NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Course Title: FORENSIC SCIENCE AND THE LEGAL PROCESS

Course Code: LAW 4805/LS805

Semester: Fall 2008

Text Book: Criminalistics 9th edition by Richard Saferstein

Instructor: Dr. Laina Karthikeyan

Telephone: 718-260-5953
Office hours: Monday-5-6pm
              Wednesday-1-2pm

E-Mail: LKarthikeyan@citytech.cuny.edu

Office: P313

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Forensic science is the application of science to the law and encompasses various scientific disciplines. This course will introduce various methodologies and applications used in the forensic context. Topics discussed include principles of serology and DNA analysis, drug analysis, forensic toxicology and forensic odontology. The format of the course is mainly lectures in class and it is a hybrid course.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

 Richard Saferstein. 2004. *Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science*, **9th edition. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

   Students should develop basic scientific literacy, understanding of the scientific method of inquiry and appreciate the impact of science on society. Upon completion of this course, the student should:

   1. Understand the basic concepts of forensic science, including crime scene searches and testing reported in the media.

2. Gather and interpret data and form conclusions consistent with the data.

3. Understand and interpret media reports on topics similar in nature to forensic science such as DNA analysis issues, both pro and con, and application of science to legal matters.

4. Use logical and critical thinking skills in problem solving in their major areas of study.

5. Understand the importance and wide applicability of scientific methodology to problems in all areas of their lives.

TEACHING/LEARNING METHODS:
Lecture/Discussion
Blackboard Discussion groups
Guest Presentation

Course Calendar:

	Topics	**Reading Assignments**
9/8	History and Development of Forensic Science	Chapter 1
9/15	The Crime Scene No class meeting	Chapter 2: The Crime Scene Questions (Blackboard)
9/22	Chain of evidence	Chapter 3: Physical Evidence CD on the crime laboratory
10/6	DNA I No class meeting	Chapter 13: DNA- The Indispensable Forensic Science Tool (DNA

		Analysis)
10/20	DNA II	DNA Reading Packet Readings on the O.J. Simpson Trial Review for exam 1 and Take-home exam-due 10/24)
10/27	Blood /Serology No class meeting	Chapter 12: Forensic Serology Questions on Blackboard
11/3	Toxicology	Chapter 10: Forensic Toxicology
11/10	Review	Chapters 10, 12 and 13
11/17	Exam 2	
11/24	Explosives and Firearms No class meeting	Chapter 15: Firearms Case Readings
12/01	Drugs	Chapter 9: Drugs
12/08	Forensic Odontology	Guest Lecture
12/15	Computer Forensics	Handouts and Case Readings. Take-home exam
12/22		Take-home exam due

GRADING:

Take- home Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	30%
Take-Home Exam	30%
Attendance and Blackboard quizzes	10%
Total	**100%**