Course Approval Form

For approval of new courses and deletions or modifications to an existing course.

registrar.gmu.edu/facultystaff/curriculum

Action Requested:

- [X] Create new course
- [ ] Delete existing course
- [ ] Modify existing course (check all that apply)
  - [ ] Title
  - [ ] Credits
  - [ ] Repeat Status
  - [ ] Grade Type
  - [ ] Prereq/coreq
  - [ ] Schedule Type
  - [ ] Restrictions
  - [ ] Other:

Course Level:

- [ ] Undergraduate
- [X] Graduate

College/School: College of Science
Department: Forensic Science Program
Submitted by: William Whildin
Ext: 3-5059
Email: wwhildin@gmu.edu

Subject Code: FRSC
Number: 511
(Do not list multiple codes or numbers. Each course proposal must have a separate form.)

Effective Term:

- [ ] Fall
- [X] Spring
- [ ] Summer

Year 2011

Title:
Current: Advanced Crime Scene Analysis
Banner (30 characters max including spaces):
New:

Credits: (check one)

- [X] Fixed — 3 or
- [ ] Variable — to

Repeat Status: (check one)

- [X] Not Repeatable (NR)
- [ ] Repeatable within degree (RD)
- [ ] Repeatable within term (RT)

Maximum credits allowed: 3

Grade Mode: (check one)

- [X] Regular (A, B, C, etc.)
- [ ] Satisfactory/No Credit
- [ ] Special (A, B C, etc. +IP)

Schedule Type Code(s): (check all that apply)

- [X] Lecture (LEC)
- [ ] Lab (LAB)
- [ ] Recitation (RCT)
- [ ] Internship (INT)
- [ ] Independent Study (IND)
- [ ] Seminar (SEM)
- [ ] Studio (STU)

Prerequisite(s):
FRSC – 510 or permission of instructor

Corequisite(s):

Instructional Mode:

- [X] 100% face-to-face
- [ ] Hybrid: ≤ 50% electronically delivered
- [ ] 100% electronically delivered

Special Instructions: (list restrictions for major, college, or degree;hard-coding; etc.)

Are there equivalent course(s)?

- [ ] Yes
- [X] No

If yes, please list

Catalog Copy for NEW Courses Only (Consult University Catalog for models)

Description (No more than 60 words, use verb phrases and present tense)	**Notes** (List additional information for the course)
Advanced Crime Scene Analysis is designed to build on aspects taught in the Basic Crime Scene Course (FRSC 510), and to provide an enhanced foundation in the field of criminalistics for those students who are interested in learning the application of science to solving crimes.	

Indicate number of contact hours: Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: 3 Hours of Lab or Studio:
When Offered: (check all that apply) [ ] Fall [ ] Summer [X] Spring

Approval Signatures

Department Approval — Date

College/School Approval — Date

If this course includes subject matter currently dealt with by any other units, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

Unit Name	Unit Approval Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date

For Graduate Courses Only

Graduate Council Member — Provost Office — Graduate Council Approval Date

For Registrar Office's Use Only: Banner_____Catalog_____

revised 2/2

Course Proposal Submitted to the Graduate Council
by
The College of Science

1. COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:
FRSC 511: Advanced Crime Scene Analysis

Course Prerequisites: FRSC 510 or permission of instructor

Catalog Description: (3:3:0)

Advanced Crime Scene Analysis course is designed to build on aspects taught in the Basic Crime Scene Analysis course, (FRSC 510), and to provide an enhanced foundation in the field of criminalistics for those students who are interested in learning the application of science to solving crime.

2. COURSE JUSTIFICATION: No other course available.

Course Objectives:

Advanced Crime Scene Analysis course is designed to build on aspects taught in the Basic Crime Scene Analysis course, (FRSC 510), and to provide an enhanced foundation in the field of criminalistics for those students who are interested in learning the application of science to solving crime. The objectives will be to introduce students to key topics in a specialized area of forensic science through lectures, reading and discussing recent research, oral presentations and in some cases laboratory and/or field exercises.

Course Necessity:

There is a shortage of available courses from which Forensic Science graduates can choose beyond the core at the 500-level. This course will not only help to alleviate this shortage, but will offer new opportunities for Instructors to develop courses in their areas of expertise.

Course Relationship to Existing Programs:

This will be an elective within the Forensic Science Master's program

Course Relationship to Existing Courses:

None

3. APPROVAL HISTORY: N/A

4. SCHEDULING AND PROPOSED INSTRUCTORS:

Semester of Initial Offering: Spring 2011

Proposed Instructors: Emily Rancourt

5. TENTATIVE SYLLABUS: See attached.

ADVANCED CRIME SCENEAANALYSIS – FRSC 511

Instructors: Emily Rancourt
Assistant Professor
COS – Forensic Science Program

Emails: Emily erancour@gmu.edu

Texts: Crime Scene Investigations by Jacqueline T. Fish, Larry S. Miller, and Michael C. Braswell (used in Basic Crime Scene Analysis)

Criminal Investigations by Charles R. Swanson, Neil C. Chamelin, Leonard Territo and Robert Taylor, Tenth Edition

This course will follow a lecture format interspersed with class demonstrations, group discussions, midterm, student paper/presentation, mock scene practicals, and a final exam. Only by combining knowledge of the principles and techniques of forensic science, with logic and common sense, will students gain comprehensive insight into the meaning and significance of physical evidence and its role in criminal investigations. This course will present forensic techniques used to collect and analyze physical evidence in criminal investigations. Advanced Crime Scene Analysis is designed to build on aspects taught in Basic Crime Scene Analysis and to provide an enhanced foundation in the field of criminalistics for those students who are interested in learning the application of science to solving crime.

Student Responsibilities: The lectures will cover the same topics as found in the assigned reading, but it is important to gain different perspectives on these complex topics. It is expected that the student will read the assigned sections of the text prior to class so as to facilitate discussion and participation in the student demonstrations.

Paper/Presentation: All students will attend at least one day of a circuit court proceeding. The student will take detailed notes while in attendance to document the proceeding. The following items should be noted if applicable. A summary overview of the case should be provided including a description of all witnesses/expert witnesses and their testimony. A summary of any evidence/photographs/diagrams that were presented to the court should also be noted. The proceeding format i.e. direct examination, cross-examination, and re-direct examination of the prosecution and defense should be included. Notes should also contain any objections made by an attorney with the judge's ruling.

This will result in a four to six page written paper, culminating in an oral presentation of the proceeding in class highlighting the prominent points. PowerPoint presentations on a CD/thumb drive are encouraged to enhance the visual/audio effects. Presentations must be limited to 10-12 minutes.

Although we are more interested in your intellectual development and how you apply critical thinking to the issues presented, we must evaluate your analytic and integrative efforts. To accomplish this, class participation, paper/presentation, mock crime scene practicals, midterm exam, and a final exam will determine your grade in the course.

Specifically, your final grade will be calculated based upon the following formula:

- Class Participation and Attendance 10%
- Paper/Presentation 20%
- Mock Crime Scene Practical 20 %
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Final Exam 25 %
-

100-95	A	87-84	B	77-74	C
94-91	A-	83-81	B-	73-71	C-
90-88	B+	80-78	C+	70-	F

Note: Additional reading assignments may be added throughout the semester.

Note: The schedule is subject to change, please listen for announcements during class for changes.

GMU Honor Code:

Standards of academic integrity as set forth by the University are strictly observed and rigorously enforced in this class. The complete Honor Code is as follows: *To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code:* **Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.**

GMU Email:

Each student is responsible for activating their GMU email account and checking their account on a regular basis for University and class announcements.

GMU Police Policy:

If you are currently employed with a law enforcement agency as a sworn officer and would like to carry a firearm on campus and into class, you must contact GMU Police Department as a courtesy. 703-993-2810

ADVANCED CRIME SCENE - FRSC 511

Instructors- Emily Rancourt and Kimberly Carisi

Week	Date	Topic	
1		Introduction: • Intro of instructors • Getting to know the class • Class syllabus and schedule • Basic Crime Scene Review	
2		Trace Evidence	
3		Arson and Explosive Crime Scenes	
4		Blood Stain Pattern Analysis	
5		Document Evidence	
6		Electronic Crime Scenes	
7		Holiday Break – no class	
8		Midterm	
9		Pediatric Pathology and Child Abuse	
10		Sex Crimes	
11		Student Presentations (Courtroom Testimony)	
12		Crimes Against the Elderly	
13		Case Studies	
14		Mock Crime Scene Practical – Week 1	
15		Mock Crime Scene Practical – Week 2	
16		Reading Day	
17		Final Exam	