late and able to take the exam, you will only have the remainder of the class period to complete the exam. If an examination has been excused, failure to make up the examination or quiz at the agreed upon time will result in a zero for the examination, quiz, or assignment.

If you have a University Excuse for a class period, it must be turned in on the first class day the student returns. The student must make up the work or make arrangements with the instructor to make up the work that was due within one week of the end of the excuse. Work includes assignments, quizzes, tests, papers, etc. NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES, EXAMINATIONS, OR PAPERS, ETC. WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES. In all cases, all missed work must be completed by the class day, Friday, December 11th, 2017.

This class meets only once a week so every class is important to the learning experience and success on quizzes and exams. If you are absent for more than three class periods, with the exception of MU approved excused absences, then you are subject to a reduction in final grade by one letter for every missed class over three. Students with excessive absences will be encouraged to withdraw from class.

**Class Schedule:**

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| **Week** | **Readings/Lecture/Important Dates** |
| Week 1 | Syllabus review; Chapter 1 – Forensic science definition, history and developments, crime lab *–* ***Late registration/schedule adjustment (add/drop)*** |
| Week 2 | Syllabus **QUIZ**; CSI methodology; read chapters 2 & 3– Scene security and searching methods; CSI; Scene documentation – ***Withdraw “W” period begins*** |
| Week 3 | **LABOR DAY** |
| Week 4 | Read chapters 3 (cont.) & 4 – Evidence Collection – ***Application for December graduation due in academic dean’s office*** |
| Week 5 | **QUIZ**; read chapter 8 – Fingerprints |
| Week 6 | Read chapter 8 cont./practical exercise |
| Week 7 | **MIDTERM EXAM 10/02** |
| Week 8 | Read chapters 5 & 6 – Physical Evidence & Death Investigation |
| Week 9 | Read chapter 10 – Bloodstain Pattern Analysis |
| Week 10 | **QUIZ*;*** read chapters 9, 13, & 14 – Firearms, tool marks, and other impressions; Trace Evidence – ***Schedule appointment with advisor for advance registration; 10/28 last day to drop individual course*** |
| Week 11 | Shooting Reconstruction – ***10/31 recommended date to apply for May 2017 graduation*** |
| Week 12 | Shooting Reconstruction/ Practical exercise |
| Week 13 | **QUIZ;** read chapter 7 – Crime Scene Reconstruction |
| Week 14 | **THANKSGIVING** |
| Week 15 | Chapter 7 (cont.) |
| Week 16 | Ethics, Report Writing, and Expert Witness Testimony **– *(Exam/Quiz Make-up during the week)*** |
| Week 17 | **FINAL EXAM 12/18** |

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES MATRIX**

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| **Course Learning Objectives** | **How each objective is practiced in this course** | **How each objective is evaluated in this course** |
| Upon Completion of this course, students will be able to: |  |  |
| 1. Define forensic science and list major disciplines; recognize contributions made by pioneers in the field; compare and contrast Frye & Daubert decisions and the admissibility of scientific evidence; identify and articulate practical CSI methodology; describe services provided by forensic laboratories | In-class examples, lecture (Ch. 1; instructor experience), discussion, case studies | Midterm exam |
| 1. List and articulate various methods of crime search and documentation (notes, photos, sketches) | In-class examples, lecture (Ch. 2, 3; instructor experience), discussion, case studies | Quiz 2, Midterm exam |
| 1. Describe historical milestones; identify common ridge characteristics; list the three major fingerprint patterns and subclasses of each; distinguish between latent, patent, and plastic prints; describe the primary classification system; List and differentiate various methods of latent print development based on substrate type; articulate ACE-V methodology | In-class examples, lecture (Ch. 8; instructor experience), discussions, case studies, demonstration | Quiz 2, Midterm exam, practical exercise |
| 1. Define physical evidence; articulate the importance of chain of custody; review common types of physical evidence; list and explain various methods of evidence collection discriminating reasons for each; define and contrast individual and class characteristics of physical evidence; list and explain the function of national databases | In-class examples, lecture (Ch. 4, 5; instructor experience), discussion, case studies | Midterm exam |
| 1. Describe the role of the forensic pathologist, anthropologist, and entomologist; distinguish between cause and manner of death; describe the phases of an autopsy; describe physical and chemical changes of decomposition | In-class examples, lecture (Ch. 6, instructor experience), discussion, case studies | Final exam |
| 1. Describe categories and various types of firearms; recognize class and individual characteristics; identify relevant lab tests relevant to firearms; explain class and individual characteristics in the comparison of firearms, tool marks, and footwear; apply basic trigonometric functions to determine bullet trajectory; describe methods of shooting reconstruction (laser, string, rod) | In-class examples, lecture (Ch. 9), discussion, case studies | Quiz 3, Final exam |
| 1. Discuss knowledge gained from BPA; explain surface texture, terminal velocity, and viscosity; articulate the methods for determining area of convergence and area of origin of a bloodstain; describe methods of documenting bloodstain evidence; apply basic trigonometric functions to determine bullet trajectory and   impact angles of bloodstains | In-class examples, lecture (some of Ch. 10, instructor training), case studies, demonstration | Quiz 3, Quiz 4, Final exam, practical exercise |
| 1. List and explain the steps involved in the scientific method and relate it to crime scene reconstruction; identify the elements of Event Analysis | In-class examples, lecture (Ch. 1, 7, 10, instructor experience), case studies, in-class writing assignment | Final exam |
| 1. Define and discuss the concept of “critical thinking” | In-class examples, in-class writing assignment, lecture | Midterm exam |
| 1. State ethical considerations in CSI; characterize qualities of the successful expert witness | In-class examples; lecture (instructor experience; IAI code of conduct) discussion | Final exam |

**Evaluation/Assessment of Learner Objectives:** The student will demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of learned techniques and principles through written exams and quizzes. Students will also observe and participate in practical exercises.

**Examinations:** Two (2) examinations and four (4) quizzes will be given in this course. Only under truly exceptional circumstances (**described above in** **University Excused Absence Policies**) will a student be permitted to take an examination or quiz at a time other than the scheduled period. *Minor* illnesses/injuries are NOT exceptional circumstances (hang-overs and black eyes are MINOR). A written doctor’s excuse stating the nature of the illness/injury will be required. If arrangements have not been made beforehand, the student MUST contact the course director within 24 hours after the scheduled exam period to discuss rescheduling the exam/quiz.

**Grading Policy:** Student performance is evaluated by scores achieved on two (2) 100 point, equally weighted block exams and four (4) equally weighted quizzes. Cumulatively, the exams constitute 60% of the final grade and the quizzes constitute 40% of the final grade. The format of quiz/examination questions is up to individual instructors. The exam format will vary from exam to exam. Most of the questions will be multiple-choice; additional questions will be a combination of fill-in-the blank, matching, or short answer formats. Carefully check your answers to make sure all questions have been answered. Once you leave the exam rooms, you will not be allowed to make any changes to your answer sheet.

It is recommended that a meeting with the Course Director occur prior to dropping a course. The last day to drop an individual course is Friday, October 28th. The last day to completely withdraw from fall semester is Friday, December 9th.

The grading will be as follows:

A = 90-100%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = < 60%

**Class Policies/Philosophy**

1. The most important aspect of a successful college education is classroom attendance. If you are not present, then you will not learn. When a student misses class, the student and the class both suffer from a missed opportunity to exchange information and promote the learning process. By attending class, the student is in a position to make significant contributions to their overall learning experience, as well as the learning experiences of other students by asking or listening to the answers to relevant questions. Legally, you are all adults and responsible for your own actions, or inactions. You are not entitled to ANYTHING. Do yourself a favor and attend class.
2. This class is intended to be interactive. Ask questions – a lot of questions. There are no stupid questions. This class is fun and educational when students are inquisitive. Ask me about my experiences or “what if” scenarios. There is nothing in this class that you cannot learn. Don’t be shy…ask, be inquisitive and the whole class will benefit. I will not demean or make fun of you and I will not tolerate that behavior from anybody else. If you are wrong about something I will gently let you know without embarrassing you. If you feel that I am wrong, please feel free to let me know too. Although this class is interactive, don’t be “That Guy” (or girl) and try to hog the whole class and be the center of attention with every thought or experience that pops into your head – we have material to cover. If you are “that guy” I will politely let you know.
3. I am a police officer and I am happy to share my thoughts and experiences and believe me, I will, but…Do not ask me if I have ever shot anyone (no). Do not ask me if I’ve ever been shot (no). Do not ask me “Is that a Glock?”, (it is). Do not ask me about my political views and please don’t share yours with me. Such conversations can lead to discourse and this classroom is not the place. Do not ask me to fix a ticket. Do not tell me about the time you or your uncle got railroaded by the police. Do not ask me about any on-going investigations in the City of Huntington. And please do not ask me for legal advice, I am not a lawyer. If you are in danger or have been the victim of a crime and don’t know what to do, please come to me and I will do everything I can to help you, through proper channels. If you have an emergency outside of class, call 911 or use one of the emergency phones found throughout campus. Help will come to you, long before I can.
4. Cellphones, tablets, and laptop computers are permitted in class, but are ONLY to be used for classroom purposes such as note-taking or to follow along with a Power Point. (NOT to check email and Facebook etc.). Cellphones must be on silent and put away before class begins. There will be no texting, Facebooking, web surfing etc. whatsoever during class. If anyone is caught doing so, there will be an immediate quiz for the entire class. If a phone rings audibly during class, there will be an immediate quiz for the entire class. If you must make or receive a phone call during class, you may do so in the HALLWAY.
5. Students will be held accountable for all requirements and information covered in all classes, whether or not they attend. If it becomes necessary to give additional quizzes to spur attendance or learning, quizzes may be given and their results applied to any test scores.
6. In order to communicate with me outside of class, you may call or text my cell phone during office hours (whenever), or email me at my Marshall Email address. You should email me from your Marshall Email account, as we are only allowed to send student information to a student’s official Email account. In the subject box, you should put in a description of what you want, such as “Question about CJ 314…..”. Always include the course number. Also, use the name you use on the class roll and on all tests, quizzes, etc so I know that it is you.
7. Conduct. All students are expected to conduct themselves in and out of class as mature, responsible adults. If you are planning for a future in law enforcement, corrections, forensic science, or other similar field, then you are held to a higher standard of conduct than the average person. When you graduate and are seeking employment in the CJ field you will most likely be subjected to an extensive background investigation. A seemingly harmless mistake made in youth can have serious consequences to your future employability. You should not only be “keeping your nose clean”, but you should be striving to excel by going above and beyond what is expected of a responsible adult. Stand out among your peers and be a positive influence on those around you. Seek out opportunities to be involved in positive, encouraging programs. Walk with your shoulders back and your head up with confidence and humility. Be of good character. I promise you that the choices you make and the ways you live your life now will dictate your future, for good or bad. I want all students in my class to be successful members of society and future colleagues. I will do everything in my power to help get you there, but ultimately it is up to you.
8. This syllabus and all Power Point presentations will be available in the course content on Blackboard at MU Online. Power Points will be added prior to each class.