

GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course OutlineADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 254 – ADVANCED FINGERPRINTING

1. <u>Course Number</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Semester Units</u>	<u>Hours</u>
AOJ 254	Advanced Fingerprinting	3	2 hours lecture 3 hours lab

2. Course Prerequisites

A “C” grade or higher in AOJ 148 or equivalent.

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

This course covers analyses, comparison and evaluation of friction ridge skin with emphasis on individualization of finger and palm prints including learning the topography of palms and soles. This course would be of benefit to criminal investigators, and those who are interested in forensic identification. Students will learn methods and procedures for developing and preserving visible and latent crime scene impressions. Students will be expected to demonstrate proficiency in identification of finger and palm prints.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

- a. Select and use the best physical or chemical method for processing latent prints on various surfaces.
- b. Interpret the qualitative and quantitative aspects of fingerprints, and any ambiguities to characteristics used by the automated latent print systems or in a comparison examination.
- c. Identify correctly the hand and finger order of simultaneous fingerprints.
- d. Formulate an opinion as to the source of unknown latent impressions when compared to known inked impressions, using a scientific methodology (analysis, comparison, evaluation).
- e. Interpret correctly impressions as partial palms and identify right or left hands.
- f. Identify and classify:
 - 1) Palmar, thenar and hypothenar zones.
 - 2) Triradii and volar patterns.
 - 3) Flexion creases and metacarpo-phalangeal creases and pads.

5. Instructional Facilities

Classroom with table top space and appropriate chemical materials and equipment.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

- a. Smock, apron or lab coat (plastic or cloth).
- b. Dust mask.
- c. Ridge counters (2).

7. Course Content

- a. Philosophy and methodology of friction ridge skin identification, classification, and individualization.
- b. Physical and chemical techniques for developing friction ridge skin impressions.
- c. Use of computer databases in matching known and unknown prints.
- d. Provided with proper equipment, obtain inked footprint exemplars for classification and individualization use.

8. Method of Instruction

- a. Lecture.
- b. Demonstrations.
- c. Referencing law library and the California penal code.
- d. Field trips.
- e. Laboratory activities.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

- a. Written quizzes, midterm and final exams.
- b. Completed case brief.
- c. Hands-on evaluation in the laboratory.
- d. Writing assignments.

10. Outside Class Assignments

- a. Class projects.
- b. Class notebook.
- c. Reading assignments from texts.

11. Texts

- a. Required Text(s):
 - 1) Margot, Pierre, and Chris Lennard. Fingerprint Detection Techniques. Lausanne, Switzerland: Institut de Police Scientifique et de Criminologie, 1994.
 - 2) Coppock, Craig A. Contrast: An Investigator's Guide to Fingerprint Identification Concepts. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas Publisher, Ltd, 2001.
- b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:
None.

Date approved by the Governing Board: 4/05

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