

TRANSCRIPT

LECTURER: Hello everyone! Welcome to Introduction to Forensic Science, or FOSC 100. I am Dr. Mortimer and I will be your instructor for the course. I also want to point out from the beginning, that although the course material and the learning objectives may seem a bit daunting, help is available. We have a wonderful array of resources to help you understand and apply the scientific principles you'll be learning about, including a well-equipped section in the library. If you are really into checking out some pioneering methods and diagrams that are not yet available online, interlibrary loans are available on request, and they're usually accommodated within five business days. I'd say that the reading list at the end of the course syllabus is a good place to start. We have a world-class chemistry lab, where you can learn anything from doing a simple TLC test to witnessing the scientific wonders performed by a GC-MS machine.

Now, you will need our teaching assistant though, especially for booking a visit during Unit 2. That's Mr. Sheen, the assistant, over in the corner there. You are also encouraged to join the study group organized for this course. The group is organized and run by half a dozen third- and fourth-year students in Chemistry and Physics, and they aptly call themselves "The Curious Bunch." I believe that first year students can learn a great deal from their study groups - which are held every Thursday, I believe - and also from their case blog called "The Sign of 44" where you can find an archive of the cases listed in the current and previous syllabi.

Okay! Any questions so far?

STUDENT: Um, professor, you mentioned a GC-MS machine, and . . . and a TLC method . . . ? I was just wondering if you can tell us a bit more about what they are?

LECTURER: Good question. Sorry, I should've clarified earlier. GC-MS stands for Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectrometry. It is a powerful tool. It not only separates a mixture of substances into individual components, but also analyzes and identifies what the components are. And TLC stands for Thin Layer Chromatography, which is a much simpler but faster way of identifying compounds.