

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
ADJ 278 - FIREARMS AND TOOL-MARK IDENTIFICATION (3 CR)**

Course Description

Introduces the role of the firearms examiner in forensic science. Teaches the examination techniques and procedures for identifying firearms, tool-marks, ammunition, projectiles and projectile fragments. Instructs on the topics of determining muzzle-to-target distance, gunshot residue tests, firearms nomenclature, comparative micrography, serial number restoration, and the collecting, handling, and presenting of firearms and tool-mark evidence. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

Purpose of this course is to provide the student with a familiarization of firearms and tool mark evidence. The course will include the safe handling of firearms and ammunition.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

Course Objective

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

- Have a clear understanding of firearms and toolmark evidence.
- Understand the evidentiary value of firearm and toolmark evidence.
- Understand the safe handling of firearms evidence
- Understand the proper collection, preservation and transporting firearm evidence.
- Aware of the features observed in the forensic examination of bullets which permit an association with a particular firearm
- Aware of the chain of custody requirements involving the care, custody and control of firearm and toolmark evidence
- Familiar with the importance of trajectory

Extra Topics (Optional)

Related topics at the discretion of the instructor.