

Academic Year	2024/25	Semester	1
Course Coordinator	Roderick Bates		
Course Code	CM5002		
Course Title	Forensic Science		
Pre-requisites	none		
Mutually Exclusive	CM5012 Introduction to Forensic Science and CM5022 Applications of Forensic Science		
No of AUs	3		
Contact Hours	online activities 19 hours face to face lectures 18 hours mid-term assessments 2 hours		
Proposal Date	22 October 2018		

Course Aims

On completing this course, you will understand and appreciate how basic science can be applied to the solution of criminal cases. You will understand the basic chemistry, physics and biology behind forensic science and see how this knowledge can be applied. You will understand how forensic science fits into the legal system alongside other forms of police work. You will appreciate not only what forensic science can do, but also what is beyond its scope i.e. the limits of forensic science.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you (as a student) would be able to:

1. explain the principles and scope of forensic science and the concept of individualisation
2. describe how the techniques of chemical analysis can be used in forensic science and interpret simplified chromatograms and spectra.
3. describe the various *post mortem* processes of the human body, and be able to apply them in estimation of the time of death
4. describe the nature of blood, and apply that knowledge in the analysis of crime scene blood spatter
5. describe the main principles of toxicology, and to use LO2 in this context
6. describe the DNA molecule and how it is inherited; to interpret simplified forensic profiles using the STR method; to describe the limits of forensic DNA profiling
7. describe the main types of illegal drugs and be able to distinguish between natural, semi-synthetic and synthetic drugs, and to use LO2 for their analysis
8. describe the chemistry and morphology of polymers and fibres (including hair) and to explain to what extent this information can be used forensically
9. describe the limitations of the three principles of fingerprinting; to be able to compare fingerprinting with DNA methods
10. describe how different kinds of forensic evidence arise during the firing of a gun
11. critically combine some or all of the learning outcomes 1-10 above in the analysis of a given crime scene

Course Content

Introduction to Forensic Science: an overview of the subject, how forensic science developed and how it works within the legal system.
Atomic spectroscopy: how the analysis of the elemental composition of a sample can yield information.

Molecular spectroscopy: determination of the compounds present in a sample by chromatographic and spectroscopic means.

Determination of the time of death: how this can be determined by chemical, biological and circumstantial means.

Blood: the composition of blood, how blood can be analysed and identified; blood spatter analysis.

Drugs: an overview of the main types of drugs, their source and chemical structures.

Toxicology: the Chemistry behind poisoning, including organic, inorganic and biological poisons and notable poisoning cases.

DNA: the basic concepts of DNA and how it is inherited; forensic DNA profiling including the use of the STR method.

Fingerprinting: how fingerprinting, one of the earliest forensic methods, developed as a means of identification; the three principles of fingerprinting; methods to visualise fingerprints.

Firearms: internal ballistics, including methods to individualise firearm evidence and the analysis of gun shot residue.

Polymers and fibres: the role of fibre and hair evidence in forensic science, including the identification of fibres by chemical means and by microscopy.

Case studies: discussion of a range of cases that illustrate important concepts or failings, or are landmarks in the subject.

The following topics will (subject to availability) be taught by guest lecturers: physical evidence, document examination, DNA, narcotics, the presentation of evidence in court and the role of the Singapore Police Force.

Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)

Component	Course LO Tested	Related Programme LO or Graduate Attributes	Weighting	Team/Individual	Assessment Rubrics
mid-term 1	1-10	competence and creativity	20	individual	see appendix 1
mid-term 2	1-10		20	individual	
final exam	all		60	individual	
Total			100%		

Formative feedback

You will be given feedback in three ways:

1. By response to postings on the course discussion board.
2. Through the marking of the mid-term.
3. General feedback will be provided to you following the final exam.

Learning and Teaching approach

Approach	How does this approach support students in achieving the learning outcomes?
Blend of online and face 2 face lectures	The bulk of the content will be delivered online. This allows (a) extensive use of animations and laboratory videos and (b) use of interactive questions so that you may immediately test your learning. Face to face lectures will be employed for selected topics and for guest lectures to give the opportunity for you to interact directly with the lecturers.

Reading and References

Criminalistics, Richard Saferstein (Pearson) ISBN-13: 978-0133458824

Course Policies and Student Responsibilities**(1) General**

You are expected to complete all online activities in good time.

(2) Absenteeism

If you miss a lecture, you are expected to make up for the lost learning activities. If you miss the mid-term exam with approval, you will either be offered a make up exam or grading based upon the final.

Academic Integrity

Good academic work depends on honesty and ethical behaviour. The quality of your work as a student relies on adhering to the principles of academic integrity and to the NTU Honour Code, a set of values shared by the whole university community. Truth, Trust and Justice are at the core of NTU's shared values.

As a student, it is important that you recognize your responsibilities in understanding and applying the principles of academic integrity in all the work you do at NTU. Not knowing what is involved in maintaining academic integrity does not excuse academic dishonesty. You need to actively equip yourself with strategies to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, academic fraud, collusion and cheating. If you are uncertain of the definitions of any of these terms, you should go to the [academic integrity website](#) for more information. Consult your instructor(s) if you need any clarification about the requirements of academic integrity in the course.

Course Instructors

Instructor	Office Location	Phone	Email
Roderick Bates	CCEB-04-08	6316 8907	roderick@ntu.edu.sg

Planned Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic	Course LO	Readings/ Activities
1	Introduction to forensic science	1	lecture
2	Atomic and Molecular Spectroscopy	2	online interactive content
3	Time of Death	3	online interactive content
4	Blood	4	online interactive content
5	Toxicology	5	online interactive content
6	DNA	6	online interactive content
7	Drugs, Polymers and fibres	7, 8	online interactive content
8	Fingerprinting, Firearms,	9, 10	online interactive content
9	mid-term 1	1-10	assessment
10	guest lectures	1	lecture
11	guest lectures	1	lecture
12	guest lectures	1	lecture
	mid-term 2	1-10	assessment
13	Case Studies and Review	11	lecture

The above schedule is for illustrative purposes and is subject to the exigencies of the calendar

Appendix 1: Assessment Criteria for all components

mid-terms 1 and 2

Standards		
Fail standard (0-4 marks)	Pass standard (5-7 marks)	High standard (8-10 marks)
Answers to the questions are mostly incorrect.	Answers to the questions are mostly correct.	Answers to the questions are almost always correct.

final exam – MCQ questions

Standards		
Fail standard (0-4 marks)	Pass standard (5-7 marks)	High standard (8-10 marks)
Answers to the questions are mostly incorrect.	Answers to the questions are mostly correct.	Answers to the questions are almost always correct.

final exam – short answer questions

Standards		
Fail standard (0-4 marks)	Pass standard (5-7 marks)	High standard (8-10 marks)
Answers demonstrate the ability to repeat factual knowledge but not to apply it outside of the lecture context. Answers do not have a strong logical underpinning or maybe attempts to answer both ways at the same time.	Answers to the standard level question are correct and show the ability to apply concepts from the course, but a high level of critical thinking is absent. Answers are reasonably logical, but with gaps.	Answers to all questions show a high and consistent level of critical analysis of the information presented and creative solutions to the problems. Answers are highly logical and demonstrate strong reasoning. Answers are concise and to the point.

CBC Programme Learning Outcome

The Division of Chemistry and Biological Chemistry (CBC) offers an undergraduate degree major in Chemistry that satisfies the American Chemical Society (ACS) curricular guidelines and equips students with knowledge relevant to the industry. Graduates of the Division of Chemistry and Biological Chemistry should have the following key attributes:

1. Competence

Graduates should be well-versed in the foundational and advanced concepts of chemical science, be able to evaluate chemistry-related information critically and independently, and be able to use complex reasoning to solve emergent chemical problems.

2. Creativity

Graduates should be able to synthesize and integrate multiple ideas across the curriculum, and propose innovative solutions to emergent chemistry-related problems based on their training in chemistry.

3. Communication

Graduates should be able to demonstrate clarity of thought, independent thinking, and sound scientific analysis and reasoning through written and oral reports to audiences with varying technical backgrounds. They should also be able to effectively engage other professional chemists in collaborative endeavours.

4. Character

Graduates should be able to act in responsible ways and uphold the high ethical standards that the society expects of professional chemists.

5. Civic-mindedness

Graduates should be aware of the impact of chemistry on society, and how chemistry can be applied to benefit mankind. They should also be aware of and uphold the