

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Teaching method:** Seminar

**Method of evaluation:** **The evaluation is based 30% on a mid-term memorandum (10 pages) discussing two of the forensic sciences discussed up until that point in the course and 70% on a final paper (20 pages) responding to a hypothetical covering three of the forensic sciences discussed after the mid-term memorandum.**

Each student will prepare a mid-term memorandum on two forensic topics as selected by the professors from the first four lectures; it will be due early November. The memorandum should be a maximum of 10 pages in length (12 font double spaced). The memorandum should feature legal analysis of that forensic science and an assessment of its value to the Canadian justice system. It can include opinions as to whether the courts' assessment is an appropriate one.

The final paper will be a response to a hypothetical that will touch on three forensic sciences discussed in the second half of the course. The paper will be a maximum of 20 pages and will discuss the forensic sciences at issue in the hypothetical, what issues those sciences are relevant to and the evidence that should be elicited from the experts.

**Course objective(s):** The objective of this course is to give students a general understanding of the application of scientific knowledge to the purposes of the law. It will familiarize students with some of the areas of science which are involved in the court process, particularly in criminal trials, and the role of the expert witness.

**Course description:** The course is intended to be an introduction to the various scientific aspects of forensic sciences that are often relied upon in the criminal justice system; as part of each lecture there will be discussion about the law that has developed around the various science, however, the course is primarily aimed at educating students on the science. The course will begin with an introductory lecture on the law relating to expert evidence and the role of legal ethics as it applies to forensic science. The ten lectures that follow will consist of presentations given by recognized experts on topics including fingerprints, bloodstain pattern analysis, impairment by alcohol and drugs, DNA, pathology, psychiatry, firearms, and computer crime. The presentations will include discussion about the involvement of the police, experts, crown attorneys and defence counsels and will make reference to court cases where the science has played a role.

**Materials used:** To be provided by professors

**Maximum enrolment:** 40

**Schedule:** Monday, 19:00 to 22:00