

FRSC 797; SEMINAR IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

Thursday 11 – 11:50 (SC 5252)

Defenses Thursday May 7; 11-1:30 pm; 2026 SC 4230

Contact Information

Office Hours: SC 3301D by appointment

Email: EHondrogiannis@towson.edu

Dr. Mary Sajini Devadas; SC 3301B; mdevadas@towson.edu

Office Hours: [By appointment](#)

1. The goals of this course are for you to
 1. Prepare your research proposal which you will defend in this course in front of the faculty and one outside person not associated with the MSFS program. (Forensic practitioners are preferred to serve as committee members.) See BB for the rubric and an example proposal.
 2. Complete the Introduction for your research paper. (This will ensure a complete review of the relevant literature and a clear understanding of what your work will add to the field.) See the JFS author guidelines as well as a JFS article. **This must be completed and turned into me within two weeks of defending your proposal.** Failure to do so will result in an Incomplete for the course. In addition, you will not be allowed to defend in the current semester. For students who have completed FRSC 640 I will not offer feedback on your Introduction as feedback was given during FRSC 640. For students who did not complete FRSC 640, then I will offer feedback any time up to three weeks prior to your defense.
 3. Enhance your presentation skills. We will be using a broad definition of presentation; to include resume evaluation, cover letter writing, and podium presentation skills. (See BB for examples.)
2. In addition, you will need to apply to the Graduate Student Association (GSA) for funding. See BB for info.
3. Outside of our weekly group meetings you are expected to work independently toward the goals of this course reaching out to the instructor when you need help. The goal of the instructor in this course is to guide you based on your questions including your evaluation of the literature. It is also your responsibility to get training on any instruments that you need to use to carry out your research. Resources for this training include our analytical instrument specialist Alexis Frost (AFrost@towson.edu) and possibly other graduate students in our laboratory. You will need to be flexible and make time during the hours that Alexis (or other graduate students) are free.
4. **Thursday May 9, 2024; 11 a.m. – 1 pm.** (SC 4230) is the time for proposal power point defenses. You will need to have practiced this delivery with me at least two weeks prior to this date for me to allow you to defend your proposal. This practice (and the approval of

your Introduction) will help ensure you are set up for moving forward independently in FRSC 880 the following semester.

If you do not meet the requirements for defending on May 9 then you will receive an Incomplete for FRSC 797 and can defend as soon as the requirements are met the following semester as long as a committee is available. (Defending over summer or minimester is not an option.) If you are unable to defend you should plan on extending your time in the program. Also note that an Incomplete will automatically turn to an F after 120 days. When you successfully complete the requirements for FRSC 797, I will submit a change of grade form to the Registrar's Office.

5. Document all of your progress in the One Drive folder I create for you. Make a file for
 1. Proposal PP (65%)
 2. Introduction (15%) due at least two weeks before your defense and must be approved of prior to your defense.
 3. Proposal development updates (PP minimum of every other week) (10%)
 4. Resume (2.5%)
 5. Cover Letter (2.5%)
 6. (2) ½ - one page seminar summaries (5% total)
 7. Communications with Dr. H.
 8. Hours logged

6. Intellectual Property:

All communication about the research you carry out in this laboratory is to stay between Dr. H. and the student. Since our communication involves research and any ideas that have originated from Dr. H. it is considered intellectual property. This means that you are not allowed to share your One Drive with anybody else (including other students in the lab). I am the only one permitted to share folders. You are not allowed to copy and paste any of your One Drive contents and share them with anybody else. You are also not allowed to share any data that you generate from the experiments or any of my email or in person communications I have with you about the experiment with anybody else. If you have any questions on this, please let me know.

Grade assignment is based on the standard graduate student system:

A	93.00-100%
A-	90.00-92.99%
B+	87.00-89.99%
B	83.00-86.99%
C	70.00-82.99%
F	<70.00%

Chemistry Department Statement on Classroom Diversity and Inclusion: The students, faculty, and staff at Towson University represent a diverse and vibrant community of learners and

scholars. As a community, we value the unique contributions of each individual and promote active participation in all aspects of the learning process by each community member. Your instructor supports Towson University's goal of fostering a diverse and inclusive educational setting. Your instructor strives to create a classroom environment built upon the principles of mutual respect and support. Toward this end, all members participating in this course are expected to demonstrate respect for all other members of the class. If you feel these expectations have not been met, please speak with your instructor or the designated diversity liaison, Dr. Cindy Zeller (czeller@towson.edu).

For further information regarding the diversity and inclusion policies of Towson University, please see [Towson University's "Strategy 1:Exposure to Diversity"](#) , [the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics Diversity Action Plan](#), and the [Chemistry Department Diversity Action Plan](#).