

Course **CHEM-102. Introduction to Forensic Chemistry**

Description: This course, intended for non-science majors, will examine selected topics in forensic science. Through an understanding of basic chemical principles, this course will investigate the role of science in solving crimes. Topics may include fingerprint analysis, fiber identification, blood typing and analysis, drug identification, and DNA profiling. Case studies will be used to explore the scientific foundation for the examination of physical, chemical, and biological evidence. Three hours of lecture. *Three semester hours.*

NOTE: A student who has received credit for CHEM-105 may not enroll in CHEM-102. CHEM-102 may not be used as elective credits for chemistry majors or minors.

Instructor: Dr. Victor J. Tortorelli
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Office Hours: as posted on office door or as posted on <http://webpages.ursinus.edu/vtortorelli/schedule.html> or by appointment

Class Meetings: MWF 11:00 to 11:50 AM
Pfahler 209

Lecture Topics: An approximate schedule of class topics and reading assignments will be attached to this syllabus.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken for advising purposes. The College's attendance policy is found on page 42 of the *2005 – 2006 Course Catalogue*. I expect students to attend all scheduled classes. An academic warning may be issued to any student who has missed three or more classes and a student may be excluded from the course if more than five classes are missed.

Textbooks: **Criminalistics – An Introduction to Forensic Science**, ninth edition,
Richard Saferstein
Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007

Investigating Chemistry,
Matthew E. Jhll
W. H. Freeman, 2007
ISBN 0-7167-6433-4

BlackBoard Site: A BlackBoard™ site has been established for this course. You will find all PowerPoint presentations under Course Documents. In addition, several links to useful websites and copies of all class handouts will be posted.

Grading: Your grade will be based on your performance on three hourly exams (60%), quizzes and/or written assignments (15%), and a cumulative final examination (25%).

Quizzes:

Quiz #1	Monday, February 5 th
Quiz #2	Friday, March 2 nd
Quiz #3	Wednesday, April 11 th

Exams:

Exam #1	Friday, February 12 th
Exam #2	Wednesday, March 26 th
Exam #3	Monday, April 26 th
Final Exam	Tuesday, May 8 th 9AM - noon

Attendance at quizzes and examinations is required. Quizzes and examinations are scheduled during our regular class period (except for the final exam). In general, make-up exams or quizzes will NOT be administered. Anyone who is absent will receive the grade of “zero” for that exam or quiz, except in the case of an excused absence. The student who is legitimately ill must present a physician’s excuse, stating not only that the student was seen by the physician but also that the student’s illness made it impossible for her or him to sit for the examination. Illness before an exam or quiz is not considered to be a legitimate excuse, as you are expected to keep up-to-date with the material and not allow the bulk of your studying to be done immediately before the exam. College-sponsored activities (such as athletic events, musical programs, etc.) are not considered valid reasons for missing an exam or quiz. Such conflicts should be brought to the attention of the instructor during the first week of classes. In extraordinary cases, at the discretion of the instructor, a make-up exam or quiz may be given.

Academic Honesty: The College’s Statement on Academic Honesty is found on pages 42 – 43 of the 2005 – 2006 *Course Catalogue*. A more detailed explanation can be found within the *Student Handbook*.

Writing Assignments: You will write a summary of the scientific methodology used in two case studies of your choice. The first case study is due on or before Friday, March 2nd and the second case study (as a PowerPoint presentation) is due by Friday, April 20th. Specific details and examples will be provided during the second week of class.