I. LOCATOR INFORMATION:

- **Semester/year:** Spring 2014
- **Course:** FORS 300-01 Professional Practice in Forensic Science
- **Semester hours:** 3
- **Day/Time Class Meets:** Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 to 9:15 AM
- **Room/Building:** STB 338
- **Instructor:** Marcus A. Hunt
- **Office Location:** STB 323
- **Office Telephone:** 672-2304
- **FSU e-mail:** mhunt4@uncfsu.edu
- **Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday: 11:30 to 1:30 PM or by appointment

### FSU Policy on Electronic Mail
Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail. Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at [http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf](http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf)

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course analyzes scientific methods and quality control/quality assurance issues in forensic investigations. Class lectures will focus on scientific integrity, ethical behavior, ethics standards, and various examples of ethics violations and misconduct in the forensic science laboratories. Ethical issues regarding evidence handling, data analysis, and courtroom testimony will be discussed and the students will be introduced to the important and sensitive issues surrounding professional integrity and ethics. At the end of the course, students should have understanding of scientific integrity and ethics as they relate to criminalistics and forensic science. Students will also be introduced to several professional codes of ethics and common ethical dilemmas that may confront forensic scientists. Moreover, students will also search an employment in a crime laboratory: locating jobs, preparing for interviews. The course will also be judged through the development of technical/scientific speaking and writing skills.

**Prerequisite:** FORS 200 required. Co-requisite: CRJC 202: Open only to majors in Forensic Program or permission of instructor.

III. DISABLED STUDENT SERVICES:
In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.

IV. TEXTBOOK (REQUIRED):

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Describe the culture of the crime laboratory system in the US as shaped by the history and development of the system as an outgrowth of policing
2. Describe the major ethical systems used by forensic scientists today
3. Determine how common ethical situations are handled by these systems
4. Describe how quality assurance and quality control are practiced in forensic science labs today
5. Explain the fundamental concepts of effective expert testimony and put them into practice in a mock trial situation
6. Construct an effective resume targeted at a forensic science lab position
7. Effectively carry out a mock interview for a forensic science lab position

VI. EVALUATION CRITERIA/GRADING SCALE:

Evaluation will be based primarily on exams and assignments as outlined below. The method of grading is subject to change with notice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Three exams will be given consisting of material from lecture discussions, reading, and other class assignments. The format of the exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, matching, identification, definition, and short answer/essay questions. The third exam will be administered according to the university final exam schedule. Each exam will be comprehensive (consists of material from previous exam(s)). University-approved documentation is required to make up an exam.

Assignments will consist of several brief essays and group activities. This includes mock testimony and job interview.

Presentations will be assigned throughout the course on various topics including forensic science ethics and quality issues.

Quizzes will be given announced or unannounced. Some quizzes maybe given at the very beginning or at the end of the class period. The quizzes serve as a review of recently covered material and will be corrected during class. As such, there will be no makeup quizzes allowed under any circumstances.

Extra credit will only be given for attending select university events. Any other extra credit assignments will not be given under any circumstances.

The grading scale for the course outlined below is approximate and subject to change with notice by the instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Behavior Expectations: The instructor will respect all students and will make every effort to maintain a classroom climate that promotes learning for all students. Students must accept their responsibility for maintaining a positive classroom environment by abiding by the following rules:

1. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, remain in class until dismissed by the instructor, and refrain from preparing to leave class until it is dismissed.
2. Students are not permitted to sleep in class.
3. Student/teacher relationships, as well as relationships among peers, must be respectful at all times.
4. Students are not permitted to wear headphones or other paraphernalia that may be distracting to the classroom environment.
5. Students must refrain from any activity that will disrupt the class; this includes turning on cell phones and pagers.
6. Students are not permitted to use profanity in the classroom.
7. Students should not pass notes or carry on private conversations while class is being conducted.
Consequences for Failing to Meet Behavioral Expectations: The first time a student violates one of these rules, the instructor will warn him or her privately, either after class or before the next class. The second time a student violates the guidelines, the instructor may deduct as many as twenty points from the student’s next exam grade. If a student violates the guidelines three times, the instructor will report the student to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action according to the FSU Code of Student Conduct.

Academic Support Resources – The Learning Center in the H.T. Chick Building is available to assist students with writing, mathematics, and reading.

VII. COURSE OUTLINE WITH ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

See attached assignment list below

VIII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to take all exams on the date they are scheduled. Make-up exams will not be given unless the student presents university-approved documentation before the third class period following the initial date of the test or special arrangements have been made with your instructor prior to the exam date. Only in exceptional cases will any exceptions to these rules be made.

As a student in this course, you are responsible for all work assigned, whether or not you are present. Extensive use of Blackboard is required for this course. Therefore, you expected to check the class site daily. Late assignments will be deducted 10 points per 24 hour period the assignment is late. Assignments submitted via e-mail will not be accepted.

Students are required to attend all classes regularly and to keep appointments when they are scheduled. It is the responsibility of each student to be informed of the academic requirements of the instructor.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are required to read the University attendance policy very carefully. It will be enforced in all classes as follows.

- **X = NO SHOW** – Assigned to students who are on a class roster, but never attend class. For warning purposes only; NOT a final grade.
- **EA = EXCESSIVE ABSENCES** - Assigned to students whose class absences exceed 10% of the total contact hours. For warning purposes only, NOT a final grade.
- **FN = FAILURE DUE TO NON-ATTENDANCE** – Final grade for students who are on class roster, but never attend the class. An FN grades is equivalent to an F grade in the calculation of the GPA.

The instructor will not withdraw a student from the class. Students must drop or withdraw* from the class according to the deadlines published in the catalog. *See warnings below about class withdrawals.

- Students receive no refund for withdrawing from individual classes and they slow their progress toward degree completion.
- Students who withdraw from or fail more than one-third of their classes will no longer be eligible for financial aid.
- **STUDENTS MUST STRIVE TO EARN CREDIT FOR ALL THE CLASSES IN WHICH THEY ENROLL. STUDENTS SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM CLASSES ONLY WHEN IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.**

IX. TEACHING STRATEGIES

Emphasis will be placed on student understanding of basic concepts and principles. The first part of each lecture period will consist of a review of the previous material covered in the class. Students will work in small groups when conducting some activities but will be expected to do their own assessment and reports.
X. REFERENCES

All Forensic Science students are encouraged to use the library and to do supplemental reading in the biological sciences. The following Forensic Science websites provide a source of current information in a format appropriate for both the major and non-major biology student.

http://www.aafs.org/ (American Academy of Forensic Sciences)
http://www.soft-tox.org/ (Society of Forensic Toxicologists)
http://www.ascld.org/ (American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors)
http://www.afte.org  (Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners)
http://www.cacnews.org (California Association of Criminalists)

In addition students should use the Internet to investigate topics of interest and to acquire pertinent information.