GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

# ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 150 – FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

AOJ 150 Forensic Photography 4 3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours

3 hours lab: 48-54 hours

96-108 outside-of-class hours

for lecture

192-216 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None.

Corequisite

Concurrent enrollment in AOJ 110 or a “C” grade or higher or Pass in AOJ 110 or equivalent

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

This course is designed to provide students with an emphasis on the technical application of basic investigative photography. This course would be of benefit for public safety investigators, and those who are interested in forensic photography. The course includes using the types of cameras and lighting most often used by law enforcement agencies. Students will be expected to demonstrate proficiency in the use of this equipment, using simulated crime scenes. Legal issues related to criminal investigations will also be discussed.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Define and evaluate investigative photographic theory as it applies to crime scene photography.
2. Use various types of cameras such as digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR)cameras, various lenses, flash units, and other related equipment.
3. Compare and contrast various photographic techniques as they relate to crime scene photography.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of f-stops, shutter speeds, focusing, light metering, ISO selection, white balance selection, resolution selection, and other relevant camera functions.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of bounce flash, fill flash, off-camera flash, and indoor and night-time flash investigative photography.
6. Select the proper procedures in photographing indoor, outdoor and vehicular crime scenes.
7. Select the proper procedures in photographing a victim and suspect involved in a crime.
8. Demonstrate macro and latent fingerprint photography.
9. Organize a forensic photo portfolio as an aid to acquiring employment.
10. Instructional Facilities
11. Standard classroom for lecture.
12. Forensiclaboratory, crime scene rooms, and outdoor spaces.

b. Equipment includes digitalcameras, lighting equipment, miscellaneous photo and audio-visual equipment, computers and related software.

c**.** Computer lab (laptops) for downloading digital images.

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1. Special Materials Required of Student

USB flash drive to store digital images.

1. Course Content
2. Basic camera operations and various lighting using digital Single Lens Reflex cameras.
3. Variety of practical applications of photography equipment as they relate to forensic evidence.
4. Photographic techniques as they relate to crime scene photography.
5. Photographing indoor, outdoor and vehicular crime scenes.
6. Photographing a victim and suspect involved in a crime.
7. Macro and latent fingerprint photography.

8. Method of Instruction

1. Lecture.
2. DVDs.
3. Demonstration.
4. Use of “field situations” and practical applications.
5. Use of cameras, lights,crime scene room, etc.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Quizzes that measure students’ ability to identify f-stops, shutter speeds, and ISO.
2. Completion of and the quality of the various photographic assignments (practical applications).
3. Participation in class activities as an individual and within a team.
4. Development of student portfolio.
5. Classroom presentation of photographic work.
6. Exams including a comprehensive final exam, which measure students’ knowledge of forensic photography.

10. Outside Class Assignments

1. Students will be required to read text and supplementary materials.
2. Written assignments such as photography list reports and narrative crime lab reports.
3. Student portfolio.
4. Photographic presentation project.

11. Texts

a. Required Text(s):

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

Or

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

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

Instructor handouts.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Identify the f-stop numbers (not including ½ or 1/3 stops) from F1.4 – F64.
2. Identify shutter speeds (not including ½ or 1/3 stops) from 1” – 1/4000.
3. Proper use of a flash unit in conjunction with camera settings.
4. Photograph a crime scene.

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 13, 2019