

The University of Findlay
School of Environmental and Emergency Management

*The Mission of the University is to equip our students
for meaningful lives and productive careers.*
Spring Semester

Course Number/Title:	ESOH 255 Incident Scene and Evidence Investigation
Credit Hours:	3 Credits
Class Time/Place:	Brewer 109, Monday, Wednesday, Friday Afternoon
Prerequisites:	ESOH 200 Emergency Management Law
Instructor:	Mr. James Jaffe, Assistant Professor The University of Findlay 1000 North Main Street, Brewer 111 Findlay, Ohio 45840 Phone: 419/434-4655; Fax: 419/434-6542 email: jaffee@findlay.edu
Office Hours:	Monday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Course Description	This course will focus on basic evidentiary considerations prior to, during, and after the incident scene investigation. The course will emphasize the taking, preservation, and analysis of evidence for use in administrative, civil and criminal matters. Additionally, the course will cover the law of evidence, and the use of expert opinion as evidence. Interview techniques will also be discussed.
Relationship to the Conceptual Framework	Since 1986 the University of Findlay has been actively involved in the development of integrated educational programs to assist industry and communities in the management of environmental, safety and health programs. This course is part of a series of courses designed to develop environmental professionals for both industry and the public sector with an emphasis on emergency management.
Course Objectives	The objective of this course is to give the student an understanding of how and why evidence is collected, preserved, analyzed and used in emergency incidents. The course will also prepare the student to act as a witness and learn what it takes to become an expert witness. The student will also be trained in the taking of oral evidence from witnesses.

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Required Textbooks and other materials Evidence: Examples and Explanations (Examples & Explanations Series) by Arthur Best

Instructional Strategies

Case Analysis	x	Library and Internet Research	x
Debate	x	Practice/drill	
Discovery/Independent Research	x	Problem solving	x
Discussion/Questioning/Interviewing		Reading assignments	x
Experiential Learning		Role playing/simulation games	
Field Experience		Service Learning	
Group Presentation		Video/Audio Review and Critique	x
Laboratory Experiences		Other	
Lecture	x		

Methods of Assessment

Abstracts		Participation	x
Attendance	x	Peer Evaluation	
Capstone Project		Portfolio	
Case Study		Portfolio Lab Performance	
Exams	x	Presentations	
Group Projects		Professional Evaluation	
Homework Assignments	x	Quizzes	x
Internet Research	x	Research project	
Journaling		Other	
Lab Performance			
Oral/written review of literature			

Grading The students total points earned in the course divided by the total points possible will determine the course grade.

Grading Scale/Distribution Exams/quizzes are 40%, Class participation is 10% and Homework assignments are 50% of the total grade for the class. Grade cut offs are as follows: **A= >90%, B= >80%, C= >70%, D= >60% and F= <60%**

NOTE: This course is considered in your major and as such a passing grade is “C” or higher

Honor Code *I will not knowingly engage in any dishonorable behavior, cheat, steal,*

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lie or commit any act of plagiarism during my academic work, course, or endeavor. If I observe an act which I believe violates the University's Honor Code, I may, in my discretion, report it to the appropriate personnel.

Course Policies and Practices

Course Expectations

Students should come prepared to discuss all assigned readings in class. The best learning occurs from thoroughly preparing in advance of discussion. Remember, a portion of your grade is based on participation in the chats.

Participants may only submit original work products, copying portions of material from texts, other papers etc. is considered plagiarism and will be dealt with in the most severe manner allowable by the University. Students are encouraged to exchange ideas and study together, *BUT the assignments, case studies, reports, papers and exams are individual work products, and must be done on an individual basis.* **Any assignment, case study, report, paper or exam prepared in whole or part by anyone other than the student submitting the work will cause that work to receive a grade of ZERO.**

All tests, quizzes, case studies reports, research papers, become the property of the instructor.

Any student caught cheating, and/or plagiarizing on a quiz, paper will be dealt with in the most severe fashion possible. This may include dismissal or failure from the course. Cheating includes taking or using stolen information from another student or source.

ANY assignments, case study or exam NOT submitted on time will receive a full letter grade deduction.

Note: Written product, specifically Assignments and Reports, will primarily determine your grade. The Final Exam will consist of short answer and case study analysis, and your ability to support your position and influence the reader to understand and logically follow your position. With this in mind, the student should master the art of concise writing. You are expected to use proper spelling and grammar at all times for all assignments. **ANY MATERIAL copied from any source, if not quoted and cited properly will be considered plagiarism and dealt with accordingly.**

Final Exam Date

To be Determined

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Special Services If you are a student with a disability, it is your responsibility to register with the Office of Disability Service and notify your instructor one week prior to any needed service so that reasonable accommodations can be made for you.

Course and Instructor Evaluation Written Evaluations on University approved forms

Additional Information None

Tentative Course Outline (Course outline is subject to change throughout the semester)
To be determined.