

GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 148 – FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION

<u>1. Course Number</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Semester Units</u>	<u>Hours</u>
AOJ 148	Fingerprint Identification	3	2 lecture 3 laboratory

2. Prerequisites

A “C” or “CR” grade or higher in Administration of Justice 110 or equivalent.

Corequisite

None.

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

A study of the history and application of fingerprints for personal identification, including the proper techniques for recording fingerprints. Emphasis is placed on recognition of fingerprint patterns, fingerprint classification systems, preparing fingerprints for computer searches, and aspects of individualizing fingerprints.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

- a. Demonstrate the ability to roll legible inked fingerprint impressions and major case prints.
- b. Classify fingerprints using the Henry System with FBI extensions as well as NCIC formula and the AFIX Tracker computer system.
- c. Explain the role of fingerprints in personal identification.
- d. Articulate the role that fingerprint identification plays in the American court system.
- e. Analyze inked (known) fingerprints for the purpose of individualizing.
- f. Block out and reference applicable fingerprint cards for entry into Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).

5. Instructional Facilities

- a. Classroom with table-type desks.
- b. Fingerprint magnifiers for each student and one (1) fingerprint comparator for use in the classroom.
- c. Fingerprint cards and similar quantity of plain white 8' x 10' cardstock.
- d. Fingerprint stations including all equipment for recording inked finger and major case prints.
- e. Computer internet access and audio/video equipment.
- f. Known fingerprint cards for blocking out and classifying.
- g. Overhead projector.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

Electronic storage media.

7. Course Content

- a. Historical background of fingerprint identification.
- b. Physiological basis of friction ridge skin.
- c. Procedures for taking a standard set of fingerprints.
- d. Classification by the Henry system.
- e. Ridge counting and whorl tracing.
- f. Filing and searching.
- g. Latent fingerprints in criminal investigation.
- h. Blocking out fingerprint cards.
- i. AFIS core and axis placement.
- j. NCIC classification.
- k. Recording major case prints.
- l. Techniques for fingerprinting deceased persons.
- m. Comparison and identification of known (inked) fingerprints.
- n. Presentation of recording fingerprints with live capture devices.
- o. Pertinent court decisions.

8. Method of Instruction

- a. Lecture.
- b. Demonstration.
- c. Practical problems.
- d. Visual aids.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

- a. Quizzes, midterm exam, and written final exam.
- b. Performance component (all assignments must be completed).
- c. Professional component (class participation, effort, completion of assignments accurately and on time).
- d. Semester project. (Each student will be required to maintain a personal notebook containing all informational handouts in an orderly and accessible manner.)

10. Outside Class Assignments

- a. Reading assignments.
- b. Semester projects. (Each student will be required to maintain a personal notebook containing all informational handouts in an orderly and accessible manner.)

11. Texts

- a. Required Text(s):  
U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Science of Fingerprints.  
Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1984.
- b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:  
None.

Date approved by the Governing Board: April 17, 2007