

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **CJUS 360**

#### **INTRODUCTION TO FORENSICS**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introductory overview of forensics and how it is applied to the justice system by law enforcement agencies. This course demonstrates the importance of documenting physical evidence and identifying various kinds of evidence such as: fingerprints, trace, tool marks, DNA, etc.

#### **RATIONALE**

This course is an introduction to Crime Scene Investigation and what you might expect to see in a law enforcement field, placing emphasis on Forensic Science. It is applicable to future career choices whether you seek local, state or federal law enforcement or your goal is to become a lawyer, paralegal or other professional related to law or law enforcement. This course will provide realistic insights in addressing the challenges of a career in CSI and compare the pros and cons of sworn vs. civilian.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word  
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify how a crime scene is secured and how physical physical evidence is created.
- B. Compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of Civilian vs. Sworn CSI.

- C. Evaluate a selected portion of the NAS report regarding the future of forensic science in America.
- D. Demonstrate how to manipulate camera manual settings by taking pictures using depth of field, lighting, and extended exposure through a manipulation of the aperture and shutter settings.
- E. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of fingerprint development using magnetic powder, be able to identify the three types of fingerprint classifications and properly collect known and unknown samples of DNA.
- F. Incorporate Biblical principles throughout the modules applying scriptural truths to better appreciate the nature of physical evidence and God who loves justice.

## V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board forums (6)

There will be 3 traditional opportunities for discussion participation to be graded on topics provided in Blackboard. The traditional posts can be edited but not removed, and file attachments are discouraged. The student will present his or her own informed opinion on the assigned topic forums in at least a 400–600-word thread (with citations to support assertions for full credit). In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 200 words. Minimums listed must not be the student's maximum—minimal participation means a minimally passing grade. Both the thread and the replies must cite course-specific and non-course-specific material.

Discussion Board Photo Submissions: In addition to the 3 traditional discussion boards, there will also be 3 photo submissions where the student will post to the Discussion Board Forum.

1. Discussion Board Forum 2: Evidence Photo

Drawing from the presentations, the student will practice taking overall, reference, and close up photos of a single item of evidence of his or her choice. The student will practice taking multiple photos but will be required to submit only 4 photographs, featuring the following elements: 1) Overall, 2) Reference or contextual photo, 3) Close up without scale, and 4) Close up with scale.

2. Discussion Board Forum 3: Latent Photo

The student will draw from the textbook and presentations and develop 1 latent fingerprint on a paper surface using magnetic powder. Upon completion, the student will practice photographing his or her latent fingerprint that has been developed and attempt to classify the print by

referring to the textbook and presentations. One close-up photograph of the developed print (with scale) will be submitted along with the attempted classification of a Loop, Whorl, or Arch.

3. Discussion Board Forum 5: Paint with Light Photo

The student will submit a single photo taken with an extended shutter speed in a dark environment and use a light source (such as a flashlight) to paint the dark scene making it bright. The purpose of this exercise is to simulate an overall photograph of a crime scene with low light conditions.

D. Exams (2)

Exam 1: Exam 1 will consist of 25 true/false and multiple-choice questions. The exam will be open-book/open-notes, and the student will have 45 minutes to complete the assessment.

Exam 2: Exam 2 will consist of 50 true/false, multiple-choice, short answer, and matching questions. The exam will be open-book/open-notes, and the student will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete the assessment.

## VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist		10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 100 pts ea)		300
Discussion Board Photo Submissions:		
Discussion Board Forum 2: Evidence Photo		100
Discussion Board Forum 3: Latent Photo		100
Discussion Board Forum 5: Paint with Light Photo		100
Exam 1	(Modules/Weeks 1–2)	150
Exam 2	(Modules/Weeks 3–7)	250
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.

4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. CJUS Policy

The nature of the criminal justice community demands that persons involved be of a high level of integrity, and education is not merely academic in nature, but is holistic. Students enrolled in CJUS courses will be held to a high standard. Self-control is imperative for CJUS practitioners. If not “merely” to honor Christ, your family, and this academic institution, on a purely pragmatic level, in anticipation of future employability in the career field of your choice, conduct yourselves so as not to place yourselves in difficult and embarrassing situations.

E. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **CJUS 360**

Textbook: Gaensslen et al., *Introduction to Forensic Science and Criminalistics* (2008).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Gaensslen et al.: chs. 1–2 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 100
<b>2</b>	Gaensslen et al.: chs. 3–5 1 presentation	Exam 1	150
<b>3</b>	Digital Camera Operations Booklet 2 presentations	DB Forum 2: Evidence Photo	100
<b>4</b>	Gaensslen et al.: chs. 6–7 2 presentations	DB Forum 3: Latent Photo	100
<b>5</b>	Gaensslen et al.: chs. 9–10 1 presentation	DB Forum 4	100
<b>6</b>	Review Gaensslen et al.: ch. 5 1 presentation	DB Forum 5: Paint with Light Photo	100
<b>7</b>	Gaensslen et al.: ch. 8 2 presentations	Exam 2	250
<b>8</b>	1 web report	DB Forum 6	100
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.