

***Professor:***

Brian J. Gestring, M.S.  
Assistant Professor – Chemistry & Physical Sciences  
Office – Miller 10 (Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 11 am-12 pm)  
(610)606-4666 ext 4488  
[Brian.Gestring@cedarcrest.edu](mailto: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](http://www.cedarcrestonline.net)).

***Times and  
Locations:***

On Tuesday January 20<sup>th</sup>, this class will meet from 4:00 until 6 pm in SCI 138. All other times and locations are noted on the detailed schedule attached.

***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 a 50 minute long presentation in an open forum detailing the scope of their research, their findings and the significance of their findings.
Thesis Research Deadlines	30 %	30 % of the student's grade will be based upon meeting thesis deadlines established in conjunction with the student's faculty mentor. By the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of class, students must outline all of the work that is required to complete their thesis requirement. A detailed plan including dates when each task will be completed must be signed by both the student and the faculty mentor and submitted.

**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	T 1/20	Course Overview/ Oral Presentation Skills/ Student Presentation Requirements
2	T 1/27	No Class (Banked time for 2/27)
3	T 2/3	No Class(Banked time for 2/27)
4	T 2/10	No Class (Banked time for 2/27)
<b>5</b>	<b>T 2/17</b>	<b>No Class – Week of AAFS</b>
6	T 2/24	No Class(Banked time for 2/27)
6	F 2/27	Seminar Marathon (lectures in Miller 33, food in the Luchasse Gallery) 1-1:40 Rebecca Bucht, B.S.-John Jay College of Criminal Justice 1:40-2:20 Forensic Science Student.-Virginia Commonwealth University 2:20-3:00 Forensic Science Student.-Virginia Commonwealth University 3:00-3:10 Break 3:10-3:50 Forensic Science Student.-Virginia Commonwealth University 3:50-4:30 Forensic Science Student.-Virginia Commonwealth University 4:30-5:30 Dinner
7	T 3/3	Student Thesis Presentations (5 pm in Miller 33)
<b>8</b>	<b>T 3/10</b>	<b>No Class – Spring Break</b>
9	T 3/17	Student Thesis Presentations (5 pm in Miller 33)
10	T 3/24	Student Thesis Presentations (5 pm in Miller 33)
11	T 3/31	Student Thesis Presentations (5 pm in Miller 33)
12	T 4/7	Student Thesis Presentations (5 pm in Miller 33)
13	T 4/14	Student Thesis Presentations (5 pm in Miller 33)
14	T 4/21	Student Thesis Presentations (5 pm in Miller 33)
15	T 4/28	Student Thesis Presentations (5 pm in Miller 33)
16	F 5/05	Student Thesis Presentations (4 pm in Miller 33)