



CCJS 320 – Sections 201 and 301

Fall 2024 Syllabus

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CRIME LABORATORY: 2401 Marie Mount Hall **No open-toe shoes or sandals are to be worn in the lab.*

MOCK CRIME SCENE FACILITY: 0406 Marie Mount Hall

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment.

Welcome to CCJS 320, Introduction to Criminalistics, a blended learning course. The format of the course is as follows:

- All content, lectures, and reading material are online.
- Lab classes are once a week for 2 hours. Activities include practical exercises and mock crime scenes and physical evidence processing and examination.
- There are 24 students in this class. .
- Each section is divided into three eight-person teams. The teams are named after the UMD colors, Gold, Red, and Black. Each team is assigned to a crime scene that you will be working on together as a team throughout the semester.
 - - **Gold Team** - Crime Scene 1 (Office Homicide Scene)
 - **Red Team** - Crime Scene 2 (Bedroom Rape Scene)
 - **Black Team** - Crime Scene 3 (Outside Vehicle Homicide Scene)
- You will be assigned to one of the three teams during the first lab class.
- Each member of the eight-person team will have a specific responsibility that will be assigned to you, also during the first lab class.

We are using an etextbook written by section 101 instructor, Tom Mauriello, that integrates all the content of this course into one neat learning package. It is entitled, "*Introduction to Criminalistics - From Crime Scene to Court Room*," published by Great River Learning. It is suggested that you purchase this etextbook software as soon as possible. See below for details on how to purchase it. Please read the following very carefully.

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Welcome to CCJS 320! It is a *flipped* classroom, *blended learning (BL)*, *hybrid* formatted course. The course takes a strategic look at the scientific methods used in the investigation, detection, and solution of a crime.

As a class, we explore all the vital phases of the criminal investigation process and forensic sciences (Criminalistics) from the *crime scene* to the *courtroom*.

Each week you will experience a combination of video lectures, written content, federal standards, guest interviews from the instructor's webcast TV series, video clips from TV documentaries, and other learning events. You will complete in-module activity exercises to test your knowledge as you go along, case studies, mock hearing exercises, and homework activities that give you an opportunity to demonstrate your grasp of the material presented, most of which you will complete outside the crime laboratory at your convenience.

Each Monday during your scheduled class section time period, you will be in the crime laboratory engaged in hands-on activities, case studies, and processing of your assigned mock crime scene and related evidence.

2. TEAM LEADERS (TO BE LISTED HERE WHEN ASSIGNED)

3. COURSE "VIDEO LECTURE" [VL] ASSIGNMENTS: The video lectures for each of the modules of study are contained in the etextbook. The time duration for each of the sub-module video lectures is anywhere from 3 to 35 minutes in length. The video content includes Professor Mauriello lecturing on-camera, as well as his accompanying PowerPoint slides and other A/V presentations.

4. COURSE REQUIRED "READING" ASSIGNMENTS: All reading assignments are integrated into the etextbook.

5. PODCAST VIEWING ASSIGNMENTS: Some of the modules have episodes to view from Professor Mauriello's webcast TV show, ForensicWeek.com. [Check here](#) for more on this show hosted by Professor Mauriello.

6. ONLINE QUIZZES: There is NO mid-term or final examination in this course. The etextbook has a quiz at the end of each module posted and administered online. A specific window of time for you to complete these quizzes is listed. Quizzes can only be taken during the

listed period of time. Times may change or be adjusted during the semester, so students must be attentive when these changes are communicated.

7. REQUIRED BOOKS: eTextbook - *Introduction to Criminalistics - From Crime Scene to Court Room,* author Thomas P. Mauriello, ISBN#: 9781680754469. **(Electronic ONLY)**. You purchase it online direct from the publisher, Great River Learning. [Click here to register and purchase online](#). Click purchase and select University of Maryland College Park. It will take you to a dropdown menu where you can select Introduction to Criminalistics. When entering your information, be sure to select your correct section, Section 0101.

8. EVALUATION and GRADING SYSTEM:

15% Laboratory Attendance:*

25% Laboratory and written Exercises:

30% Quizzes:*

10% Textbook Activity Exercises

20% Final Crime Scene Team Presentation

* Video lectures and Reading assignments scheduled in the etextbook calendar including the associated quizzes, must be completed prior to attending the corresponding content laboratory session. Students who have NOT taken the quiz scheduled prior to a Tuesday laboratory session will NOT be allowed to attend or participate in that laboratory session. That would result in losing lab attendance and lab exercise credit for that lab class.

9. LABORATORY ASSIGNMENTS and SCHEDULING:*

Attendance is required during scheduled laboratory sessions. Registered students in all three sections will attend laboratory classes in their regularly scheduled time period. Section TAs will always be available in the lab during these scheduled class times. See "Laboratory Attendance" in the Assignment tab and course Calendar.

*Students are required to attend their assigned laboratory sessions throughout the semester. If a circumstance arises when a student is unable to attend their scheduled lab but could attend one of the other sessions, then the student must make that request by coordinating with their TA.

The CCJS 320 is scheduled as follows: Section 0201 - 3:30 P.M to 5:30 PM and Section 0301 – 6pm-8pm

10. TEACHING ASSISTANT:

0201 – Chante Grant- cgrant17@terpmail.umd.edu

0301- Tara Gabriele – tgab@terpmail.umd.edu

11. TEACHING ASSISTANT OFFICE HOURS: Mon 4:30pm-6:30pm (Grant) Thurs 11:30am-1:30pm (Gabriele)

12. CRIME LAB KITS: A Crime Lab Kit is signed out to each CCJS 320 student during the first lab session. The kit contains the necessary expendable materials and analysis tools needed to complete certain homework assignments during the semester. At the end of the semester, the kits **MUST** be returned no later than the last lab class.

13. UNIVERSITY REGULATION, GUIDELINES, and Policies: [Click here.](#)

14. TEAM LEADER REPORT WRITING CHAPTER: [Report Writing Chapter-1.pdf](#)

15. CSI TEAM ASSIGNMENTS: Team Assignments TBA

16. Class Schedule and Module Content:

In-Lab 1 - First Day of Class - In-Person - Aug. 27, 2024 - Obtain etextbook

Online ONLY - Module #1 - Introduction - Sep. 3, 2024

In-Lab 2 - Module #2 - Quality and Usefulness of Evidence - Sep. 10, 2024

In-Lab 3 - Module #3 - Crime Scene and Preservation of Physical Evidence - Sep. 17, 2024

In-Lab 4 - Module #11 - Death Investigation - Sep. 24, 2024

In-Lab 5 - Module #4 - Fingerprints - Oct. 1, 2024

In-Lab 6 - Module #4 continued - Fingerprints – Oct. 8, 2024

In-Lab 7 - Module #5 - Toolmarks and Impressions - Oct. 15, 2024

In-Lab 8 - Module #6 - Firearm Identification and Ballistics - Oct. 22, 2024

In-Lab 10 - Module #8 - Transfer and Trace Evidence - Oct. 29, 2024

In-Lab 11 - Module #9 - Questioned Documents – Nov 5, 2024

In-Lab 12- Module #10 - Polygraph - Nov 12, 2024

In-Lab 13- Testimony Module – Nov 19, 2024

In-Lab 14- Wrap Up Final Presentations with Teams

Last Day of Class - Final Team Presentations - Dec 3, 2024