GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

# ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 218 – CRIME SCENE TECHNOLOGY

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

AOJ 218 Crime Scene 4 3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours

Technology 3 hours lab: 48-54 hours

96-108 outside-of-class hours

192-216 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

A “C” grade or higher in Administration of Justice 150 or equivalent.

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

A “C” grade or higher in Administration of Justice 148 or equivalent.

3. Catalog Description

This course is specifically designed to prepare students to work in the field of Forensic Technology. This includes recognizing items of evidentiary value, preservation of the crime scene, crime scene photography, sketching a crime scene and evidence. The student will demonstrate proficiency in various forensic processing techniques and will prepare a courtroom ready presentation.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Analyze and describethe role and responsibilities of a Crime SceneTechnician in the criminal justice system.

b. Demonstrate knowledge ofPersonal Identification Patterns that identify a person.

c. Demonstrateskills needed to function effectively as a crime scene technician and court witness.

d. Conduct a complete crime scene search for evidence.

e. Demonstrate proper evidence collection and packaging techniques for various types of evidence items including preserving DNA evidence to prevent contamination.

f. Demonstrate ability to take notes and prepare various crime scene reports including a crime scene description, evidence list, and photo list report.

g**.** Demonstrate proper crime scene measuring techniques and prepare a computer generated and**/**orhand drawn crime scene diagram.

h**.** Processmock crime scenes including vehicular, outdoor, and indoor crime scenes. Process methodology includes: proper investigative methodology, scene and evidence photography, crime scene sketching, evidence preservation, and report writing.

i. Critically assessthe various types of pattern evidence and explain their respective importance in crime scene reconstruction.

j. Preserve two and three-dimensional shoe impression evidence.

k. Analyze and interpret various bloodstain patterns.

l. Utilize the proper forensictechniques to determine the trajectory of a bullet.

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4. Course Objectives (cont)

m. Utilize the proper forensic techniques to analyze evidence using a forensic or alternate light source.

n**.** Describe the proper forensic procedures followed during a post-mortem examination and the roles of a death investigator, coroner and/or pathologist.

o. Describe the post-mortem changes seen in the human body, the differences between cause and manner of death, and describe the various types of injuries often encountered in death investigations.

p. Analyze and explain the additional investigative details involved in special crime scenes such as bomb/arson, clandestine laboratories, sexual assault crimes, child and elder abuse, domestic violence, and other special or unusual scenes.

q. Prepare a courtroom ready presentation of a forensic evidence topic of the student’s choice.

r**.** Demonstrate professionalism and effectiveness in working with a team.

5. Instructional Facilities

1. Standard classroom for lecture.
2. Mock crime scene areas (indoor and outdoor).

c. Forensiclab

d. Computer lab (laptops) for using software that designs computer generated crime scene diagrams.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

Appropriate materials to develop a complete forensicevidence technology portfolio.

7. Course Content

a. Identify, document, and preserve evidence at a crime scene through notes, sketches, photographs and collection techniques.

b. The concept of “chain of custody” along with the legal and scientific requirements for the collection, documentation and preservation of evidence.

c. Processing of a mock crime scene while working in teams.

d. Scope of evidentiary duties to be an effective witness during trial.

8. Method of Instruction

1. Lecture
2. Participation in lab assignments involving mock crime scenes and lab experimentation.
3. Videos on actual crime scenes and autopsies.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Classroom presentation and participation.

b. Written assignments including narrative crime scene reports, photography list reports, evidence list reports, and crime scene diagrams.

c. Laboratory assignments including indoor, outdoor, and vehicle scenes.

d. Exams including a comprehensive written final exam, which measure students’ ability to apply crime scene technology techniques to scenarios.

e. Student notebook and laboratory notes.

f. Final project presentation.

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11. Texts

a. Required Text(s):

1) Young, Tina & P.J. Ortmeier, Ph.D. *Crime Scene Investigation: The Forensic Technician’s Field Manual.* Columbus, OH: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2011.

Or

2)Fisher, Barry & Fisher, David. *Techniques of Crime Scene Investigation*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2012.

Or

3) Gardner, Ross M. and Krouskup, Donna. *Practical Crime Scene Processing and Investigation.* 3rd ed., Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2018.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

None.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

a. Practice proper evidence collection and packaging techniques.

b. Explain the steps in processing a specific type of crime scene.

c. Create a hand drawn crime scene sketch.

d. Prepare notes and a final report describing a scene.

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 13, 2019