

***Professor:***

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Office – Miller 10 (Hours Monday 10 am to 12 pm & Tuesday 1 pm to 3 pm)  
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***Course  
Overview:***

Becoming an effective forensic science practitioner involves more than just understanding the science behind the techniques used to characterize physical evidence. Knowledge of the law is critical to understand how science is used to address legal issues. Effective communication skills are essential to explain complex scientific concepts in simple yet accurate terms.

The legal science interface can often lead to ethical considerations. Forensic Scientists must have a firm ethical grounding. This course will reinforce the students existing knowledge of ethics and the law and expand discussion into what is forensic science.

Recently the field has been under attack on several fronts. The theoretical underpinnings of individuality as well as the scientific basis for current analysis have been challenged and will be explored in detail.

***Course  
Objectives:***

1. To reinforce a student's understanding of what forensic science is and how it interfaces with the legal system.
2. To explore the concept of individuality.
3. To ensure a student's come away with a firm ethical grounding.
4. To further develop the student's ability to effectively communicate complex scientific concepts.

***Learning  
Outcomes:***

Students that complete this course will:

1. ..understand what legal precedents affect them and why it differs with jurisdiction.
2. ..strengthen their ethical and philosophical background.
3. ..have another opportunity to fully develop their report writing and testimony skills.
4. ..develop a more in depth appreciation for the adversarial system of justice.

### **Course Assessment:**

Students will be assessed through several different mechanisms.

Mock Case/ Moot Court – After the first class students will select an area of forensic science (Toxicology/Forensic Chem./Forensic Bio./Trace Evidence/ Pattern Analysis/ Reconstruction). A mock case will be made up and issued to the student. The student will take the case, analyze the evidence, generate a report and then testify to their findings. As with a real case each step of the process must be performed to the highest level of stringency and in conformity with guidelines that have been taught to the student throughout their time in the program. The testimony will be approximately an hour in duration and encompass voir dire, direct examination, cross examination, and redirect from both sides.

Final reports on all cases as well as two copies of the case file are due by Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup>. The order of testimony will be determined by a random drawing on Wednesday February 27<sup>th</sup>. Students are expected to dress and act as if they are testifying in a court of law.

Response Publication – This past December, a Libertarian organization called the Reason Foundation published a Policy Study called “CSI for Real: How to Improve Forensic Science.” During the course of the semester, we will discuss this work and several other of the same theme in great detail. As a class project, we will analyze this report, divide up responsibility for addressing different issues we raise, and generate a consensus report that we will publish.

Class Discussion – You will be assigned numerous readings over the course of the semester. You will be expected to read them and actively participate in each class. To that end you will be graded on your involvement in each class. Lack of participation or inadequate class preparation will result in a poor grade.

50 % Mock Case/ Moot Court  
25 % Response Publication  
25 % Class Discussion

### **Grading:**

Final Grades will be assigned as follows:

A	100-93	C	76-73
A-	92-90	C-	72-70
B+	89-87	D+	69-67
B	86-83	D	66-60
B-	82-80	F	59-0
C+	79-77		

### **Required Readings:**

Currently there is no single definitive source to cover the content of this course. To that end we will be using multiple texts and external reference sources. Texts will be listed below. You're welcome to purchase the texts, but there is another cost saving alternative. You have access to electronic versions of all the texts through ForensicnetBase. To access this service go to <http://library.cedarcrest.edu> then click on “full text” from the top menu. Next Scroll down to the FORENSICnet.Base tab

and click on it. You must be on campus to use this feature. Other required readings will be posted on e-College.

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|---|---|
| 1 Forensic Evidence:<br>Science and the Criminal Law 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed.<br>Kiely<br>CRC Press, 2006 ISBN 0-8493-1896-3 | 2 Effective Expert Witnessing: Practices<br>For the 21 <sup>st</sup> century 4 <sup>th</sup> edition<br>Matson, Daou, Soper<br>CRC Press, 2004 ISBN 0-8493-1201-5 |
| 3 Ethics in Forensic Science:<br>Barnett<br>CRC Press, 2001 ISBN 0-8493-0860-7  |   |

The lecture portion of this course will occur on Wednesdays from 9:00 am until 11:00 am in Science 138

***Course  
Notifications:***

All course notifications will occur through your Cedar Crest College e-mail account. Please check this account regularly.

***Cedar Crest  
Online:***

This course will also be supported by an online classroom. You should have received an e-mail prior to the start of the semester detailing how to access and utilize the resources that will be made available to you here. If you have not, please notify your professor. This virtual classroom can be accessed through [www.cedarcrestonline.net](http://www.cedarcrestonline.net).

***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.

**Lecture Schedule**

<b><i>Week</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Topic</i></b>	<b><i>Reading</i></b>
1	W 1/16	Introduction, Course Overview, The Bill of Rights Legal Precedents	1) {1}, {2} 2) {1},{2},{3} e-College
2	W 1/23	Legal Precedents/ The role of the Forensic Scientist in the Legal System/ Finding Fault with Forensics	e-College
3	W 1/30	Finding Fault with Forensics	e-College
4	W 2/06	Finding Fault with Forensics	e-College
5	W 2/13	Finding Fault with Forensics/ Overview and review of Ethical Considerations	e-College 3) {1}, {2},{3},{4},{5},{6}
<b>6</b>	<b>W 2/20</b>	<b>No Class – AAFS Meeting</b>	
7	W 2/27	Overview and review of Ethical Considerations	3) {1}, {2},{3},{4},{5},{6}
<b>8</b>	<b>W 3/05</b>	<b>No Class - Spring Break</b>	
9	W 3/12	Student Mock Trial	2) {4},{5},{6},{7}
10	W 3/19	Student Mock Trial	2) {4},{5},{6},{7}
11	W 3/26	Student Mock Trial	2) {4},{5},{6},{7}
12	W 4/02	Student Mock Trial	2) {4},{5},{6},{7}
13	W 4/09	Student Mock Trial	2) {4},{5},{6},{7}
14	W 4/16	Student Mock Trial	2) {4},{5},{6},{7}
15	W 4/23	Student Mock Trial	2) {4},{5},{6},{7}