

**George Mason University  
School of Law**

**Scientific and Expert Evidence**

**Professor David E. Bernstein**

**Syllabus**

Readings, Organization of Classes, etc.

This class provides an overview of the modern law of scientific and expert evidence. There will also be several guest lectures by forensic scientists. The casebook for this class is *Criminal and Scientific Evidence* by Goodwin & Gurule. Despite the title of this book the class will discuss expert evidence in civil cases as well as in criminal cases.

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<u>Classes</u>	<u>Name of sub-component</u>	<u>Pages in Casebook (+ Supp. as appropriate)</u>
Aug. 19-21	a) Introduction: Why we have experts, and when do we use them b) <i>Frye</i> Rule	a) Bernstein Excerpts from copy center b) Chapter 2, 58-94
Aug. 26-28, Sept. 4	<i>Daubert</i> Trilogy	Chapter 2, 94-171
Sept. 9-11 (Sept. 9 class to be rescheduled)	Forensic Science	Chapter 1, 3-57
September 16-18	Ensuring Proper Applications and Interpretation of Technique; statistical evidence	Chapter 3, 174-215
Sept. 23-25	Polygraph (guest lecture 9/23, Tom Lewis, FBI)	Handout TBA and Casebook, 263-270 (background reading for guest lecture) and 271- 296
Sept. 30-Oct. 2	DNA Evidence (guest lectures, Ted Anderson, Armed Forced DNA-tentative)	Chapter 4, 330-357
Oct. 8-9 Oct. 15-16	DNA Evidence Fingerprinting (guest lecture, Ted Robinson, GWU)	Chapter 4, 358-395 Reading on fingerprints, TBA <a href="http://www.onin.com/fp/daubert_links.html">http://www.onin.com/fp/daubert_links.html</a>