FRSC 368 (Weds 5-7:50 pm) Instructor: Jennifer Bresett Office hours: By appointment Email: jennifer.bresett@baltimorepolice.org

### Course Description:

A survey of forensic science course that introduces students to the principles, theories, and practices of several disciplines of forensic science. Topics will include evidence types and analytical methods encountered in a typical full service forensic science laboratory. The analytical methods and theories supporting scientific crime investigation as well as providing expert testimony in a mock trial will be discussed using a variety of methods including media and lecture presentations via a synchronous/asynchronous format.

For the synchronous online meetings you are expected to be "virtually" present for these just as if we were meeting in a regular classroom. You must have a working computer, microphone, webcam, and internet connection. In the event of technical difficulty, email me immediately. Participation points may be deducted from the final grade if repeated technical difficulties or other instances of non-participation. Should the instructor be experiencing technical difficulty, wait 15 minutes before logging off. Check blackboard and your email for instructions which will be posted as soon as possible.

## Course Objective:

To learn why and how a full service forensic crime laboratory operates. Upon successful completion of this course students will have a better understanding of how several disciplines of forensic science fits into the overall scheme of criminal investigations and be aware of some of the laws and legal requirements associated with forensic evidence examinations and testimony.

#### Evaluation

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The course grade will be determin	ed as follows:
Exam 1	10%
Exam 2	10%
Assignments/Quizzes	40%
Mock Case Testimony	15%
Final Exam	15%
Participation	10%

#### Grading

A : 93-100	A-: 90-92.9	
B+: 87-89.9	B : 83-86.9	B-: 80-82.9
C+: 77-79.9	C : 70-76.9	
D+: 67-69	D : 60-66.9	
F :< 60		

Attendance and Class Participation: Students must attend class regularly. If you must be absent from class, you must notify me and provide proper documentation. Students will still be responsible for any missed work. Make-up exams will only be given in case of medical or personal emergencies (proper documentation must be provided).

*IMPORTANT*: Students who fail to appear for first session of evening classes, may forfeit their space in class. Instructors have the right to release these spaces to other students wishing to add the class to their schedules. Students who lose their spaces must officially withdraw from the course through Enrollment Services to avoid earning an FX grade for non-attendance.

Course Outline

Week 01.27	Topic Introduction to Professional Practices/Ethics
02.03	Quality Assurance Assignment Due: Ethical Scenario Exercise and Discussion on Blackboard
02.10	Crime Scene Overview Assignments Due: 1. Complete Fishbone/Cause and Effect Diagram/Review Video 2. Quality Assurance vs. Quality Control Short Answer Essay 3. Article – Forensic Science International: Basic Elements of a Quality Assurance System for Forensic Document Examiners
02.17	<b>Blood Spatter</b> Assignment Due: Crime Scene Case Scenarios
02.24	Serological Testing Assignment Due: Blood Spatter Quiz
03.03	Presentations (Serology Methods)
03.10	Exam 1/Readings FBI SWGDRUG Guidelines
03.24	Drug Analysis
03.31	DNA Analysis Assignments Due: 1. Summary of Drug Analysis Presentation by BPD Drug Analyst 2. Presumptive and Confirmatory Test/Category Assignment
04.07	Latent Prints Assignment Due: DNA Case Summary
04.14	Trace Analysis/Firearms Assignments Due: 1. Comparison Exercise 2. Article - Forensic Science International: Lumicyano 3. Watch link with Processing Lab Tour
04.21	Exam 2/Court Articles 1. Journal of Forensic Sciences – Understanding Juror Perceptions of Forensic Evidence: Investigating the Impact of Case Context on Perceptions of Forensic Evidence Strength 2. Journal of Forensic Sciences – The CSI Effect and the Canadian and the Australian Jury 3. Case Report: The Frye Hearing in Florida: An Attempt to Exclude Scientific Evidence

04.28	Role of Forensic Scientist Court
05.05	Mock Trial
05.12	Final Exam

## Students with Disabilities:

This course is in compliance with Towson University policies for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services (DSS), 7720 York Road, Suite 232, 410-704-2638 (Voice) or 410-704-4423 (TDD). Students who expect that they have a disability but do not have documentation are encouraged to contact DSS for advice on how to obtain appropriate evaluation. A memo from DSS authorizing your accommodation is needed before any accommodation can be made.

# Chemistry Department Statement on Classroom Diversity and Inclusion:

The students, faculty, and staff at Towson University represent a diverse and vibrant community of learners and scholars. As a community, we value the unique contributions of each individual and promote active participation in all aspects of the learning process by each community member. Your instructor supports Towson University's goal of fostering a diverse and inclusive educational setting. Your instructor strives to create a classroom environment built upon the principles of mutual respect and support. Toward this end, all members participating in this course are expected to demonstrate respect for all other members of the class.

# Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices:

Cell phone usage during class meetings is strictly prohibited. If you need to make a call in case of emergency (e.g., sick child, parent care, etc.), exit the classroom/meeting to the adjacent hallway or remove yourself from the group discussion. Laptops and other electronic devices may be used in the classroom at the instructor's discretion.

Academic Integrity: Dishonesty of any kind with respect to examinations and course assignments, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated. An act of cheating will result in the immediate failure of the work, notation of such action in the respective student's official college record and imposition of additional sanctions as deemed appropriate according to rules of Towson University and the Chemistry Department. Please refer to the Student Handbook regarding Student Academic Integrity.

Cheating means using, attempting to use, and/or disseminating unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids, videos or other devices in any academic exercise. This includes unauthorized communication of information during an exercise or exam. Some examples include but are not limited to: Copying from another student's paper or receiving unauthorized assistance during any graded deliverable; using books, notes or other devices (e.g., calculators, phones, watches, laptops, or other internet enabled devices) when these are not authorized; procuring without authorization tests or examinations before the scheduled exercise (including discussion of the substance of examinations and tests when it is expected these will not be discussed); copying reports, laboratory work, computer programs or files and the like from other students; collaborating on laboratory or computer work without authorization and without indication of the nature and extent of the collaboration; sending a substitute to take an examination, using solutions manuals, providing exam and assignment questions to student websites or using such a website to complete an assignment and/or exam (including free or pay websites that maintain textbook and/or instructor solutions). To clarify, copying or collaborating with other students or using external resources, including other people, on any type of assignments that are expressly designed to be completed individually is cheating.

Recorded sessions and any associated materials are designated ONLY for registered students in the class. Any sharing or dissemination of recordings beyond the student body registered in the course and section constitutes a violation of privacy and may also be categorized as cheating or defamation of character (depending on the circumstance), a possible copyright infringement.

Complicity in Academic Dishonesty means helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty. Some examples include but are not limited to: Allowing another to copy from one's paper during an examination or test; distributing test questions or substantive information about the material to be tested without authorization before the scheduled exercise; collaborating on academic work that is expressly designed to be completed individually; taking an examination or test for another student; signing a false name on an academic exercise; or sharing assignment or exam information before, during, or after the deliverable in written, electronic, video, or verbal form.

Abuse of Academic Materials means destroying, stealing, or making inaccessible library or other resource materials. Some examples include: Stealing or destroying library or reference materials needed for common academic exercises; hiding resource materials so others may not use them; destroying computer programs or files needed in academic work; stealing or intentionally destroying another student's notes or laboratory experiments; receiving assistance in locating or using sources of information in an assignment where such assistance has been forbidden by the instructor.

## Loaner Laptop Availability and Student Support Funds:

The Office of Technology Services (OTS) has a limited number of laptops to loan to students whose personal computers are unable to run Blackboard, WebEx, Zoom or applications required by the curriculum. If you need to borrow a device, speak with the instructor who can submit a request on your behalf.

The Towson University Foundation has created the Student Emergency Fund, which has some funds available to assist students in purchasing hotspots, upgrading home internet, and other necessary technologies. For more information, see their website.