CJ 1350

Division: Social and Behavioral Science
Department: Criminal Justice
Course: CJ 1350
Title: Introduction to Forensic Science
Catalog Description:

This course will provide the student with an introduction and overview of the various disciplines of forensic science employed in modern day criminal investigation. The course will include methods of identification, documentation, and collection of physical evidence in criminal investigations.

General Education Requirements: N/A
Semesters Offered: Spring
Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0
Clock/Hour Requirements: 0
Offered for Non-Credit: No
Prerequisites: CJ 1010

Justification:

This course is required for an associates degree in Criminal Justice. This course also meets the lower division requirements for a bachelors degree in Criminal Justice and is transferable to Weber State University, Southern Utah University, and Utah Valley State College.

The basic skills and knowlege introduced by this course are essential for any law enforcement practitioner and are generally not presented in any depth by law enforcement basic training academics. Therefore, it falls to higher education to begin the indoctrination process as the start of a career long endeavor to include and develop forensic skills which follows into employment and professional practice. Snow College is in the unique position of impacting both the student body and the professional community with this course offering.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will know:

- the significance of physical evidence
- the legal and technical aspects of evidence collection, analysis, and presentation in a court of law
- the protocols of evidence and crime scene processing
- the basics of examination, comparison, and evaluation of physical evidence.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- articulate protocols and analyze scenarios using proper terminology and language
- demonstrate proper fingerprint collection and classification methods as instructed
- analyze given blood spatter scenarios based upon instructed criteria
- engage in discussions of cases from the technical forensic perspective
- perform laboratory exercises and experiments which may be included in the curriculum as time and

resources allow.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will understand:

- The ethical and moral considerations surrounding criminalistics
- that physical evidence prsents the greatest opportuinty for a truthful resolution to questions presented by criminal activity.

Content:

This course will include:

- Introduction to Physical Evidence
- Crime Scene Protocols and Documentation
- Forensic Pathology and Traumatic Injury
- Forensic Anthropology and Taphonomy
- Forensic Toxicology and Serology
- Forensic Fingerprint Analysis
- Bloodspatter Pattern Analysis
- Firearm and Toolmark Analysis
- Trace Evidence, Hair and Fibers
- Arson and Explosive Evidence
- Traffic Collision Investigation and Reconstruction Techniques

General Education Outcomes:

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.
In this course student will read from a text book and supplemental resources as assigned. Student will be required to respond to inquiries in writing to demonstrate an understanding of the subject matter and the proper use of specific terminology and language required of this discipline. Students will also be subjected to content and vocabulary based quizzes.

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.
Students will be required to respond to reading assignments in writing. These writing assignments will be graded on the basis of neatness, completeness, clarity, and the student's articulation of their grasp on the subject.

7) Apply scientific reasoning to a variety of contexts.
Students will be expected to demonstrate that they understand the scientific method that is applied to each discipline of forensic science to which they are introduced. Students will be expected to relate the scientific methods employed in the context of indentification, collection/preservation, analysis/testing, and conclusion/presentation. This outcome will be evaluated as an integral part of each assignment, quiz, or research paper presented by the student.

Key Performance Indicators:

- quizzes, three to four (short answer): 15-20% of final grade
- written response assignments: seven to eight, 40-50% of final grade

- in class laboratory/practical assignments, three to four: 10-20% of final grade
- final research assignment, one: 30-40% of final grade

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

- *Forensic Science - An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Methods,* current edition, James, Nordby, CRC Press.

Optimum Class Size: 20
Maximum Class Size: 24

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Eldon Barnes, MSW, Assistant Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Criminal Justice Department:

, , , Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Social and Behavioral Science Division:

Sue Dalley, M.S., Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)