

# International Perspectives of Forensic Science – 2019

Primary Instructor: Kimberlee Moran, MSc, RPA ([k.moran@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:k.moran@camden.rutgers.edu), SCI 302)

Date	Time	Subject
25 Jan	12.30-15.20	Introduction to course, course expectations, History of Forensic Science, The UK legal systems & Forensic Science
01 Feb	12.30-15.20	Policing and Criminal Justice in the UK, Crime Scene Investigation
08 Feb	12.30-15.20	<b>No Class</b>
15 Feb	12.30-15.20	Student Presentations of Famous Cases, Forensic Science and the Media (The CSI Effect)
22 Feb		<b>No Class (AAFS)</b>
01 Mar	12.30-15.20	Watch "A Study In Pink" Discussion class on Study in Pink v Study in Scarlet
08 Mar	12.30-15.20	Forensic Science Standards, The Forensic Science Regulator & Accreditation, The FSS Story and the Private Forensic Science Marketplace
18 - 22 Mar		<b>Spring Break; CSI Exercise, CSI presentation videos</b>
29 Mar	12.30-15.20	UK educational system & standards, research, funding, UK Forensic Professional Associations, Forensic Science Careers
5 Apr	12.30-15.20	International Human Rights, the future of Forensic Science in the UK and EU
12 Apr		<b>No Class (SAA)</b>
19 Apr		Visit to US court
26 Apr		Visit to US Forensic Lab
03 May		<b>No Class</b>
17 May	12.30-14.00	Trip overview and instructions (lunch provided)
24 May – 08 Jun		<b>***UK Trip*** See separate trip itinerary</b>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

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*All sessions will be held in CNS-346A unless otherwise informed.*

I. **Teaching Faculty:**

**Kimberlee Moran, MSc, RPA**

Associate Teaching Professor & Director of Forensics

SCI 302

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II. **Programme Description:**

Since the late 19th century, the United Kingdom has been pivotal in both the development of forensic techniques and the setting of forensic science standards. Recent media attention has thrust forensics reluctantly into the spotlight to both positive and negative effect. This course aims to introduce the history and evolution of forensic science, significant cases, and the framework of international standards within forensic science. We will examine how forensic science is practiced in the UK, the strengths and weaknesses of the US and UK systems, and how the discipline is changing in each country. Finally, we will consider a number of related disciplines and issues, such as evidence admissibility, the CSI effect, human rights, and forensic regulation to gain a broader understanding of forensics' modern role and future development within criminal justice.

The on-campus portion of this course will introduce students to key historical figures and milestones within forensic science. We will examine the similarities and differences between the Scottish, English and American legal systems as they pertain to forensic science and how these systems regulate and maintain standards within the profession. Finally we will look at popular media and its influence on the practice and perception of forensic sciences. Assessment will be through a combination of essays, oral presentations and classroom discussion of case studies. A final discussion document will be due following the international visit.

The field study will take place in the United Kingdom, starting in London and finishing in Manchester. Other stops include Leeds, Bradford, and Wakefield. Through site visits and guest speakers, students will gain insight into the forensic profession as it exists in the UK, UK laboratory practice, forensic standards and regulation in the UK and Europe, and the presentation of forensic evidence in British courts. The UK also provides the unique opportunity to visit sites key to the history of forensic science. Some of the trip highlights include the Hunterian Museum, a Jack the Ripper tour, trips to court in session at the Magistrates and Crown levels, Middle Temple Hall, the Sherlock Holmes Museum, the West Yorkshire Scientific Support headquarters, the Bradford and Manchester police museums, plus talks by CSIs, lab scientists, barristers, and forensic researchers. Each of these places and speakers will be introduced during the classroom component of the course with an emphasis on its relevance to the key aim and objectives.

The length of the field trip will be 10 days. This course is intended for students in biology and chemistry, specifically those interested in the new forensic programs coming to campus, and is also applicable for Criminal Justice, Anthropology, Sociology, Public Policy, and History majors. Both graduate and undergraduate students are welcome.

III. **Textbooks:**

Please purchase the following book:

1. [\(1886\) Doyle, Arthur Conan. \*A Study in Scarlet\*.](#)

Additional readings will be posted on Sakai either under "Resources" or as an announcement. It is essential that you check your Rutgers e-mail as all course announcements will be sent there.

IV. **Educational Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students will:

- Have a better understanding of key historical figures and milestones within Forensic Science
- Be able to articulate the similarities and differences between the Scottish, English and American legal systems as they pertain to Forensic Science.
- Be able to identify International Standards within Forensic Science and describe how or how they are not applied in the UK and the US

V. **Class Participation:**

Participation in each class by the student is crucial to exemplify the student's understanding of the material. Each student is expected to read any assigned material in advance and come to each class prepared to discuss the topic. Where possible, students will be allocated reading material prior to class. This information will be disseminated via Blackboard.

VI. **Assessment:**

The assessment for this course consists of **seven** (7) components each contributing to the final grade as outlined below. The taught material will be assessed as follows:

- 1) ***Famous case or forensic scientist presentation (due 15 Feb)***: Each student will present a non-US based case in which Forensic Science played an important role. Presentations will be 15 minutes and will take place in class. The presentation should include a summary of the case, the verdict in the case and the way in which Forensic Science was utilised. Examples of cases you may consider are Burke and Hare, The Worlds End Murders, Harold Shipman and Moira Jones (Peter Tobin)
- 2) ***Study in Scarlet v Study in Pink – in class discussion (due 01 March)***: Read "A Study in Scarlet" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle before class on Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. We will watch the new BBC version "A Study in Pink" in class and will discuss the similarities/differences and the forensic science. Be prepared to discuss!
- 3) ***CSI exercise (due 20 March)***: Over Spring Break, watch an episode of your favorite fictional forensic show (CSI, Bones, NCIS, etc). Prepare two power point slides. One slide

should have the name of the show, the date it aired, and a brief summary of what happened in the episode. The other slide should list at least 5 things you noticed as being downright wrong or at least questionable. Include why you think they were wrong or questionable. It could be that the technology is wrong or was too quick. It could be contamination issues or incorrect police procedures. Record yourself presenting the slides and upload to Sakai.

- 4) **Short paper (due 5 April):** Students will write a 3,500 word essay. At least 5 sources should be cited. Use either Times New Roman or Ariel font (10pt -12pt). Spacing should be set at 1.5 lines with 1 inch margins all around. You may add additional pages of images if you feel they are needed to illustrate your text. Citation format is up to you and your bibliography is in addition to the word limit. Use primary sources as much as possible. Websites are acceptable but limit their use and **make sure** there is not a better source, such as a book or journal article, first. If you have any further questions, feel free to ask. We will be using Turnitin to check for plagiarism. Use UK English and spelling as much as possible. Below is a list of possible titles from which to choose. Other topics are very welcome, just be sure to run it by your instructors first. If you choose your own topic, remember this is a "short" paper so make sure the scope of your topic is appropriate to the page length.

**Possible Essay Titles:**

- Interview of an international practitioner of forensic science (We can provide you with contacts)
- Compare/contrast "normal/traditional" science with forensic science
- The process crime scene to court and the involvement of scientific support
- Discussion of a recent human rights violation and how forensic techniques were utilised
- An overview of forensic services in the UK and the effectiveness of the UK system
- Comparison of UK & US forensic TV shows
- How forensic science is used in civil cases
- Privacy rights vs. police investigations
- Ethics of biometric databases (fingerprints and DNA)
- How forensic science will develop in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: new techniques are heading our way

- 5) **Trip participation (24 May -08 June, 2018):** A major part of this course is a trip to England. The itinerary for this trip will be discussed with you throughout the course and a full itinerary provided prior to departure. We have several activities planned during the trip that link directly to the classroom content and attendance at these is mandatory. A pre-trip briefing on Friday, 17 May is also mandatory.
- 6) **Post-trip reflective essay (due 10 June):** Upon return to the US, you will submit a 1,500 word reflective essay regarding your perspective of Forensic Science in the UK versus the US.
- 7) **Post-trip thank-you e-mails (due 10 June):** During our trip we will visit a range of

locations and meet several speakers. Choose two people who interacted with our group and send them an e-mail thanking them. Include what you learned and why you enjoyed that particular visit. Make sure your professor is CC'ed onto the message

VII. **Evaluation and Grading:**

Famous case or forensic scientist presentation	15%
Read study in Scarlet & watch Study in Pink	10%
Class discussion of videos	5%
CSI exercise	10%
Short paper	15%
Trip participation	15%
Post-trip thank-you e-mails	15%
<u>Post-trip reflective essay</u>	<u>15%</u>
Total	100 points

VIII. **Attendance:**

Please make every effort to be present for class on time. If you do not attend class you will miss information that is not always available in the text or elsewhere that you will be responsible for on assessments; you will miss information as to schedule changes that may arise.

IX. **Late Assignments:**

Unless you have a legitimate excuse, absence, or emergency, you may not make-up any missed work and will thus receive a 0 for that assignment. Late assignments will not be graded and the student will receive a 0 for the assignment turned in late.

X. **Academic Policies:**

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University Code of Academic Integrity (<https://fas.camden.rutgers.edu/faculty/faculty-resources/academic-integrity-policy/>). Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. All writing assignment should be an original work by a student. Students are highly recommended to educate themselves on the subject; <http://library.camden.rutgers.edu/EducationalModule/Plagiarism/whatisplagiarism.html> Forensic science is a profession that is internally maintained by ethics and personal integrity.

XI. **Classroom Courtesy:**

Please do not catch up on sleep, search your wireless internet connection, text message your friends, listen to your iPod, read the newspaper or other unrelated materials, during class. Please turn cell phones off during class.

XII. **Students with Disabilities:**

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a

student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.