**Course Description**

Introduces the pathology and physiology of the human body with emphasis on scientific name and technique used in medico-legal investigations of death. Students will study types of death, the mechanisms of death and death reflex, and determining cause of death by postmortem examination. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General course purpose**

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an overview of forensic death investigations.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites**

None

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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

- Describe the component of medico-legal investigations and implications of death investigations with respect to the roles and responsibilities of the different forensic disciplines
- Demonstrate knowledge of forensic medico-legal terminology and the scientific techniques used in death investigations
- Describe the characteristics that differentiate the manner, cause, and mechanisms of death

**Major topics to be included**

- Medico-legal death investigation
- Post-mortem changes
- Natural causes of death
- Blunt force trauma
- Cranio-cerebral injuries
- Sharp force injuries
- Asphyxial deaths
- Transportation related deaths
- Environmental causes of death such as: fire, carbon monoxide, drowning, hypothermia, etc.
- Child death

**Extra Topics – May Be Included**

Related topics at the discretion of the instructor.