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Fundamentals Of Forensic Science



Synopsis

Unlike other introductory textbooks on the topic, *Fundamentals of Forensic Science* presents a complete look at the forensic sciences, emphasizing the biology, chemistry, and physical sciences that underpin forensic science. By covering the principles that are central to forensic science, and by discussing topics that are typically excluded from generalized discussions of "criminalistics," this book provides a depth and breadth of information that no other textbook contains. Written by two of the leading experts in forensic science today, *Fundamentals of Forensic Science* approaches the field from a truly unique and exciting perspective. Ranging from traditional topics such as crime scene investigation, spectroscopy, and DNA analysis, to the less-commonly covered --but just as essential-- topics of pathology, entomology, and anthropology, *Fundamentals of Forensic Science* is everything a student or practicing professional needs. Organized along the timeline of a real case, it begins with an introduction and history of forensic science, covers the basic methods of analysis used in most forensic examinations, addresses the biological, chemical, and physical elements relevant to the field, and concludes with an examination of how forensic science intersects with the law. - Vivid, full-color illustrations that diagram key concepts and depict evidence encountered in the field- Straightforward unit organization that includes key terms, numerous feature boxes emphasizing resources on the World Wide Web, historical events in forensic science, practical issues in laboratory analysis, and topics for further reading- Effective pedagogy -including end-of-chapter questions- paired with a clear writing style makes this an invaluable resource for professors and students of forensic science

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Customer Reviews

Attention to detail is important in almost all areas of endeavor, but especially so in forensic science. This book violates that fundamental in the first chapter. In describing the trial of Theodore Robert Bundy for the Chi Omega Sorority murders, it refers to the testimony of a certain forensic odontologist, and says that as a result of the testimony of the forensic odontologist, Bundy was executed. This is incorrect. Bundy was not executed for the Chi Omega murders, but for the subsequent murder of a young girl. Forensic science figured prominently in that conviction also, but it was microanalysis and shoetrack comparison, not forensic odontology, that was instrumental in sending Bundy to the electric chair. As to the circumstances of the odontological evidence at the Chi Omega trial, the book is again in error on its details. It says a plaster cast was made of a bite mark on one of the victims. The plaster cast was taken of Bundy's teeth, not of the bite mark. The bite mark was photographed. What was accurate about the account of the Chi Omega trial was that Bundy was convicted and that forensic odontology played a role in the conviction and little else.

I've gotten a lot of disappointing textbooks for my classes in forensics but this is definitely not one of them. It is very clear, well-written, and thorough. It is well organized and that makes it very easy to find things in it. All of the graphics and supplemental information provided throughout the chapters are beneficial and the summaries at the end of each chapter actually do a good job of reviewing and testing your knowledge. Even if you don't need this for a class (like I did) I would definitely recommend getting it to keep as a general reference book.

Forensic Scientists Max Houck and Jay Siegel have just released a forensic science text which is perfect for beginners but offers much for seasoned scientists. The book's thoroughness is revealed across its 672 pages. Topics include a discussion of criminal justice and forensic science, analytical tools and introductions to biological science, chemical science, and physical science. Forensic science's relationship with law is in the concluding chapter. The work is ideal for introductory forensic students. There are plenty of crime scene photos and diagrams to make the words on the page come to life. The authors do not skimp on technical aspects but make sure that those technical aspects are explained well. Each chapter contains important words in bold. A novice will quickly be drawn into this work but not overwhelmed by it. A knowledgeable professor, interested students, and this book should provide for a successful course. The text will serve also as a quick reference

book for forensic science. The book is good for professors, for students, and as a reference. It is a must-have book for all of those who teach forensic science. Daniel W. Phillips III, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
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I purchased this book as a requirement for my introduction to forensic science class, which I took in a summer session so it was really condensed. I am not a science buff, but I fully understood all of the concepts presented in the book. Although a little bulky the font is rather large so the reading goes relatively fast. There are quite a bit of illustrations to compound the information provided. But be warned...some of the illustrations are a little graphic in nature! The subject bares that fact. My only complaint is there is no electronic version of the book which means you have to carry to book around if you want to get some reading done in your spare time. Otherwise it's a great buy for anyone looking to break into the field or just has a general interest in the subject. LW

Very interesting book with plenty of new knowledge for me!

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