



CRIMINOLOGY 3135-WAO - DEATH INVESTIGATION -WINTER 2020

LECTURE: TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 1:00 - 2:30 pm

ROOM: OA 2019

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Carolan Wood

EMAIL: cwood3@lakeheadu.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday & Thursday 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

OFFICE: 3rd flr, Simcoe Hall Desk #5

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An exploration of the process of death investigation through corresponding scientific, legal, and social perspectives. An investigation of the tools, techniques and protocols associated with the performance of rigorous forensic death investigations at the scene and in autopsy provides non-medical students with a general introduction to forensic pathology that emphasizes the principles of forensic death investigation. Critical reflection is also dedicated to subjectivity in forensics investigations, including debated techniques, cases, and the influence of social milieus and identities on objectivity in science.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Melinek J & TJ Mitchell. 2014. *Working Stiff: Two years, 262 bodies, and the making of a Medical Examiner*. NY: Simon & Schuster. ISBN 978-1-4767-2726-4

Prahlow J. 2010. *Forensic Pathology for Police, Death Investigators, Attorneys, and Forensic Scientists*. NY: Springer. Ebook available in content under 'Readings' or through the LU library

For additional course materials see course schedule and 'Additional Readings /Course links' pdf.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate foundational knowledge of medico-legal death investigation in Canada
- Articulate the ethical and legal responsibilities of the forensic pathologist
- Comprehend the scientific and conceptual basis for determination of the cause and manner of death
- Differentiate between traumatic deaths including blunt and sharp force injuries and gunshot wounds
- Conduct discipline-specific research on a topic of interest, and disseminate their findings through the creation of a presentation

LEARNING ASSESSMENTS:

	DUE:	%
Participation	weekly	5%
Final day to declare Presentation topic	Jan 21	~
Test #1	Feb 4	20%
Virtual Autopsy exercise	Feb 13	10%
Test #2	Mar 3	15%
Wound Identification exercise	Mar 5	10%
Presentations	Mar 19, 24 & Apr 2	20%
Test #3	Mar 26	15%
Death Scene exercise	Mar 31	5%

March 6, 2020 is the final day to withdraw from this course. You will have at least **30%** of your final grade completed and returned to you by this date.

Desire2Learn will be used to inform students of important course-related information. It is the student's responsibility to check the website regularly and to ensure they are receiving notifications of D2L messages /announcements.

CRIM 3135-WAO: DEATH INVESTIGATION - WINTER SCHEDULE 2020		
DATE	LECTURE: Tues & Thurs 1-2:30 pm in OA 2019	READINGS
Jan 7	Course Introduction	Melinek & Mitchell CH 1 & 2
Jan 9	Death Investigation in Canada & Ontario Chief Pathologist questions autopsy in family triple killing	Prahlow CH 3 Provincial Forensic Pathology Unit (2016) pp. 626-631
Jan 14	Death Scene Investigation	Melinek & Mitchell CH 3 & 4 Prahlow CH 4
Jan 16	Death Certification	Prahlow CH 5
Jan 21	LAST DAY TO DECLARE PRESENTATION TOPIC Expert Witness	Provincial Forensic Pathology Unit (2016) pp. 651-668. Harland-Logan (2016) pp. 68-75
Jan 23	Postmortem Interval	Melinek & Mitchell CH 5 & 6 Prahlow CH 8
Jan 28	Postmortem Interval exercise	Melinek & Mitchell CH 7 & 8
Jan 30	Presentation instructions	Bring presentation reference list
Feb 4	ONLINE TEST #1 (15%)	
Feb 6	Autopsy Procedure The Virtual Autopsy Interactive Autopsy	Prahlow CH 7 Sansoni <i>et al.</i> 2009 Melinek & Mitchell CH 9 & 10
Feb 11	Blunt force trauma	Prahlow CH 12 Provincial Forensic Pathology Unit (2016) pp. 631-636
Feb 13	VIRTUAL AUTOPSY EXERCISE DUE (10%) Sharp force trauma	Prahlow CH 14 Melinek & Mitchell CH 11 & 12
Feb 18-20	READING WEEK	
Feb 25	Gunshot wounds	Prahlow CH 13
Feb 27	Wound Identification exercise	Prahlow CH 12-14 for reference
Mar 3	ONLINE TEST #2 (15%)	
Mar 5	WOUND IDENTIFICATION EXERCISE DUE (10%) Personal Identification	Holobinko 2012 Prahlow CH 9
Mar 10	Human rights death investigation	Renshaw 2013
Mar 12	Ethical Issues of Autopsy	Caplan 2016
Mar 17	Postmortem Disposition & Organ donation WATCH: The Nature of Things: Vital Bonds – 44:07 Ask a Mortician	Redelmeier <i>et al.</i> 2013 Elman <i>et al.</i> 2016 Funeral Inspirations
Mar 19	PRESENTATIONS	Prahlow CH 10, 11, & 15-21
Mar 24	PRESENTATIONS	
Mar 26	ONLINE TEST #3 (15%)	
Mar 31	DEATH SCENE EXERCISE (5%) Death Scene exercise	Bring exercise for review
Apr 2	PRESENTATIONS	