

## GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course OutlineADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 220 – ADVANCED FORENSIC TECHNOLOGY

1. <u>Course Number</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Semester Units</u>	<u>Hours</u>
AOJ 220	Advanced Forensic Technology	4	3 hours lecture 3 hours laboratory

2. Course Prerequisites

A “C” or “CR” grade or higher in Administration of Justice 150 and 218 or equivalent.

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

This course will examine the scientific method as it applies to the collection and processing of physical evidence associated with crime scenes. Lectures and labs will be utilized to explore techniques and theories related to collecting and processing trace evidence, fingerprints, footwear/tire impressions, firearms, ballistics, questioned documents, toxicology and serology.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

- Define the capabilities and limitations of the forensic laboratory.
- Identify the fundamentals of a forensic investigation.
- Understand the scientific principles involved in the analytical procedures of a crime lab.
- Recognize the various categories of physical evidence and the techniques available for analysis.
- Identify the skills and education necessary to function as a crime lab criminalist, or forensic specialist.
- Perform routine experiments using proper lab procedures and documentation.
- Articulate a code of ethics and demonstrate standards of ethical conduct.

5. Instructional Facilities

- Mock crime scene area.
- Adequate lecture room for 20 students.
- Teaching crime lab area.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

- Appropriate writing material.
- Bound laboratory notebook for experimental data recording.
- Loose-leaf notebook for compilation of lab notes and handouts.

## 7. Course Content

Due to recent court decisions the law enforcement officer must be more adept in criminal law and the techniques of scientific criminal investigation. With the gradual limitations being placed on the criminal investigator, the law enforcement officer must depend more and more on the criminalist and the evidence technologist in order to gather material and evidence for the successful investigation and prosecution in criminal cases. The following will be addressed:

- a. Physical and chemical examinations of forensic evidence.
- b. Questioned document examination and the analytical methods involved.
- c. Instrumental analytical methods in current crime lab use.
- d. Experimental and possible future forensic methodologies.
- e. Student participation in basic analytical methods performed in class.

## 8. Method of Instruction

- a. Lecture.
- b. Lab demonstrations.

## 9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

- a. Classroom presentation and participation.
- b. Periodic examination and written assignments.
- c. Evaluation and laboratory assignments.
- d. Midterm and written final examinations.
- e. Student notebook and bound laboratory notebook.

## 10. Outside Class Assignments

- a. Reading from assigned text.
- b. Complete lab notebook.

## 11. Texts

- a. Required Text(s):
  - (1) Saferstein, Richard. Criminalistics: Introduction to Forensic Science, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2001.
- b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:  
None.

Date approved by the Governing Board: 4/01

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