

FSCI 1510 - Survey of Forensic Science

Summer 2026 Syllabus, Section 08, CRN 30305,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Robert E. Wardle III

Professional Qualifications:

MS, Forensic Science, University of Florida

MS, Chemistry, Youngstown State University

BSAS, Criminal Justice, Youngstown State University

Certificates: Death Investigation Basics, University of North Dakota; Mental Health First Aid, University of North Dakota; Cultural Competency, University of North Dakota; Death Investigation, Texas A&M; Forensic DNA and Serology, University of Florida

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Contact me if you have questions or concerns

How to Refer to me:

Professor Wardle

Course Description

1510. Survey of Forensic Science. An overview of the history, evolution, and current state of the forensic science discipline. Discussion of the scientific method and its applicability to forensic science, a description of the various sub-disciplines and areas of specialty that contribute to the field as a whole, and a summary of training, education, certification, accreditation, legal, and constitutional issues related to the discipline. There will also be discussion of the basic application of biological, physical, chemical, medical, technological, and behavioral sciences to questions of evidence and law. This course is designed to be accessible to those without a natural science background and provide a comprehensive introduction to those considering further study within the discipline. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Optional	Introduction to Forensic Science & Criminalistics. 2nd Edition	Harris, H., Lee, H.	978-1498757966

The text is not required, but can be considered a resource for supplementary information. All material necessary for successful completion the course will be provided through slide presentations, associated lectures, videos, and other assignments made available by the instructor through the Blackboard platform.

Recommended Text: Harris, H., Lee, H. (2019). *Introduction to Forensic Science & Criminalistics*. 2nd Edition. CRC Press. **The first edition of the text is available on closed reserve at the circulation desk in Maag Library.** You may use a closed reserve text **for free** within the confines of the Maag Library for three hours per session. Simply request the text at the Maag Circulation Desk.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
6/22	Section 1	Introduction and Terminology	Read syllabus and schedule
	Section 2	History and Evolution	Post introduction on Discussion board
	Section 3	Organizations and Specialties	Complete unfinished sections/quizzes
	Section 4	Physical Evidence	Complete unfinished sections/quizzes
	Section 5	Crime Scene Processing	Attempt Bonus Quizzes (optional)
	Section 6	Fingerprints	
	Section 7	Document/Toolmark/Firearm Analysis	
	Section 8	Forensic Biology	
	Section 9	Drug Analysis and Toxicology	
	Section 10	Other Analyses	
	Any Unfinished Sections		
	Any Unfinished Sections		
	Bonus Quizzes		

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.