FRSC 479

"Forensic Biology"

Wednesdays 5:45-7:40 (lecture)
Mondays 1-5:20 (lab)

Course Description: Forensic Biology focuses on forensic serology and forensic DNA analysis. It covers the different types of analyses that are performed in forensic biology sections of crime laboratories. The course will introduce students to human identity testing, focusing on the theory, methods, procedures and statistics associated with this forensic science. It will also cover how biological evidence is processed in a crime lab, data interpretation, how random match probabilities and likelihood ratios are calculated, and legal issues dealing with DNA evidence admissibility in court.

Instructor: Professor Fisher is Professor of Practice and Director of the Forensic Science Program at NJIT. Prior to joining NJIT, he was a Criminalist supervisor in the Department of Forensic Biology at the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). As a forensic scientist with over 17 years of experience in forensic biology and DNA typing, he has worked on hundreds of criminal cases, including homicides, sexual assaults, and property crime investigations and has been court qualified as an expert witness over 40 times. He is certified by the American Board of Criminalistics and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. He is the co-author of the popular textbook: Techniques of Crime Scene Investigation (8th ed.).

Prerequisites: BIOL 352 (Genetics), CHEM 473 (Biochemistry), BIOL 201 (Cell & Molecular Bio)