

***FRSC 498-102 ST – International
Perspective of Forensic Science
Wednesday 6:00PM – 8:50PM
(TIER 106)
Spring 2025 Course Syllabus***

NJIT Academic Integrity Code: All Students should be aware that the Department of Chemistry & Environmental Science (CES) takes the University Code on Academic Integrity at NJIT very seriously and enforces it strictly. This means that there must not be any forms of plagiarism, i.e., copying of homework, class projects, or lab assignments, or any form of cheating in quizzes and exams. Under the University Code on Academic Integrity, students are obligated to report any such activities to the Instructor.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: Forensic Science is the application of science to the law. This course introduces students to the international perspectives of forensic science and how science is used in criminal justice systems across the world. This is primarily a student-led course in which the students take an active role in researching content topics. Students will be introduced to various criminal justice systems and how forensic science techniques are used in crime laboratories throughout the United States and abroad. Guest lecturers and practitioners will offer insights into their day-to-day investigative work and how they face technological and legal challenges. The application of science to varying criminal justice systems and related cultural influences will be emphasized throughout the course. Finally, a large portion of the course will include a trip abroad to visit criminal justice, and forensic science, agencies and their place in the culture of a foreign country.

Number of Credits: 3

Prerequisites: NONE

Course-Section and Instructor

Course-Section	Instructor
FRSC 495-102	Dr. Kevin Parmelee
Wed 6:00PM-8:50pm (TIER 106)	Email: parmelee@njit.edu
	Office Hours: By Appt. C: 908-420-1102

Required Textbooks:

Title	The Pathological Casebook of Dr. Francis McGill (e-book)
Author	Myrnal L. Petersen
Edition	(2015)
Publisher	Myrnal L. Petersen, sold by smashwords
BN ID	2940152547337

and additional readings and videos as assigned. You must also have a computer with a reliable internet connection, webcam, and a microphone.

University-wide Withdrawal Date: The last day to withdraw with a **W** is Monday, April 7, 2025. It will be strictly enforced.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Identify and compare aspects of criminal justice systems from various countries across the world.
- Identify and compare forensic science procedures, policies, and technologies used to examine and analyze physical evidence from various countries.
- Evaluate the significance of physical evidence in criminal investigations from cultures outside the US.
- Apply critical thinking skills when comparing policies, procedures, and practices of forensic science practitioners from different countries.
- Discriminate between accepted practices from various countries.
- Describe how science is used in the criminal justice systems of other countries.
- Understand how data influences legal decisions and shapes scientific reporting requirements in countries outside the US.
- Understand forensic science failures and ethical violation cases from various countries.
- Enhance professional public speaking and communication skills
- Collaborate effectively with peers to accomplish active learning assignments.

POLICIES

All CES students must familiarize themselves with, and adhere to, all official university-wide student policies. CES takes these policies very seriously and enforces them strictly.

Grading Policy: The final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Class Participation	10%
Individual Assignments	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Group Research & Presentations	25%
Final Exam	30%
Extra Credit will be given for attending NJIAI, NEAFS, or AAFS	1% per day

Late assignments: will be deducted 25% (from the 100% max) for each day late, commencing at 00:00hrs following the due day, and each subsequent day until the potential score is zero.

Your final letter grade in this course will be based on the following grading scale:

A	90-100	C	70-76
B+	87-89	D	60-69
B	80-86	F	<60
C+	77-79		

Attendance Policy: Attendance at classes will be recorded and is **mandatory for participation**. Each class is a learning experience that cannot be replicated through simply “getting the notes.” After two unexcused absences, each subsequent absence will result in your class participation score being lowered by one percentage point. You are expected to read the relevant chapter and/or reading assignment prior to the lecture. Students who participate in lecture will receive points towards their class participation grade.

Research & Presentations: There will be a combination of individual and group presentations for this course. The assignment is for you to select modern international criminal cases/topic and discuss how the forensic

science in that case/topic played a critical role in the guilt or innocence of the defendant, has changed legal precedent or the fields of law and science. The assignment is designed to evaluate your research, enhance public speaking skills and your understanding of the forensics that were used. The presentation shall incorporate a power point presentation that can contain audio and video captions if needed. The presentation should be approximately 10-15 minutes in length. You **MUST** get approval from instructor for your case topic. No two people may choose the same topic. Please enter your paper topic by replying to the "Case Presentation" Announcement in Canvas.

1. Analyze a relevant international (NON U.S.) criminal case/topic involving Forensic Science.
2. Develop a topic for the presentation.
3. Create an appropriate design and power point presentation.
4. Identify and show how forensic science impacted the case.
5. Explain the criminal justice system and forensic science practices of that country and their relationship to the case.
6. Provide at least 3 credible peer reviewed sources from scientific journals or legal documents. It is acceptable to use other sources (i.e. news articles, media, etc.) in addition to the three mandatory sources.
7. Communicate effectively through effective presentation media and public speaking methods.

The Group Presentation is a culmination of the topics, trip, and other course content covered in the course. This will be due on the last full days of class, prior to the final exam day, when it will be presented to a class or another designated peer-group.

For these presentations, you are expected to be able to locate and use library resources effectively and cite them Correctly on the last slide of the presentation. Googling alone will not suffice. Most of the library materials are available online 24/7 from locations with internet access.

Exams: There will be one midterm exam held in class during the semester and one comprehensive final exam. The following exam periods are tentative and therefore possibly subject to change:

Midterm Exam	March 12, 2025
Final Exam Period	May 10-16, 2025

The final exam will test your knowledge of all the course material taught in the entire course.

The culmination of this course will be the field study trip to the Canada (March 16 – 27, 2025). The trip will focus on the sites and locations in the areas of Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal. Participants will meet speakers, professionals, and visit various forensic science related sites. This opportunity will provide insight into the forensic science profession and criminal justice system as it exists in Canada.

Makeup Exam Policy: There will normally be **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES OR EXAMS** during the semester. In the event that a student has a legitimate reason for missing a quiz or exam, the student should contact the Dean of Students office and present written verifiable proof of the reason for missing the exam, e.g., a doctor's note, police report, court notice, etc. clearly stating the date AND time of the mitigating problem. The student must also notify the CES Department Office/Instructor that the exam will be missed so that appropriate steps can be taken to make up the grade.

Class Recordings: Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor. These recordings shall only be used as an educational resource and are not to be distributed or used outside of this class. Information on how to access recorded lectures will be made available by your instructor. Any recordings that contain identifiable information about students will not be used beyond this semester.

Class Recording Etiquette: Students are expected to respect their fellow students' privacy and freedom to learn without disruption. Students are not allowed to capture or reproduce anyone's name, image, or voice without permission. They must be polite and respectful in the class discussion and online chat. Informal chat is okay, but online typing is restricted to things that one would say out loud in front of the entire class. Students must always conduct themselves on their webcam video as they would in person in a classroom.

Cellular Phones: All cellular phones and other electronic devices must be switched off during all class times unless

otherwise approved by the instructor. Such devices must be stowed away or turned in during exams.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

TRIP to Canada information and details:

Please address any travel abroad questions and concerns to the Office of Global Initiative. Your contact is Vaughn Rodgers at vcr@njit.edu. Please CC Dr. Parmelee (parmelee@njit.edu) and Professor Fisher (dfisher@njit.edu) on all email communications.

Accommodation of Disabilities: Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (*formerly known as Disability Support Services*) offers long term and temporary accommodations for undergraduate, graduate and visiting students at NJIT.

If you are in need of accommodations due to a disability please contact Chantonette Lyles, Associate Director at the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services at 973-596-5417 or via email at lyles@njit.edu. The office is located in Fenster Hall Room 260. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the Office of Accessibility Resources Services office authorizing your accommodations will be required.

For further information regarding self-identification, the submission of medical documentation and additional support services provided please visit the Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) website at:

- <http://www5.njit.edu/studentsuccess/disability-support-services/>

Important Dates:

Date	Day	Event
Jan 21	T	First Day of Classes
Jan 27	M	Last Day to Add/Drop Classes
March 16-22	SU-Sat	Spring Break
April 7	M	Last Day to Withdraw
May 7	Wed	Friday Classes meet
		Last Day of Classes
May 8-9	Wed-Th	Reading Days
May 10-16	F-Th	Final Exam Period

Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	January 20	Holiday	
	January 22	Introduction to course, expectations,	
2	January 29	History of Forensic Science, The Canadian legal system and Forensic Science	Individual Topics
3	February 5	Policing, CSI, and Criminal Justice in Canada Student Presentations of Famous Cases	Individual Topics (#1) Famous Criminal Cases
4	February 12	Watch Forensic Pathologist Frances McGill	Group Work
5	February 19	AAFS (Feb 17-22, 2025)	Virtual Classes

6	February 26	Watch Wilfred Derome Discussion & Study	Group Work
7	March 5	Forensic Science Standards, Accreditation, International Ethics	Speakers
8	March 12	Mid-term Exam International Ethics topics presented	(#2) International Ethics Case

9	March 19	SPRING BREAK	TRIP to CA
10	March 26	FSS & private marketplace, CA Forensic Science educational system & standards	Individual Topics
11	April 2	Research, funding, CA Forensic Professional Associations, Forensic Science careers	Individual Topics & Speakers
12	April 9	International Human Rights, The future of Forensic Science in CA	Individual Topics
13	April 16	CSI Effect	Group Work
14	April 23	Visit to US Forensic Lab or US COURT	
15	April 30	Cap stone Presentations, Review for Final	Group Presentation
16	May 7	No classes, Thursday & Friday classes meet	Study for Final
	May 8 & 9	Reading Days	
17	TBD	Final Exam	

Updated by Dr. Parmelee – Jan 4, 2025
Department of Chemistry & Environmental Sciences
Course Syllabus, SPRING 2025
