GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

# ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 252 – ADVANCED FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

AOJ 252 Advanced Forensic 4 3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours

Photography 3 hours lab: 48-54 hours

96-108 total hours

192-216 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

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

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

Students will learn advanced investigative photographic techniques using still photographs, video-tape and digital imaging for evidentiary presentations. The latter method will include computerized applications of forensic photography. These special techniques will be demonstrated for use in police training, public information, police investigation, evidence preparation, court demonstration, and police community relations applications.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Demonstrate forensic photography abilities through photographic assignments that include photographing a variety of realistic scenarios including outdoor day and night scenes, indoor scenes, vehicular scenes, and special lighting scenes.

b. Demonstrate the proper use of video and digital cameras used in forensic photography.

c. Apply advanced forensic photography knowledge through advanced photographic techniques that present challenges for the investigative photographer, including laser photography, painting with light, and alternate light source photography.

d. Properly photograph a deceased victim within a scene and at a simulated post-mortem examination.

e. Properly photograph challenging evidence, including bloodstain patterns, two and three-dimensional shoe and tire impressions and latent blood.

f. Demonstrate ability to photography macro and fingerprint evidence using a variety of lighting techniques.

g. Describe and/or demonstrate the proper photographic techniques used in special crime scenes such as bomb/arson, traffic collisions, sexual assault crimes, child and elder abuse, domestic violence, and other special or unusual scenes.

h. Produce a courtroom quality photographic display using appropriate multimedia, computerized software and digital imaging.

i. Organize a forensic photo portfolio as an aid to acquiring employment.

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5. Instructional Facilities

1. Standard classroom for lecture.
2. Forensic laboratory, darkroom, crime scene rooms, and outdoor spaces.

c. Equipment includes: digital cameras, lighting equipment, darkroom, miscellaneous photo and audio-visual equipment, computers and related software.

d. Computer lab (laptops) for downloading digital images.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

USB flash drive to store digital images.

7. Course Content

1. Use of a variety of photographic equipment, including digital cameras, digital imaging software and enhancements.
2. Advanced techniques in video cameras, DSLR usage, including various lenses, lighting and angles.
3. Techniques to produce finished, court-ready presentations.
4. Practical experience with a variety of photographic and equipment to accurately record a simulated crime scene and associated evidence.

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture.

b. DVDs.

c. Demonstration.

d. Use of “field-situation” and practical applications.

e. Use of cameras, computers and related software.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Quizzes that measure student’s knowledge of F-stops, Shutter Speeds, and ISO.

b. Completion of and the quality of the various photographic assignments (practical applications).

c. Participation in class activities as an individual and within a project team.

d. Development of student portfolio.

e. Development of a digital courtroom photographic display.

f. Exams including a comprehensive written final exam, which measure students’ knowledge of advanced forensic photography.

10. Outside Class Assignments

1. Students will be required to read text and supplementary materials.
2. Writing assignments including narrative crime scene reports and photography list reports.

c. Student portfolio.

d. Courtroom display.

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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) Robinson, Edward. *Crime Scene Photography*. 3rd edition. San Diego, CA: Academic Press,   
 2016.

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. Demonstrate the ability to use a SLR digital camera.

b. Photograph fingerprints on a variety of surfaces.

c. Photograph a shoe impression.

d. Photograph an impact bloodstain pattern.

e. Demonstrate the ability to take painting with light photographs and laser photographs.

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 13, 2019