

## FRSC 498-104: Forensic Medicine

*Spring 2025*

*M 6:00-8:50 pm (CKB 313)*

### Course Syllabus

#### COURSE INFORMATION

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the field of forensic pathology and the process of medicolegal death investigation within the criminal justice system, highlighting the intersection between forensic pathology and other forensic disciplines. Broad concepts covering the range of cases seen in forensic pathology practice will be discussed with examples of day-to-day casework. Topics covered include the role of the forensic pathologist, postmortem changes, autopsies, causes of death, classification and documentation of injuries, and toxicology.

**Number of Credits:** 3 **Prerequisites:** none

#### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

*Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.*

*Please note that my professional obligation and responsibility is to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at [dos@njit.edu](mailto:dos@njit.edu).*

#### Course-Section and Instructor

Course-Section	Instructor
FRSC 498-104	Dr. Allison Mautone
M 6:00-8:50 pm	Office: Remote
	Office Hours: by appt.
	email: <a href="mailto:AM4256@njit.edu">AM4256@njit.edu</a>

**Required Textbook:**

<b>Title</b>	Simpson's Forensic Medicine (14 <sup>th</sup> ed.)
<b>Author</b>	Jason Payne-James and Richard Jones
<b>Edition</b>	14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Publisher</b>	Taylor and Francis
<b>ISBN #</b>	978-1-4987-0429-8

Students will also be required to review additional readings and videos as assigned and 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:

- Understand the basic concepts of forensic pathology.
- Explain the role of the forensic pathologist in the criminal justice system.
- Apply the basic concepts and theories of forensic pathology to occurrences in the criminal justice system
- List and explain the various causes of death that warrant an investigation by a forensic pathologist.
- Explain the importance of thorough death investigations in the criminal justice system

## **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:

<b>Attendance/Class Participation</b>	10%
<b>Exams (20% per exam)</b>	60%
<b>Final Exam</b>	30%

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

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

**Attendance Policy:** Class attendance will be recorded and is **mandatory**. Each class is a learning experience that cannot be replicated through simply “getting the notes.” After one unexcused absence, each subsequent absence will result in your class participation score being lowered by one percentage point. (All excused absences need to go through the Dean of Students). You are expected to read the relevant chapters and/or reading assignments prior to the lecture. Two late arrivals (of more than 10 minutes) will count as one absence.

**Exams:** Exams will be taken online through Canvas. Exams will cover the lectures and reading assignments. You will need to download Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor as the exams will be given through these platforms. You will also need a computer, webcam, and good internet connection when taking the exams. The Final Exam will be comprehensive and will test your knowledge of all the course material taught over the entire course.

Exams	Mar 3, March 31, Apr 28 (in class)
Final Exam	Final Exam Week (Date TBD)

**Makeup Exam Policy:** There will normally be **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS** during the semester. In the event that a student has a legitimate reason for missing an 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 problem. The student must also notify the instructor that the exam will be missed. Subsequent exams will then count double for the missed exam.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**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 the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services at **973-596-5417** or via email at [oars@njit.edu](mailto:oars@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](#).

**Important Dates** (See: [Spring 2025 Academic Calendar](#))

Date	Event
Jan 27	First Class
Jan 27	Last day to add/drop a class
Mar 16-22	Spring Recess
May 5	Last Class
May 8-9	Reading Days
May 10-16	Final Exams

## Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	Jan 27	Introduction to death investigation and the autopsy	Chapters 2, 3, 4
2	Feb 3	Postmortem changes, time of death, identification	Chapters 5, 14
3	Feb 10	Deaths due to natural disease	Chapter 6
4	Feb 17	AAFS Conference – No class	
5	Feb 24	Blunt and sharp force trauma wounds	Chapters 8, 10
6	Mar 3	<b>Exam</b> ; Gunshot wounds	Chapter 9
7	Mar 10	Asphyxia and drowning	Chapter 11, 13
8	Mar 17	Spring Recess – No class	
9	Mar 24	Deaths due to fire, heat, cold, and electrical trauma	Chapter 12
10	Mar 31	Deaths in infancy and childhood; <b>Exam</b>	Chapters 7, 18
11	Apr 7	Deaths with sexual assault	Chapter 17
12	Apr 14	Custodial healthcare deaths/vulnerable populations	Chapters 15, 16
13	Apr 21	Drug and alcohol-related deaths	Chapters 23, 24, 25, 26
14	Apr 28	<b>Exam</b> ; Special topics	
15	May 5	Review	
	TBA	<b>Final Exam</b>	

*Updated by Allison Mautone - December 30, 2024  
Course Syllabus, Spring 2025*

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