

FORENSIC SCIENCE

PSYC 106 – 01 (3 Credit Hours)

Spring 2018

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

Location: WB 611



Instructor: [Elijah Ricks, Ph.D.](#)

Office: AUD 803A E-mail: ericks01@roosevelt.edu Phone: (312)281-3275

Office Hours: (CHI) Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:15 – 4 p.m. (and by appointment)

(SCH) Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30 p.m. (and by appointment)

To do a video chat with me using Zoom, use <https://roosevelt.zoom.us/j/3537279615>

Text: Saferstein, R. (2017). *Criminalistics: An introduction to forensic science* (12th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson. ISBN paperback: 978-0-13447759-6. Purchase as an e-book at www.vitalsource.com. Readings regarding forensic psychology topics are found on Blackboard. They are:

Grubin, D., & Madsen, L. (2005). Lie detection and the polygraph: A historical review. *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology*, 16, 357-369. doi:10.1080/14789940412331337353

Leo, R. A. (2009). False confessions: Causes, consequences and implications. *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 37, 332-343. Available at: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1328623>

Memon, A., & Thomson, D. (2007). The myth of the incredible eyewitness. In S. Della Salla (Ed.). *Tall tales about the mind & brain*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Resnick, P. J. (2007). The Andrea Yates case: Insanity on trial. *Cleveland State Law Review*, 55, 147-156. Available at <http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/clevstrev/vol55/iss2/4>

Smith, J. (2009, March 27). Believing the children. *The Austin Chronicle*. Available at <http://www.austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=759086>

Roosevelt University's Learning Goals: (a) Effective communication, (b) knowledge of discipline-focused content, and (c) awareness of social justice and engagement in civic life.

Course Objectives: This course is an introduction to the science applied to criminal investigations, standards for its use, relevant laws, and its strengths and weaknesses. At course completion, students should (a) understand the development and use of basic forensic science techniques, (b) be familiar with important cases where these techniques were applied, and (c) understand the weaknesses and strengths of these techniques.

Please be warned that at the nature of this course are details of many disturbing crimes. You will read about and openly discuss cases involving infanticide, sexual assaults, murder, etc. You will see and analyze images of blood spatter and human corpses, among other things. If this notion causes you discomfort, please consider taking an alternative course.

Should you wish to speak with someone about your feelings about these things, please contact the [RU Counseling Center](#) in AUD 470, (312)341-3548. If you have any reports of sexual misconduct, please contact Alice Jones, Title IX Coordinator at (312)341-2045, or ajones90@roosevelt.edu. See more about Title IX on the last page of this document. If you wish to report a crime, please call the police department or Federal Bureau of Investigation, depending upon the jurisdiction.

Quizzes & Activities (5 points each): Quizzes and class activities will occasionally and randomly be administered during the course meeting time, at any point during the course meeting time. To prepare for these, read the course materials ahead of time, attend the entire course time, and pay close attention during lectures and other presentations. Your two lowest quiz and activity scores will be automatically dropped. Under no circumstances may you make up a missed quiz or activity.

Mini-Exams (10 points each): Following each course topic that we complete in class, a brief exam will be administered through Blackboard. You will have a 48-hour window in which to complete

these exams, beginning immediately following the class period in which the material was covered. Exams may include (but are not limited to) multiple choice, matching, true/false statements, fill-in-the-blank, and short answers. Questions will be drawn from the course readings, discussions, and lectures. You may not consult anyone else or the course materials while taking the exams. You will have 20 minutes to complete the exam once it is started. Your two lowest mini-exam scores will be automatically dropped. Under no circumstances may you make up a missed mini-exam.

Final Exam (50 points): The final exam will take place in our normal classroom on Thursday, May 3, from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. The final exam in this course will include 10 questions from the last topic, and 40 questions taken from previously covered course material. A study aid will be made available at least 1 week prior to the final exam's administration.

Essay (30 points): All students will write an essay applying criminalistics and/or forensic psychology issues to one or more criminal cases. Be sure that this is not simply a reproduction of information or analysis that is found on television or online, lest you risk academic dishonesty (see below). Essays are due before May 1, 2018, at 11:59 p.m., and must be submitted without any identifiers through Blackboard. Details of the assignment, along with the grading rubric, are in a separate handout, available on Blackboard. Contact the [Writing Center](mailto:writingcenter@roosevelt.edu) in the library, (312)341-2206, or writingcenter@roosevelt.edu.

Studying: Grades are a reflection of your mastery of the material. To master the material, attend each class, and take thorough notes from both lecture and the readings. Consolidate notes from text readings and lectures. If you do not understand any part of the material, ask questions in class, ask classmates, attend office hours, hold study groups, work with a friend, find trustworthy sources on the internet, or read additional books. Practice by describing material to friends or relatives. Do not expect to spontaneously understand material on exam day!

Course Outline (Note that these dates and topics are subject to change):

Date(s)	Topic(s)	Reading	Due
1/16	Introduction to Course, Careers	Syllabus	Mini-Exam
1/16-18	History of Forensic Science	Chapter 1	Mini-Exam
1/23-25	The Crime Scene	Chapter 2	Mini-Exam
1/30-2/1	Physical Evidence	Chapter 3	Mini-Exam
2/6-8	Forensic Psychology, Eyewitnesses	Memon & Thomson	Case Chosen; M-E
2/13-15	Blood-Spatter Pattern Analysis	Chapter 4	Mini-Exam
2/20-22	Death Investigation	Chapter 5	Mini-Exam
2/27-3/1	Insanity Defense	Resnick, 2007	Mini-Exam
3/6-8	Spring Break – No Class		
3/13-15	Fire and Explosives	Chapter 17	Essay Outline; M-E
3/20-22	Detecting Deception	Grubin & Madsen	Mini-Exam
3/27-29	Fingerprints	Chapter 6	Mini-Exam
4/3-5	DNA	Chapter 16	Essay 1st Page; M-E
4/10-12	False Confessions	Leo, 2009	Mini-Exam
4/17-19	Children Witnesses	Smith, 2009	Essay
4/24-26	Catch up, Film, or Review		
5/3	Final Exam: 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Entire Course	Final Exam

Grades: Your course grade will be computed by dividing the points you earn by the points that are possible. Points are not weighted differently; 1 essay point = 1 exam point = 1 extra credit point. Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

89.1% to 100%	= A	69.1% to 79.0%	= C	0% to 59.0%	= F
79.1% to 89.0%	= B	59.1% to 69.0%	= D		

Your grades will be available for review through the Blackboard system. You are responsible for checking your grades. If you see a discrepancy or have a concern please contact me as early as possible to get it resolved.

Classroom Behavior: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the University's function as an educational institution (see more [here](#)). Refrain from side conversations or other distractions to ensure everyone gets the best classroom experience. Punctuality is highly valued in the professional world; Make it a habit now!

Extra Credit: A few opportunities will arise in the course for you to earn extra credit. One standing opportunity is to participate in psychological research through the SONA system, or to summarize scientific journal articles related to forensic psychology. More detail is in separate handouts, available on Blackboard. Each paper is worth 2 points of credit, and each SONA credit is worth 1 point of course credit, for up to 10.

Students With Disabilities: Roosevelt University complies fully with the Americans With Disabilities Act. Details are found [here](#). If you have or believe you have a disability that affects you academically, and you would like accommodations, please tell me as soon as possible, and also contact the Academic Success Center at (312)341-3818, or contact Danielle Smith at dsmith51@roosevelt.edu, or in AUD 1050, inside the library.

Academic Integrity: In the best interest of your education and intellectual growth, cheating, plagiarism, and lying will not be tolerated. See details in the [Student Handbook](#) (also see [this](#)). Ignorance of standards will not be accepted as an excuse. References must be cited in the body of papers and listed in a References section. Direct quotes must be identified either by quotation marks for brief quotes or indentations for longer quotes, with the page number of the original article included (see the *APA Publication Manual*, 6th edition for details). Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will fail the assignment, and their names will be forwarded to the Student Services office. Failing the assignment does not preclude imposition of other penalties by the University, including dismissal. When in doubt, ask me if something could be considered academic dishonesty. It is not worth risking your future!

“Rather fail with honor than succeed by fraud.” – Sophocles

Withdrawals: The last day to withdraw and receive a ‘W’ grade for this course is 3/23/18. Prior to and including the first week of the fall or spring semester sessions, students may drop one or more courses with no record of the class appearing on the transcript. In weeks 2 through 10 of the fall or spring semester, students may complete a Change in Registration form in person or by fax, found [here](#). After week 10 of the fall or spring semester students may not withdraw from courses without completing a Petition for Late Withdrawal form found [here](#). The petition form requires the student's signature and the approval of the instructor, department chair, dean or dean's designee. It also requires a statement of the non-academic reason for your late withdrawal, including reason student was unable to withdraw by deadline, and documentation. Withdrawing from courses may have serious consequences for academic progress towards the degree, for financial aid eligibility, for repayment of refunds, visa requirements (for international students), and eligibility for competition (for student athletes). Students should consult carefully with their instructors and academic advisors and must meet with a financial aid advisor before withdrawing from classes after the semester has begun. Tuition Refund Schedule and Withdrawal deadlines are published for each semester and for the summer session on the Important Dates page of the website [here](#).

Incomplete Grades: I follow the Registrar's policy for assigning Incompletes for this course. A grade of ‘I’ will be assigned only when a small portion of the total semester's work has to be completed and the student has a documented reason why the work cannot be completed within the regular

timeframe. For more information, contact the Registrar on the Mezzanine floor of the Wabash Building, at (312)341-3535, or by emailing registrar@roosevelt.edu.

Roosevelt's Scholastic Policies: It is your responsibility to be familiar with and follow all of the University's policies. These are available [here](#).

Title IX: Federal law, specifically Title IX, and the University Sexual Misconduct Policy require that all employees are mandated reporters of incidents involving sexual or gender-based violence or harassment. Disclosures made to faculty or teaching assistants (TAs) about sexual or gender-based harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking on or off campus must be forwarded to the Title IX Coordinator. These staff are Responsible Employees and therefore are mandated to report. The Title IX office will contact any student who discloses an incident regarding student rights, including the option to request an investigation, interim safety measures, and/or academic accommodations. In certain circumstances, the Title IX Coordinator may need to proceed with an investigation, even if none is requested, if there are safety risks to the student or campus community. Participation in the process is voluntary.

If you want a confidential place to disclose sexual assault, sexual harassment or intimate partner violence, there are two confidential advisors on campus who are not mandated reporters. They are: Audrey Guy, (312)244-0577; and LaDonna Long, (312)244-0426. Both are available via phone all hours. The Counseling Center (430 S. Michigan Avenue Room 470 Phone: 312-341-3548) staff are also NOT mandatory reporters and therefore NOT required to report a disclosure to the Title IX Office.

Religious Holidays: Roosevelt University respects the rights of students to observe major religious holidays and will make accommodations, upon request, for such observances. See details [here](#). Students who wish to observe religious holidays must inform their instructors in writing within the first two weeks of each semester of their intent to observe the holiday so that alternative arrangements convenient to both students and faculty can be made at the earliest opportunity. Students who make such arrangements by the deadline will not be required to attend classes or take examinations on the designated days, and faculty must provide reasonable opportunities for such students to make up missed work and examinations. However, all work missed for such absences, including papers and examinations, must be made up. Students who do not arrange for excused absences by the deadline are not entitled to such accommodations.

Advising: For guidance in how best to go about meeting your academic goals, consider meeting with your academic advisor. Find out more in Wabash 1M10 or (312)341-4340.

Blackboard: For assistance with the online course management system, please reference the [Quick Guides](#), or [contact the helpdesk](#), or [RUOnline](#).

Campus Safety: Contact campus safety with any security concerns. For the Auditorium Building, call (312)341-2020. For the Gage Building, call (312)341-3111. For Schaumburg, call (847)619-8989.

Computer Labs: Find computers for student use listed [here](#).

Financial Aid: For information or assistance with financial aid, please go to the Mezzanine in the Wabash Building, call (866)421-0935, or email FAO@roosevelt.edu.

Library: For information about Roosevelt University's library and available resources, check [here](#).

RUWiFi: The University's wireless network can be accessed by all enrolled students. For assistance getting connected, email helpdesk@roosevelt.edu, or call (312)341-4357.