

***Professor:***

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Assistant Professor – Chemistry & Physical Sciences/ Forensic Science  
Office – Miller 10 (Hours: Monday 3-4 pm, & Tuesday 9:30-11:30 am)  
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***Course  
Overview:***

Conducting research is an important part of furthering the field of Forensic Science. The research component of the graduate program will familiarize students with the process in the context of their research. This seminar course will expose students to some of the forensic science research that is currently being conducted at other institutions.

***Course  
Objectives:***

This graduate seminar course will:

- Introduce students to forensic science research being conducted at other institutions.
- Allow an in depth discussion of topics for further research.
- Provide an opportunity to evaluate other researcher's methods.
- Offer a preview of research that has not been presented or published.
- Further develop the student's oral presentation skills.

***Learning  
Outcomes:***

Student that complete Graduate Seminar I will:

- Develop a broader knowledge of current forensic science research.
- Cultivate their interpretive skills as they provide commentary on the results presented.
- Learn to assess the full implications of the study being conducted.
- Refine their ability to define further studies.
- Become more confident in describing complex scientific concepts in simple terms

***Required  
Readings:***

No text book will be used for this course. Relevant articles will be distributed in class and/or made available through e-College.

**Times and Locations:**

Until Fall Break, this class will meet on Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in Science room 139. After that time, the 2 hours per week will be banked for a research exchange coordinated with the Forensic Science Program at West Virginia University. Students from their graduate program will come to Cedar Crest and present on their research and students from Cedar Crest will go to WVU and present the results from their ongoing research. The times for these exchanges have not been finalized. Final dates will be announced by September 29, 2009.

**Course Assessment:**

Component	Value	Explanation
Attendance	10 %	Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings and to arrive at the designated time.
Participation	10 %	Students are expected to prepare for class and actively involve themselves in class discussions.
Research Overview	15 %	At the beginning of the semester, students will be expected to give a fifteen minute overview of the current status of their project. This presentation should include the significance of their project, experiments performed, results, significance of the results and a timeline for completion of the project.
Article Review	15%	Students will select an article relevant to their research and present it to the class.
Thesis Timeline	15 %	Students will establish a timeline with their mentor early in the semester. A written project timeline must be prepared by the student and signed by both the student & the primary mentor. This timeline must be turned in by September 15 <sup>th</sup> .
Adherence to Thesis Timelines	15 %	This component will evaluate the student's time management skills. Materials must be e-mailed to the thesis mentor as well as the seminar instructor based upon the dates agreed upon by you and your mentor. Late submissions will be subject to a grade penalty of 1% per day.
Presentation Write-ups	20 %	After each outside presentation, students must submit a written summary of the presentation.

*Grade Assignments:*

Final Grades will be assigned as follows:

A	100-93	B-	82-80
A-	92-90	C+	79-77
B+	89-87	C	76-70
B	86-83	F	69-0

***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.

### Course Schedule

<b><i>Week</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Topic</i></b>
1	T 8/25	Introduction & Course Overview
2	T 9/01	Research Overviews
3	T 9/08	Research Overviews
4	T 9/15	Article Reviews
5	T 9/22	Article Reviews
6	T 9/29	Article Reviews
7	T 10/06	<b><i>Outside Speaker</i></b> Joseph Rupp, M.D. Medical Examiner (Retired) Nueces County, FL “ <i>Sex Related Deaths</i> ”
<b><i>8</i></b>	<b><i>T 10/13</i></b>	<b><i>Fall Break – No Class</i></b>
9	T 10/20	Banked time for Research Exchange
10	T 10/27	Banked time for Research Exchange
11	T 11/03	Banked time for Research Exchange
12	T 11/10	Banked time for Research Exchange
13	T 11/17	Banked time for Research Exchange
14	T 11/24	Banked time for Research Exchange
15	T 12/01	Banked time for Research Exchange