

NATS 7024 FORENSIC MEDICINE I

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 301133

Coordinator Ricky Spencer (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Ricky Spencer/>)

Description This subject covers the basic elements of forensic medicine and focuses on the role of the forensic pathologist in the investigation of crime and death. Although much of forensic medicine, based as it is on observations made at a post-mortem examination, relies on the principles of morbid anatomy as discovered in earlier centuries, more recent techniques are also presented. This subject is taught by the University of Florida as part of a collaborative venture between the University of Florida and Western Sydney University. Note: Further information on this subject is available from the University of Florida.

School Science

Discipline Forensic Science

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 2 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Postgraduate Coursework Level 7 subject

Restrictions

Students must be enrolled in 3741 Master of Forensic Science, 3742 Graduate Diploma in Forensic Science or 3743 Graduate Certificate in Forensic Science.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Understand the basic scientific, medical, ethical and legal principles that are relevant to the practice of forensic medicine.
2. Understand the essential techniques and methods used by forensic doctors and be able to discuss their validity, effectiveness and applicability within a professional setting.
3. Develop a sensitive awareness of how forensic medicine relates to bereaved relatives and other immediate contacts of a deceased person or victim of crime.
4. Develop and maintain the highest standards of professional integrity in all matters relating to the practice of forensic medicine and in the pursuit of justice.
5. Work towards improving the quality of forensic provision within his or her local medicolegal and criminal justice system.
6. Seek to initiate collaborative relationships with academics and other practitioners in order to contribute to research in the discipline.
7. Communicate sensitive information to other professional colleagues and, where necessary, be able to present evidence within a legal setting effectively and with accuracy and precision.

Subject Content

Module 1 Death

Module 2 Medicolegal Investigation of Death

Module 3 Sudden Natural Death in Adults

- Module 4 The Autopsy
- Module 5 Post-Mortem Interval
- Module 6 Identification of the Dead
- Module 7 Wounds of Medicolegal Importance I
- Module 8 Wounds of Medicolegal Importance II
- Module 9 Thermal Injury and Fire Deaths
- Module 10 Suicide
- Module 11 Head and Neck Injury
- Module 12 Drowning by Immersion
- Module 13 Asphyxia Related Deaths
- Module 14 Case Study

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Final Exam not specified		100	N	Individual	N

Teaching Periods

Uni of Florida - Term 1 (2025)

Online

Online

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View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=NATS7024_25-FT1_ON_2#subjects)

Uni of Florida - Term 2 (2025)

Online

Online

Subject Contact Ricky Spencer (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Ricky Spencer/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=NATS7024_25-FT2_ON_2#subjects)

Uni of Florida - Term 3 (2025)

Online

Online

Subject Contact Ricky Spencer (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Ricky Spencer/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=NATS7024_25-FT3_ON_2#subjects)