

**CEDAR
CREST
COLLEGE**



Forensic Science 504 - Spring '08 Forensic Science Seminar

Professor:

Brian J. Gestring, M.S.
Assistant Professor – Chemistry & Physical Sciences
Office – Miller 10 (Hours Monday 9 am to 12 pm & Tuesday 1 pm to 3 pm)
(610)606-4666 ext 4488
Brian.Gestring@cedarcrest.edu

Course

Overview:

The core undergraduate and graduate curriculums of the Forensic Science Program at Cedar Crest college are designed to provide students with the fundamentals that they will need for a career in forensic science. This seminar course will augment that fundamental knowledge and provide further exposure to alternate topics and areas of student interest.

Since students will be completing their thesis work, this semester will also work on preparing students to present their thesis work in an open forum. This will consist of honing oral presentation skills and effective methods of presenting complex data.

Course

Objectives:

1. Ongoing development of scientific data interpretation skills.
2. Continued development of written and verbal communication skills.
3. Continued exposure to different areas of Forensic Science.
4. To provide an additional level of support to students completing their thesis.

Course

Outcomes:

1. Students will develop a better appreciation other areas of Forensic Science.
2. Students will complete their thesis.

Required

Readings:

No text book will be used for this course. Relevant references will be distributed in class and made available through e-College (www.cedarcrestonline.net).

Times and

Locations:

This class will meet on Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in Science room 138 or another pre-arranged location.

Course

Notifications:

All course notifications will occur through your Cedar Crest College e-mail account. Please check this account regularly. Important dates and or functions will also be listed on the Forensic Science Students page calendar under the campus connect tab of My Cedarcrest.

**Course
Assessment:**

You will be graded based upon several factors over the course of the semester.

Component	Value	Explanation
Attendance	15 %	Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings and to arrive at the designated time
Participation	15 %	Students are expected to prepare for class and actively involve themselves in class discussions.
Thesis Presentation	40 %	The last seven session of the seminar course will be reserved for students to present their thesis projects. Students will be expected to give an hour long presentation in an open forum detailing the scope of their research, their findings and the significance of their findings
Thesis Completion	30 %	30 % of the student's grade will be based upon completion of their thesis. If a student is not able to complete their thesis by the end of the spring semester, they will receive a grade of "NG". The grade and credits from this course will not be figured into a GPA calculation. The student will have until the end on the summer to complete their thesis. If they are still not able to complete the thesis, a grade will be issued for the student based upon the other 70% described above.

**Community
Standards for
Academic
Conduct**

Academic integrity and ethics remain steadfast, withstanding technological change. Cedar Crest College academic standards therefore apply to all academic work, including, but not limited to, handwritten or computer-generated documents, video or audio recordings, and telecommunications.

As a student at Cedar Crest College, each student shall:

- Only submit work which is her own.
- Adhere to the rules of acknowledging outside sources, as defined by the instructor, never plagiarizing or misrepresenting intellectual property.
- Neither seek nor receive aid from another student, converse with one another when inappropriate, nor use materials not authorized by the instructor.
- Follow the instructions of the professor in any academic situation or environment, including taking of examinations, laboratory procedures, the preparation of papers, properly and respectfully using College facilities and resources, including library and computing resources to ensure that these resources may be effectively shared by all members of the College community.
- Abide by the Cedar Crest Computer Use Policy.
- If a student perceives a violation of the Academic Standards, he/she will go to their instructor.
- If you are unable to resolve the problem with the instructor, you should go to the chair of the department. If you need further assistance after consultation with the instructor and the chair, you should see the Provost.

***Honor
Philosophy***

The Cedar Crest College Honor Philosophy states that students should uphold community standards for academic and social behavior in order to preserve a learning environment dedicated to personal and academic excellence. Upholding community standards is a matter of personal integrity and honor. Individuals who accept the honor or membership in the Cedar Crest College community of scholars pledge to accept responsibility for their actions in all academic and social situations and for the effect their actions may have on other members of the College community.

Violations of the Academic Honor Code will be dealt with according to the Cedar Crest College Forensic Science Program Procedures and Policy Manual.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	1/15	Course Overview/ Oral Presentation Skills
2	1/22	Oral Presentation Skills
3	1/29	Guest Presentation (Content & Speaker to be determined – see below)
4	2/05	Guest Presentation (Content & Speaker to be determined – see below)
5	2/12	Guest Presentation (Content & Speaker to be determined – see below)
6	2/19	<i>No Class – Week of AAFS</i>
7	2/26	Guest Presentation (Content & Speaker to be determined – see below)
8	3/04	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>
9	3/11	Student Thesis Presentations
10	3/18	Student Thesis Presentations
11	3/25	Student Thesis Presentations
12	4/01	Student Thesis Presentations
13	4/08	Student Thesis Presentations
14	4/15	Student Thesis Presentations
15	4/22	Student Thesis Presentations

List of Potential Speakers for this Semester

Speaker:	Topic:	Notes:
Lawrence Quarino	Historical Forensic Biology	Speaker confirmed, date to be determined
Louis Sorgen	Forensic Entomology	Speaker confirmed. Presentation will be at Museum of Natural History
Charles Cusamano	Clandestine Drug Laboratories	Presentation will be at DEA Northeast Laboratory - Pending federal approval
Mike Hennessey	Forensic Management	Pending speaker confirmation
Gerald Kufta	Fire & Explosive Investigation	Pending speaker confirmation