Course Description

Introduces specialized tools and scientific aids used in criminal investigation. Applies investigative techniques to specific situations and preparation of trial evidence. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an introduction to the contributions, methods, and equipment of the forensic sciences in the investigation of criminal offenses. It is a continuation of ADJ 236 - "Principles of Criminal Investigation".

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Prerequisite: ADJ 236 or division approval

Course Objectives

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

- Detail the interface between the investigator and the forensic scientist
- Learn the methods of processing physical evidence in the laboratory

MAJOR TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED

- The crime laboratory's role in criminal investigations
- Laboratory processing of evidence
- Physical evidence traces
- Fingerprints
- Handwriting
- Voiceprints
- Tool marks
- Paint and glass
- Ballistics

EXTRA TOPICS (optional)

Related topics at the discretion of the instructor