

Forensic Science Syllabus

Instructor: Martha Wood

2 Lectures Per Class

1. The Infamous Jack the Ripper
2. Analyzing the Black Dahlia Murder
3. Dissecting Hollywood Deaths
4. Decomposition and Confusing Interpretations
5. Lizzie Borden & Menendez Brothers
6. Tylenol Murders
7. Copycats & Hoaxes
8. Frauds & Forgeries
9. Blood Doping – Sports Scandals
10. Bad Boys of U.S. Politics
11. Criminals of the Wild, Wild West
12. Investigating Incredible Bank Heists
13. Is Eyewitness Testimony Reliable?
14. Truth Behind False Accusations
15. Crooked Cops and Bad Convictions
16. Guilty until Proven Innocent
17. Political Assassinations
18. Mysteries of the Romanov Family
19. Forensics of Genocide
20. The Nazis and the Witch of Buchen Wald
21. The Spies Have It
22. Motive and Kidnapping
23. Identification Matters
24. The Past, Present, and Future of Forensics

Forensic History

Crimes, Frauds, and Scandals

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This course is a journey through time and place from the perspective of forensic science and criminal history. It examines technological advancements and political and legal issues and demonstrates how science and society relate to each other, especially with regard to criminal investigations. The lectures use a case-based approach to focus on historic forensic issues and show how new evidence or more advanced technology can sometimes be used to develop alternative conclusions or finally solve cold cases. We also consider how historic crimes might have different outcomes if they occurred today.

You will sharpen your analytical skills and learn to evaluate evidence critically – skills you can bring to bear when the next crime or forensic mystery hits the news