



ADMJ 140 - Introduction To Crime Scene Investigation Course Outline

Approval Date: 12/09/2021

Effective Date: 08/13/2022

SECTION A

Unique ID Number CCC000632640

Discipline(s) Administration of Justice

Division Criminal Justice Training

Subject Area Administration of Justice

Subject Code ADMJ

Course Number 140

Course Title Introduction To Crime Scene Investigation

TOP Code/SAM Code 2105.00 - Criminal Justice/Police Science* / C - Occupational

Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum This course is one of two new courses intended to prepare students for a career as a crime scene investigator, evidence technician, or crime lab assistant. It will be part of a new low-unit certificate program.

Units 4

Cross List N/A

Typical Course Weeks 18

Total Instructional Hours

Contact Hours

Lecture 54.00

Lab 54.00

Activity 0.00

Work Experience 0.00

Outside of Class Hours 108.00

Total Contact Hours 108

Total Student Hours 216

Open Entry/Open Exit No

Maximum Enrollment 30

Grading Option Letter Grade or P/NP

Distance Education Mode of Instruction On-Campus

SECTION B

General Education Information:

SECTION C

Course Description

Repeatability May be repeated 0 times

Catalog Description This course introduces an in-depth analysis and discussion of the nature and significance of various types of physical evidence commonly found at a crime scenes. The course combines theoretical concepts associated with the use of physical evidence in the forensic setting with student involvement in the processing of simulated crime scenes.

Schedule Description An introduction to crime scene investigation and evidence.

SECTION D

Condition on Enrollment

1a. Prerequisite(s): *None*

1b. Corequisite(s): *None*

1c. Recommended: *None*

1d. Limitation on Enrollment: *None*

SECTION E

Course Outline Information

1. Student Learning Outcomes:

- A. Produce written communications that meet the standards for transfer and a criminal justice system professional.
- B. Explain the role of forensic specialists in the criminal justice system.
- C. Identify various types of crime scenes
- D. Utilize investigative tools, technology, and methods.

2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain the role of forensic specialists in the criminal justice system.
- B. Discuss the differences between crime scene processing and crime scene analysis.
- C. Differentiate the types of pattern evidence and explain their respective importance in crime scene reconstruction.
- D. Describe Personal Identification Patterns (PIP) that identify a person.
- E. Discuss the processes for analyzing questioned documents.
- F. Discuss the processes for analyzing tool mark and firearm evidence.
- G. Explain the three methods of DNA typing.
- H. Describe the procedures for the collection and preservation of DNA evidence to prevent contamination.
- I. Differentiate the chemical and material evidence in arson and explosives crime scenes.
- J. Identify various types of crime scenes.
- K. Utilize investigative tools, technology, and methods.
- L. Reconstruct a crime scene.
- M.

3. Course Content

- A. Introduction to physical evidence
 - a. The role of physical evidence in criminal investigation
 - b. The role of the first officer in securing, protecting, and preserving the crime scene
 - c. The role and responsibility of the crime scene technician
 - d. Crime scene search techniques
- B. Crime scene photography
 - a. Principles of photography

- b. Photography as evidence
 - c. Technical applications
- C. Crime scene sketching
 - a. Principles of crime scene sketching
 - b. Sketches in the courtroom
- D. Physical evidence
 - a. Fingerprints
 - b. Shoe prints, tire marks and miscellaneous impressions
 - c. Tool marks
 - d. Firearms
 - e. Wound characteristics
 - a. Firearms
 - b. Other weapons
 - c. Blunt trauma
- E. Explosives and arson
- F. Trace evidence
 - a. Hair
 - b. Soil
 - c. Fibers
 - d. Glass
 - e. Metals
 - f. Chemicals
 - g. Paint
- G. Physiological Fluids
 - a. Blood
 - b. Semen
 - c. Saliva
- H. Questioned documents
- I. Evidence associated with death scenes
- J. Evidence associated with sexual assaults
- K. DNA evidence
 - a. DNA typing
 - b. Collection and preservation methods
- L. Pattern evidence
- M. The collection process
 - a. Recording
 - b. Documenting
 - c. Packaging
 - d. Preservation
- N. The criminalistics laboratory
 - a. The role of the laboratory
 - b. Typical examinations and tests
 - a. Trace metal
 - b. Gunshot residue
 - c. Blood
 - d. Fingerprints
 - e. Impressions
- O. Use of microscope and alternate light sources
- P. Evidence analysis for class and individual characteristics
- Q. Crime scene analysis

R.

4. Methods of Instruction:

Activity: For example: 1. Create a diagram of a crime scene based on a scenario provided by the instructor. 2. Locate and lift latent fingerprints.

Discussion: For example: 1. Discuss in small groups a case study involving the processing of a crime scene. 2. Discuss in class techniques for analyzing blood splatter evidence.

Field Trips: For example: 1. Tour a crime lab. 2. Tour a morgue.

Lab: For example: 1. Locate, collect, and package evidence at a simulated burglary crime scene. 2. Photograph items of evidence at a simulated sexual assault crime scene.

Lecture: For example: 1. An interactive lecture about the role of the crime scene investigator. 2. An interactive lecture about DNA evidence.

5. Methods of Evaluation: Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

Typical classroom assessment techniques

Exams/Tests -- For example: 1. A mid-term exam with multiple-choice and true-false questions. 2. A final exam with short-essay questions.

Papers -- For example: 1. A written crime scene report. 2. A written analysis of fingerprint evidence.

Field Trips -- For example: 1. A tour of a regional crime lab. 2. A tour of a county morgue.

Simulation -- For example: 1. A simulated crime scene involving the collection of fingerprint evidence. 2. A simulated crime scene involving the collection of physical evidence.

Final Exam -- For example: 1. A final exam with short-essay questions. 2. A final exam with multiple-choice and true-false questions.

Mid Term -- For example: 1. A mid-term exam with short-essay questions. 2. A mid-term exam with multiple-choice and true-false questions.

Letter Grade or P/NP

6. Assignments: State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

A. Reading Assignments

For example:

1. Read the chapter regarding blood spatter interpretation. Be prepared to discuss the relationship between the velocity of the spatter and the circumstances of its origin.

2. Read the chapter concerning the responsibilities of the first officer at the crime scene. Be prepared to identify and discuss the preliminary steps that a crime scene investigator should take to ensure that potential evidence is identified and protected.

B. Writing Assignments

For example:

1. Prepare crime scene notes, providing descriptive detail of physical evidence items, their physical attributes, and the processing and collection methods involved with each item.

2. In a two-page paper describe the process of photographing and evidence collection of latent fingerprints.

C. Other Assignments

D.

7. Required Materials

A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.

Book #1:

Author: Ogle, Robert R., Plotkin, Sharon

Title: Crime Scene Investigation and Reconstruction

Publisher: Pearson

Date of Publication: 2018

Edition: 4th

Book #2:

Author: Gardner, Ross M., Krouskup, Donna

Title: Practical Crime Scene Processing and Investigation

Publisher: Taylor and Francis

Date of Publication: 2018

Edition: 2nd

B. Other required materials/supplies.