

**CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE
SYLLABUS FOR CJLE 1345
INTERMEDIATE CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION**

Semester Hours Credit: 3

INSTRUCTOR: _____

OFFICE HOURS: _____

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. This course provides objectives, preparations, procedures, and methods of crime scene search. It will include discussions on the value of crime scene sketches and their relationship to crime scene photographs. This course will also go into depth concerning fingerprints as physical evidence, fingerprint identification and classification, types of impressions, and techniques for locating and developing impressions.
- B. This course is an elective course for an Associate in Applied Science Degree program.
- C. This course is occupationally related and serves in preparation for career(s) in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement.
- D. Prerequisite(s): (List)(None)
- E. Alphanumeric coding used throughout the syllabus denotes the integration of SCANS occupational competencies (C) and Foundation skills (F).

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, Intermediate Crime Scene Investigation, the student will:

- A. Identify objectives, preparation, and procedures for searching a crime scene and diagram crime scene sketches and identify their relationship to photographs. (C5-C7, F1, F2, F5, F6)
- B. Identify and Classify fingerprints, types of impressions, and techniques for locating and developing impressions.. (C5-C7, C9, C18, C19, F1, F2, F5-F17)
- C. Discuss the value of developing and comparing crime scene sketches and crime scene photographs. (C5-C7, C9, C14, C18, F1, F2, F5-F17)

- D. Demonstrate developing and lifting fingerprints as physical evidence, identify classifications of fingerprints, and demonstrate types and techniques for locating and developing impressions. (C5-C7, C9, C14, C18, C19, F1, F2, F5-F17)

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through www.ctcd.edu/books
- B. Supplementary Reading: (None)
- C. References:
 1. Garland, Norman M. and Gilbert B. Stuckey, Criminal Evidence for the Enforcement Officer, 4th Ed, Westerville, OH: Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2000
 2. Lyman, Michael D., Criminal Investigation: The Art and The Science, 3rd, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 2001
 3. Adams, Thomas F., and Jeffery L. Krutsinger, Crime Scene Investigation, 2nd Ed, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2004.
 4. Saferstein, Richard, Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science, 7th Ed, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2001.
 5. Britz, Marjie T, Computer Forensics and Cyber Crime: An Introduction, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2004.
 6. Biggs, Michael, Just The Facts, 2nd Ed, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2004.
- D. Audio-Visual Aids: Power points and videos at the discretion of the instructor.
- E. Other Instructional Materials: (None)

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Your first responsibility is scholarship. The grade you receive for this course will not be the grade of the instructor, but rather the grade you and you alone make.
- B. You should attend class regularly and be prepared to participate in classroom discussions and to take unannounced quizzes relating to text assignments and lecture material presented from the beginning of the course.
- C. You are encouraged to give your best effort throughout the semester. From the beginning, you should plan for a steady, organized, and continuous effort, which in the long run will prove more effective for your final grade than a last minute crash-cram policy. Your course grade is not determined solely by exam grade. Such factors as class participation, initiative, attendance, and individual research papers will be considered in grade computation.

- D. From time to time, special library and/or outside assignments will be made to members of the class individually and/or in groups. You are expected to read all assignments and fulfill your responsibilities to any group assignment.
- E. You are expected to read all assigned material and bring your textbook to class. Keep informed on all assignments, especially after an absence.
- F. Good class notes are indispensable for earning a good grade, since both the material assigned and that discussed in class will be the basis for examination material.
- G. Special Work: A term paper or other research project, per requirements of the instructor, will be required. The subject must be appropriate for the course material. Check with the instructor when you have made a selection. The value is indicated in the semester grade computation and has considerable weight on your final average.

V. EXAMINATIONS

- A. There will be a minimum of three major examinations, as follows:
 - 1. Three-week exam
 - 2. Mid-term exam
 - 3. Twelve-week exam (optional)
 - 4. Final exam
- B. A student must be present for all examinations. No make-up examinations will be given. Students who know in advance that they will be absent from an examination due to valid reasons must arrange to take an early examination. Unexpected absences due to illness or extenuating circumstances will require the student to see the instructor about individual make-up work.
- C. Students without excused absences will be given a zero for the missed examination.
- D. Examinations may consist of objective (true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and matching) or subjective (short answer and essay) questions, or a combination of both types. Students majoring in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement must be able to communicate both orally and in written form, thus some questions requiring the composition and writing of an essay answer will be required.

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS

<u>EXAM</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>GRADES</u>
Three-week	100 200	900-1000	A=4 pts/sem hr
Mid-semester	200 250	800- 899	B=3 pts/sem hr
Twelve-week (Opt.)	200 0	700- 799	C=2 pts/sem hr

Final exam	300 350	600- 699	D=1 pt/sem hr
*Incentive Points	50 50	0- 599	F=0 pts/sem hr
Special Work	<u>150 150</u>		
TOTAL	1000 1000		

*Incentive points are earned by doing special work on your own initiative, participating in class discussions, completing outside assignments, and having a good attendance record. Three points are deducted for each unexcused absence. Military assignments or unavoidable circumstances will be evaluated upon notification of the instructor.

VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM COURSE INSTRUCTOR

- A. Withdrawal from Course: It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class if circumstances prevent attendance. Any student who desires to, or must, officially withdraw from a course after the first scheduled class meeting must file a Central Texas College Application for Withdrawal (CTC Form 59). The withdrawal form must be signed by the student.

CTC Form 59 will be accepted at any time prior to Friday of the 12th week of classes during the 16-week fall and spring semesters. The deadline for sessions of other lengths is as follows:

10-week session	Friday of the 8th week
8-week session	Friday of the 6th week
5-week session	Friday of the 4th week

The equivalent date (75% of the semester) will be used for sessions of other lengths. The specific last day to withdraw is published each semester in the Schedule Bulletin.

Students who officially withdraw will be awarded the grade of "W," provided the student's attendance and academic performance are satisfactory at the time of official withdrawal. Students must file a withdrawal application with the college before they may be considered for withdrawal.

A student may not withdraw from a class for which the instructor has previously issued the student a grade of "F" or "FN" for nonattendance.

- B. An Administrative Withdrawal: An administrative withdrawal may be initiated when the student fails to meet College attendance requirements. The instructor will assign the appropriate grade on the Administrative Withdrawal Form for submission to the registrar.
- C. An Incomplete Grade: The College *Catalog* states, "An incomplete grade may be given in those cases where the student has completed the majority of the course work, but because of personal illness, death in the immediate family, or military orders, is unable to complete all the requirements for a course." Prior approval from

the instructor is required before the grade of "I" is recorded. A student who merely fails to show for the final examination will receive a zero for the final and an "F" for the course.

- D. Cellular Phones and Beepers: Cellular phones and beepers will be turned off while the student is in the classroom or laboratory.

- E. American's With Disabilities Act (ADA): Disability Support Services provide services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at www.ctcd.edu/disability-support for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

- F. Instructor Discretion: The instructor reserves the right of final decision in course requirements.

- G. Civility: Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE

- A. Unit One: Course Introduction; Chapter 1, Introduction to Physical Evidence and Chapter 2, Crime Scene Search Principles.
 - 1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will:
 - 2.
 - a. The types, value, and advantages of physical evidence in a criminal investigation.
 - b. The major categories of physical evidence.
 - c. The class and individual characteristics of physical evidence.
 - d. The comparative process for physical evidence examinations.
 - e. The concepts of identification, individualization, and elimination for an item of physical evidence.
 - f. The ethical, legal, and scientific requirements for physical evidence collection.
 - g. First Responder responsibilities.
 - h. Crime Scene Investigator's responsibilities.
 - i. Conducting a crime scene search using systematic search methods.
 - j. Debriefing a crime scene search.
 - 2. Learning Activities:
 - a. Discuss course requirements and activities as contained in the syllabus

- b. Classroom lecture/discussion
 - c. Reading assignment: Chapter's 1 & 2,
- B. **Unit Two:** Chapter 3, Crime Scene Photography; and Chapter 4, Crime Scene Sketches
 - 1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will:
 - 2.
 - a. The objectives of crime scene photography.
 - b. Questions to ask oneself when taking a scene photograph.
 - c. The types of cameras best suited for crime scene photography, and the advantages/disadvantages of each.
 - d. The types of photographs necessary to properly photograph the scene and the evidence therein.
 - e. Proper photography of wounds.
 - f. Need for scene sketches.
 - g. Objectives of sketches.
 - h. The various types and appropriate uses of sketches.
 - j. The proper measurement techniques for sketching
 - 2. Learning Activities:
 - a. Classroom lecture/discussion
 - b. Reading assignment: Chapter's 3 & 4
 - 3. Unit Outline: Refer to contents, textbook page iii & xiii
- C. **Unit Three:** Chapter 5, Latent Fingerprint Evidence
 - 1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will:
 - a. The types of fingerprint impressions.
 - b. The nature of latent fingerprints.
 - c. The techniques for development and collection of latent fingerprint evidence.
 - d. Choosing the proper technique for development and collection of latent impressions based on the surface type on which the latent impression is found.
 - 2. Learning Activities:
 - a. Classroom lecture/discussion
 - b. Reading assignment: Chapter 5
 - c. Three-week exam
- D. **Unit Four and Five:** Chapter 6, Trace Evidence: Hair Fiber, Glass, Paint, Soil , Arson Accelerant

1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will:
 - a. The types of fingerprint impressions.
 - b. The nature of latent fingerprints.
 - c. The techniques for development and collection of latent fingerprint evidence.
 - d. Choosing the proper technique for development and collection of latent impressions based on the surface type on which the latent impression is found.

 2. Learning Activities:
 - a. Classroom lecture/discussion
 - b. Reading assignment: Chapter 6,
- E. **Unit Six:** Chapter 7, Biological Fluid Stain Evidence: Blood, Semen, And Saliva
1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will:
 - a. Nature of biological evidence.
 - b. Genetic markers (DNA) in biological stains.
 - c. Proper documentation and collection of biological stain evidence.
 - d. Laboratory analysis of biological stain evidence.

 2. Learning Activities:
 - a. Classroom lecture/discussion
 - b. Reading assignment: Chapter 7
- F. **Unit Seven:** Chapter 8, Firearms Evidence
1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will:
 - a. Nature, occurrence, and collection of firearms evidence.
 - b. Class characteristics of fired bullets and cartridges.
 - c. Laboratory examinations and opinions of examiners.
 - d. Field determinations of class characteristics of fired bullets.
 - e. Documentation and collection of firearms evidence.

 2. Learning Activities:
 - a. Classroom lecture/discussion
 - b. Reading assignment; Chapter 8
 - c. Mid-term exam
- G. **Unit Eight:** Chapter 9, Impression Evidence
1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will:

- a. Nature of impression evidence.
- b. Documentation and collection of impression evidence.
- c. Laboratory examinations of impression evidence.
- d. Nature of fracture evidence.
- e. Laboratory examinations of fracture evidence.

2. Learning Activities:
 - a. Classroom lecture/discussion
 - b. Reading assignment: Chapter 9

H. **Unit Nine:** Chapter 10, Drug and Alcohol Evidence

1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will:
 - a. Nature of drug evidence.
 - b. Scheduling of controlled substances.
 - c. Field testing and collection of drug evidence.
 - d. Evidence found in clandestine laboratories.
 - e. Nature and collection of alcohol evidence.

2. Learning Activities:
 - a. Classroom lecture/discussion
 - b. Reading assignment: Chapter 10

I. **Unit Ten:** Chapter 11, Document Evidence

1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will:
 - a. Types of document examinations.
 - b. Proper collection of document evidence.
 - c. Proper packaging of document evidence.

2. Learning Activities:
 - a. Classroom lecture/discussion
 - b. Reading assignment: Chapter 11

J. **Unit Eleven:** Chapter 12, Vehicle Investigations and Chapter 13, Sexual Assault investigations

1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will:
 - a. Conducting a general vehicle search.
 - b. Documentation of vehicle accident scenes.
 - c. Documentation of hit-and-run scenes.
 - d. Collection and laboratory examinations of vehicle lights.

- e. Multi-disciplinary approach to sexual assault investigations.
- f. Roles and responsibilities of the professionals involved in sexual assault investigations.
- g. Types of evidence from the crime scene(s), the victim, and the suspect.
- h. Evidence from the medical examinations of the victim and the suspect.
- i. Proper collection of the evidence from the scene, the victim, and the suspect.
- j. Evidence of child sexual and physical abuse.

2. Learning Activities:

- a. Classroom lecture/discussion
- b. Reading assignment: Chapters 12 and 13
- c. Twelve-week exam (optional)

K. **Unit Twelve:** Chapter 14, Homicide Investigations

1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will:
 - a. Team investigation members and roles in homicide investigations.
 - b. Search and documentation of homicide scenes.
 - c. Appropriate photography at the autopsy.
 - d. Evidence from the post mortem examination.
 - e. Procedures for sexual assault and vehicular homicide scenes.
 - f. Procedures for decomposed remains.
 - g. Additional forensic specialists that may be needed at the autopsy
2. Learning Activities:
 - a. Classroom lecture/discussion
 - b. Reading assignment: Chapter 14

L. **Unit Thirteen:** Chapter 15, Crime Scene Reconstruction

1. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will:
 - a. The value of crime scene reconstruction to a crime investigation.
 - b. The proper development of expertise for a professional discipline.
 - c. The proper development of expertise for crime scene reconstruction professionals.
 - d. The team concept of crime scene reconstruction.
 - e. Classifications of reconstructions based on:
 - a. Type of crime.
 - b. Type of evidence.
 - c. Multiple types of evidence.

2. Learning Activities:
 - a. Classroom lecture/discussion
 - b. Reading assignment: Chapter 15