

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY  
ADJ 134 – COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE (3 CR.)**

**Course Description**

Surveys fundamental evidence collection procedures, including recognition, selection, handling, packaging and marking. Examines ways to prevent alteration, contamination, damage and tampering. Emphasizes legal requirements for a continuous chain of possession. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an introduction to the collection and preservation of evidence from crime scenes and other sources.

**Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites**

None

**Course Objectives**

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

- conduct a crime scene search.
- collect and preserve evidence.
- properly document a crime scene.
- correctly use chain of custody documents.
- describe the role of the crime laboratory in analyzing crime scene evidence

**Major Topics to be Included**

- Introduction to physical evidence
- Principles of crime scene searches
- Recording crime scenes (description, sketches and photography)
- Collection of latent fingerprints
- Collection of various kinds of evidence such as: latent fingerprints, hair and fibers, glass, paint and soils, biological fluids and stains, impressions, firearms, etc.
- Focus on specific kinds of crime scenes, such as homicide, auto accident, sexual assault, etc.

**Extra Topics (Optional)**

Crime scene reconstruction, court testimony, computer evidence, and related topics at the discretion of the instructor.