

WIN 2020
3 credits SLN 18889
M/W 1:00-2:20pm

FORENSIC GENETICS

BIOST 302 A / PHG 302 (I&S / NW, QSR)

This course uses actual criminal cases to introduce the field of forensic genetics. Students develop the skills to interpret the evidence of matching genetic profiles; to perform calculations relevant for parentage determinations; the identification of remains; and to consider the implications of familial searching of DNA databases.



Preliminary Readings:

- "The Blooding: The True Story of the Narborough Village Murders" by Joseph Wambough
- "The Run of His Life: The People v. O.J. Simpson" by Jeffrey Tobin

Cases to be discussed

- 1988. R v. Colin Pitchfork ("The Blooding") Rape and murder. First conviction based on DNA evidence.
- 1989. People of the State of New York v. Joseph Castro. Double Murder.
- 1995. People of the State of California v. O.J. Simpson. Double murder. Football star acquitted in trial that included DNA evidence.
- 1996. R v. Douglas Beamish. Murder. Conviction based on DNA from cat hair.
- 2008. People of the State of California v. Dennis Nelson. Murder.
- 2009. McDaniel v. Troy Brown. Rape, attempted murder.
- 2009. Tsar Nicholas and Family. Multiple murder. Second grave found in 2007 contained bones of Prince Alexei and Princess Anastasia.
- 2009-2015. The Italian People v. Amanda Knox. Murder. Conviction based in part on DNA, then acquittal.
- 2016. People of the State of California v. Lonnie Franklin ("Grim Sleeper"). Serial murderer.
- 2018. Arrest of the "Golden State Killer." Serial murderer caught using commercial genealogical data.

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M/W 1:00pm - 2:20pm Mondays SOCC 221 / Wednesdays HS RR-134

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GOOD FOR POSTING UNTIL:
12/13/2019