

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

CRJU 24172 Crime Scene Documentation

Credit Hours: 2

Lecture Hours: 2

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite or corequisite: CRJU 10203 Introduction to the Criminal Justice System

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Provides students with a thorough understanding of the written reports and other media required to document crime scenes, maintain the chain of custody of evidence and adhere to court room admissibility requirements. Presents the use of still photography, videography, emerging technologies and written reports used to document crime scenes.

B. Additional Information - None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Demonstrate basic operational knowledge of both still and video camera equipment. Proper use of aperture and shutter speed.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of how to visually document a crime scene.
3. Identify and complete written reports required for documentation of photographic evidence collection, evidentiary chain of custody, and court admissibility.
4. Explore and discuss new emergent technologies used in crime scene documentation.
5. Differentiate between artifacts and evidence.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will use critical thinking skills to identify crime scene problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will use essay format for written presentation of research projects and discuss particular aspects of various topics.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will examine ethical dilemmas within the crime scene and develop ethical frameworks to resolve specific ethical issues.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. History of Crime Scene Photography and evolution
- B. Operation of crime scene photography equipment
- C. Crime Scene Documentation Best Practices (Written Reports and Techniques)
- D. Emergent technologies (VR, robotic cameras, laser measurement devices, etc.)