

Forensic Science
Fall 2007
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The course begins with an in depth review and discussion of *Daubert*, related cases, and rules of evidence. This will provide you the legal framework and context to evaluate the various disciplines you will be exposed to during the course of the semester. We will have guest speakers on the various forensic topics. As a result of input received on past course evaluations, we have made some changes in the course. As a result, at various times in the semester we will take a step back, returning to *Daubert*.

In returning to *Daubert*, we will spend time discussing, and working through the real-life application of *Daubert* to various forensic areas. The format we will use to do this will vary, at times requiring your active participation. While this is not a trial practice class, we will take some time to work through simulated courtroom exercises revolving around the introduction of scientific evidence.

There is no text book, but you are required to join the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Student membership is \$25.00 until October 1st, when it goes to \$50.00. Many of the assigned readings come from the NACDL monthly publication, *The Champion*. It is very possible the exam will be taken in whole or part from material appearing in the *Champion* during the course of the semester.

If the reading includes cases, we will provide cites, you can obtain the case from whatever source you prefer. If the reading includes material from other sources we will provide the material to you. We will discuss additional requirements during the first class. Most of the material will be available on the Westlaw TWEN cite.

While most classes will consist of a presentation on a specific topic, your attendance and ***participation*** are essential to getting the most out of each class. Your class grade can impact your final grade as much as an entire letter grade.

The final exam will be discussed in more detail in class. Simply put, it is a take home final, requiring you to apply the skills and information covered during the semester.

Because of the constantly changing schedules of many of our speakers there are still two weeks which have not been confirmed. We have two weeks we are awaiting speaker confirmation. We will let you know once we confirm these final two speakers and topics.