

Course Approval Form

For instructions:
<http://registrar.gmu.edu/facultystaff/catalog-revisions/course/>

Action Requested: (definitions available at website above)

Create NEW Inactivate
 Modify (check all that apply below)

Course Level:

Undergraduate Graduate

Title (must be 75% similar to original) Repeat Status
 Credits Schedule Type Prereq/coreq Grade Mode
 Restrictions Other: _____

College/School: College of Science Department: Forensic Science Program
Submitted by: Kimberly Rule Ext: 35338 Email: kcarisi@gmu.edu

Subject Code: FRSC Number: 401 Effective Term: Fall Spring Summer
(Do not list multiple codes or numbers. Each course proposal must have a separate form.) Year 2017

Title: Current _____ **Fulfills Mason Core Req?** (undergrad only)
Banner (30 characters max w/ spaces) Crime Scene Investigations Currently fulfills requirement
New Crime Scene Investigations Submission in progress

Credits: Fixed → 3 **Repeat Status:** Not Repeatable (NR)
 Variable → _____ to _____ (check one) Repeatable within degree (RD) → Max credits allowed:
 Lec + Lab/Rct → 0 or _____ Repeatable within term (RT) → (required for RT/RD status only)

Grade Mode: Regular (A, B, C, etc.) **Schedule Type:** Lecture (LEC) Independent Study (IND)
 Satisfactory/No Credit (check one) Lab (LAB) Seminar (SEM)
 Special (A, B, C, etc. +IP) Recitation (RCT) Studio (STU)
LEC can include LAB or RCT if linked sections will be offered Internship (INT)

Prerequisite(s) (NOTE: hard-coding requires separate Prereq Checking form, see above website):
FRSC 200, FRSC 201, and FRSC 303
Open only to forensic science majors

Corequisite(s): _____

Restrictions Enforced by System: Major, College, Degree, Program, etc. Include Code(s).
FRSC 200, FRSC 201, and FRSC 303
SC-BS-FRSC students only

Equivalencies (check only as applicable):
 YES, course is 100% equivalent to _____
 YES, course renumbered to or replaces _____

Catalog Copy (Consult University Catalog for models)

Description (No more than 60 words, use verb phrases and present tense)	Notes (List additional information for the course)
This course provides the scientific principles of crime scene investigations by applying the basic knowledge of proper documentation, collection and preservation of physical evidence. Proper crime scene protocols and evidence processing techniques will be performed in areas such as, forensic photography, sketching, blood stain pattern analysis, trajectory, skeletal remains, and fingerprinting.	
Indicate number of contact hours: _____ Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: <u>3</u> Hours of Lab or Studio: _____	
When Offered: (check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Summer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spring	

Approval Signatures

Kimberly Rule 7-2016
College/School Approval Date

by any other units, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by _____
mission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date

UGC or GC Council Member

Provost's Office

UGC or GC Approval Date

Course Proposal Submitted to the College of Science Curriculum Committee (COSCC)

The form above is processed by the Office of the University Registrar. This second page is for the COSCC's reference. Please complete the applicable portions of this page to clearly communicate what the form above is requesting.

FOR ALL COURSES (required)

Course Number and Title: FRSC 401- Crime Scene Investigations

Date of Departmental Approval: September 8th 2016

FOR NEW COURSES (required if creating a new course)

- Reason for the New Course: Currently the field of crime scene investigations is briefly discussed in the lower level FRSC 200 and FRSC 201 courses which are introductory courses that cover numerous forensic science topics. This new FRSC 401 course will be dedicated and specialize in the various aspects that entail crime scene investigations. This in-depth look into crime scenes will incorporate topics such as, forensic photography, crime scene sketching and measurements, blood stain pattern analysis, trajectory analysis, fingerprint processing, and, skeletal remains. This course will contain a significant portion dedicated to hands-on activities. Our peer institutions offer similar courses and prospective students inquire about coursework in which these activities are performed.
 - Relationship to Existing Programs: This course will be a major requirement as part of the Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science degree.
 - Relationship to Existing Courses: This course covers an in-depth view of crime scene investigations which is briefly discussed in the lower level FRSC 200 and FRSC 201 introductory courses.
 - Semester of Initial Offering: Fall 2017
 - Proposed Instructors: Prof. Kimberly Rule and Prof. Emily Rancourt
 - Insert Tentative Syllabus Below
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GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS – FRSC 401
FALL 2017

Instructor: Professor Kimberly Rule, Assistant Professor of Forensic Science
Office: Exploratory Hall Room 3408
Email: kcarisi@gmu.edu
Phone #: 703-993-5338 (office)
Text: Practical Crime Scene Processing and Investigation by Ross M. Gardner

Pre-requisites: FRSC 200, FRSC 201, and FRSC 303; Open only to Forensic Science majors.

Course Description: This course provides the scientific principles of crime scene investigations by applying the basic knowledge of proper documentation, collection and preservation of physical evidence. Proper crime scene protocols and evidence processing techniques will be performed in areas such as, forensic photography, sketching, blood stain pattern analysis, trajectory, skeletal remains, and fingerprinting. This course will follow a lecture format with a significant portion dedicated to hands-on exercises/assignments. Additionally, this course will consist of group discussions, a midterm exam, student presentations, 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 is designed to provide a basic foundation in the field of criminalistics for those students who are interested in learning how to conduct crime scene investigations.

Supplies: Sharpie marker, pencil, pen, graph paper, and plain paper.

Student Responsibilities: The lectures will cover the same topics as found in the assigned reading. 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 lecture and exercises. Students can expect graded in-class assignments, homework assignments, and unannounced quizzes throughout the semester; no make-up quizzes will be given, quizzes are graded as part of attendance/participation. Students are responsible for acquiring all lectures and handouts on Blackboard prior to attending class each week; the instructor will not bring copies of these documents to class. If you miss a class it is the students responsibility to ask a peer for missed notes; you may only contact your instructor if you have questions regarding the missed material. All items will be available on Blackboard no later than 24 hours before class time each week.

Physical Evidence Case Study Presentation: All students will pick one real forensic case study in which at least one piece of physical evidence highly impacted the case to examine and to use for the basis of their presentation (i.e. Atlanta Child Murders, OJ Simpson, Jon Benet Ramsey, Green River Killer, Ted Bundy, Lindberg Kidnapping, DC Sniper, Casey Anthony etc.).

This will result in an oral presentation of the case study in class highlighting the prominent points. PowerPoint presentations may be saved on a CD, thumb drive, and/or or email (presentation must be saved to at least two of

these sources for backup purposes). A minimum of 8 references are required from credible resources i.e. journal articles, texts, newspapers, etc., websites may be used on a limited basis (Snap-TV is NOT a credible resource).

HOMEWORK:

Topics/case study selection deadline; all students will turn in a printed page containing the following:

- ❖ student's name
- ❖ name of case study (i.e. Ted Bundy Case Study)
- ❖ what physical evidence will be discussed (i.e. bitemark evidence)
- ❖ how did the physical evidence impact the case (i.e. linked suspect to victim/suspect convicted of murder and sentenced to death)
- ❖ a list of a minimum of 4 references

Please do not contact your instructor regarding possible case study topics until you have conducted preliminary research and can provide the above information. Each student will have an opportunity during this class time to verbally review their topic with the instructor in which at least 4 references must be presented during this time; please print out or photocopy articles, newspapers, court documents, and/or bring in books if possible.

Student presentations will take place over a two week period; however all students must turn in a printout of the PowerPoint presentation (thumbnails of slides is preferred) on the first week of the class presentations. Due to limited time each presentation will be strictly limited to 10 minutes each; deductions will be given for presentations that are under or over the 10 minute time limit.

A grade will be determined for the presentation by the following factors:

- ❖ overview of case
- ❖ description of physical evidence
- ❖ explanation of how the evidence impacted the case (reconstruction/identification of perpetrator)
- ❖ organization and overall presentation score

Grading: Not only am I interested in your analytical development and how you apply critical thinking to the issues presented, I must also evaluate your intellectual efforts. To accomplish this, class participation, attendance, pop quizzes, homework, presentation, exercise assignments, a 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, Pop Quizzes, Homework, and Attendance- 10%
- ❖ Presentation- 20 %
- ❖ Exercises/Assignments- 30 %
- ❖ Midterm Exam- 20 %
- ❖ Final Exam- 20 %

Grading Scale:

100	A+	89-87	B+	79-78	C+	69-60	D
99-95	A	86-83	B	77-74	C	<59	F
94-90	A-	82-80	B-	73-70	C-		

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; if you are late/absent from class please ask a peer for any missed announcements.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

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: <http://masonlive.gmu.edu>

Each student is responsible for activating their GMU email account and checking their account on a regular basis for University and class announcements. **All masonlive accounts must be activated.**

GMU Police Policy: 703-993-2810

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.

GMU Students with Disabilities: <http://ods.gmu.edu>

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office, your instructor is not obligated to provide accommodations without documentation from ODS.

Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

For general questions and comments please contact wcenter@gmu.edu or call:

703-993-1200 (Robinson Hall A114, Fairfax Campus)

703-993-1824 (Enterprise Hall 076, Fairfax Campus)

All appointments are made through the online scheduling system so please do not email or call to schedule appointments. If you would like to cancel an appointment you may do so via the online scheduler, simply select your appointment and click the "Cancel appointment" box at the bottom of the reservation form and then "save."

University Libraries: "Ask a Librarian" <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

Margaret Lam, Physical Sciences Liaison Librarian; <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/forensics>

Fenwick Library, A244

703-993-2212

mlam3@gmu.edu

Counseling and Psychology Services (CAPS): (703) 993-2380; <http://caps.gmu.edu>

University Policies:

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

**CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS- FRSC
FALL 2017**

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
1	Sept 1	Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro of instructor • Getting to know the class • Class syllabus and schedule Intro to CSI / First Response	Chapter 4/5
2	Sept 8	Notetaking and Exercise (<i>in-class graded assignment</i>)	Chapter 8
3	Sept 15	Forensic Photography and Exercise (<i>in-class graded assignment</i>)	Chapter 6
4	Sept 22	Crime Scene Sketching and Exercise	Chapter 7
5	Sept 29	Measurements and Exercise	Chapter 7
6	Oct 6	Physical Evidence Collection and Packaging/Preservation and Exercise Homework: Final Sketch Due	Chapter 2
7	Oct 13	Midterm Exam Homework: Topics Due with 4 references	NA
8	Oct 20	Blood Stain Pattern Analysis and Exercise (<i>in-class graded assignment</i>)	Chapter 10
9	Oct 27	Trajectory and Exercise (<i>in-class graded assignment</i>)	Chapter 10
10	Nov 3	Project Presentations (PowerPoint Print Out Due)	NA
11	Nov 10	Project Presentations	NA
12	Nov 17	Fingerprint Processing and Exercise	Chapter 9
13	Nov 24	<i>Thanksgiving – no class</i>	NA
14	Dec 1	Skeletal Remains and Exercise (<i>in-class graded assignment</i>)	Chapter 11
15	Dec 8	Weather Adjustment Day	NA
16	Dec 15	Final Exam	NA