

University of Northern Colorado
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Office of Extended Studies
CRJ 408-601: Forensic Photography and Advances in Crime Scene Documentation (3 cr)
Interim 2009-10

Course advisor: Alan Price, MA, SCSA
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Invited Guest Lecturers:

- (1) Jan LeMay, IAI Certified Forensic Photographer, Crime Scene Specialist
- (2) George Slack, BA, SCSA, Crime Scene Investigator
- (3) Honorable Judge Marcelow Kopcow, 19th Judicial District Court Judge

Class Building & Room: TBA
Dates and Times: January 4 – 9, 2010 - 8-5 daily

Required Texts: A workshop book and study reference guide will be provided to each student for this course as part of the cost of the tuition.

Course Description:

This intense one-week course provides the attendee with the principles of photography and complimentary crime scene documentation techniques as applied in criminal investigations. The fundamentals of both digital and 35mm photography will be examined, thus providing the student with an understanding of the various principles of photography. This course is a combination of lecture and practical crime scene photography exercises. Each attendee will perform various photographic assignments and their photographs will be reviewed for quality. Students will be required to supplement their photographs with crime scene sketches and appropriate legal documentation. Courtroom techniques will be discussed to prepare the student for trial preparation and the presentation of their evidence. This course is designed for persons who may be responsible for performing photographic duties at crime scenes, autopsies and traffic accidents, and includes college students majoring in criminal justice, forensic nurses and police officers.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will learn the mechanics of both digital and 35mm photography.
2. Each attendee will complete a photographic log of evidence as mandated by law for evidence.
3. Attendees will complete a crime scene sketch to supplement their photographs of the scene.
4. After learning the principles of photography, the students will then learn the functional applications of various lighting techniques, depth of field and taking of close-up pictures.
5. Students will learn the law as it applies to introducing photographs into court.
6. Attendees will be able to take appropriate photos of traffic accidents for both civil litigation and criminal prosecution.
7. Students will obtain the skills to appropriately testify in a court of law as to their photographic skills and the content of their photographs.

Outline of Course Content:

Principles of photography
Manual workings of cameras both digital and 35mm
Maintenance of a photographic log as evidence
Basics of crime scene sketching
Practicum exercises in photographic depth of field, focus, lighting techniques, close-up photography and nighttime photography
Legal foundations for photographic evidence
Photographing and documenting an traffic accident scene
Photographing and documenting a violent crime scene
Moot court scenario to introduce photos and establish the students credibility in court

Class Presentations:

Students will be expected to submit the written results of their groups photo assignments throughout the week. Upon the completion of the course each individual student is expected to submit a photo log and a chain of custody sheet of their film and pictures. Each student is also required to submit a crime scene sketch that accurately supplements the photographs they have taken. Each student will also be expected to participate in a moot court presentation to establish a legal foundation for the introduction of their photos into a court of law.

Extra Credit:

No extra credit is structured into this class.

Examinations:

Both a mid-term and final examination will be administered in compliance with University standards. **The Mid-term examine will be on Wednesday, January 6 and the Final Examination will be on Saturday, January 9. Both examinations will only be administered on their respective dates.** Both the mid-term and final exams will be comprehensive of all topics presented in this course.

Quizzes:

A daily quiz will be administered on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of this course. Quizzes are generally fifteen points in value.

Participation and attendance:

Students cannot afford to miss any portion of this class in order to maintain a passing grade.

Quizzes	= 15 – 20 points each
Midterm Exam	= 50 points
Final Exam	= 100 points
Written group summary & crime scene sketch	= 25 points
Individual photo assignments	= 10 points each

Course Grading:

Percentages are based on the total accumulated points from the mid-term, final, any quizzes, the submitted paper and individual presentations.

UNC's Policies;

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed.

Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

Honor Code

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: *Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility*. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

UNC's Policies

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link <http://www.unco.edu/dos/handbook/index.html>

Notice

The Office of Extended Studies reserves the right to cancel or reschedule courses based upon enrollment. Enrolled students will be contacted with information of any change.

Student Satisfaction Evaluation

Participants will be asked to evaluate the workshop for instructors' knowledge, interest and enthusiasm as well as providing additional information on classes or topics which you would like to see developed as a future offering from UNC.

Portable Electronic Devices

Please extend courtesy to your instructor and fellow students by turning off your portable electronic devices such as: cell phones, pagers, and iPods. Although not an audio issue, text-messaging is a distraction to other students and prevents you from full participation in class. You should keep your portable electronic devices in your backpack or purse during class. Your personal electronic devices should not be on your desks. If you know that you may need to accept an emergency phone call during class or if you have children in childcare or school, please let the instructor know. If you need to take a phone call during class, please step out of the classroom while you complete your call. Thank you for your cooperation.

Course Withdrawal Information

In accordance with University and Colorado Department of Higher Education policy, if you drop this class after December 31, you are legally responsible for payment of full tuition. In order to be eligible to receive any refund of tuition, you must contact the Office of Extended Studies (1-800-232-1749) to formally withdraw from your class. Your refund, if applicable, will be based on the date of contact with our office. Withdrawals received via telephone during non-business hours will be processed and dated on the next working day. Failure to notify us will result in UNC tuition being owed even though you do not attend or complete the coursework.

Course Daily Schedule:

Monday, January 4, 2010

8:00 – 8:30	Introduction, class expectations, grading, etc.
8:30 – 9:00	Crime Scene Documentation – complementary nature of the interrelationship between photographs, diagrams, models, video, etc.
9:00 – 9:15	Break
9:15-10:30	Principals of photography as they apply to both film and digital imaging
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:00	Special considerations for digital photography
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:15	Introduction to flash photography
2:15-2:30	Break
2:30-4:00	Introduction to crime scene photography: what to photograph at the crime scene
4:00-5:00	Case presentations (2 actual cases illustrating “what to photograph”)

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

8:00-8:45	Introduction to Crime Scene Sketching
8:45-9:00	Break
9:00-9:45	Measurement methods
9:45-10:00	Group assignments and travel to Bishop-Lehr
10:00-12:00	Rough crime scene sketches at Bishop-Lehr
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:30	Introduction to close-up photography
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-3:45	Hand-on exercise: close-up photography (serial numbers, VIN plates, cartridge cases, etc.)
3:45-4:15	Quiz
4:15-5:00	Case presentations

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

8:00-8:15	Review Quiz
8:15-9:00	Photographic documentation of wounds and injuries
9:00-9:15	Break

9:15-10:15 Photographic documentation of bloodstains on walls, floors and clothing
 10:15-10:30 Break
 10:30-12:00 Hands-on exercise: photographing wounds and bloodstain patterns
 12:00-1:00 Lunch
 1:00-2:00 Photographic documentation of impression evidence (friction ridge, footwear and tire impression evidence)
 2:00-2:15 Break
 2:15-4:00 Hands-on exercise: photographing friction ridge evidence (plastic, patent and developed latent impressions), photographing footwear impressions and photographing tire track impressions
 4:00-5:00 Mid-term Exam

Thursday, January 7, 2010

1:00-1:15 Review mid-term exam
 1:15-2:00 Photographic documentation of traffic accident scenes
 2:00-2:15 Break
 2:15-3:00 Photographic documentation of crime scenes involving arson and explosions
 3:00-3:15 Break
 3:15-4:30 Photographic documentation of crime scenes involving unique evidence (safe burglaries, electronic evidence, etc)
 4:30-4:45 Break
 4:45-5:30 Specialized flash techniques: night photography and painting with light
 5:30-6:00 Quiz
 6:00-8:00 Dinner at Old Chicago's
 8:00-10:00 Hands-on exercise: outdoor photography after dark (general crime scene photography, traffic accident photography and painting with light)

Friday, January 8, 2010

8:00-8:15 Review Quiz
 8:15-10:15 Individual group activities
 Groups 1-6: Mock Crime Scene Photography
 Groups 7-12: Finish crime scene diagrams
 Groups 13-18: Documenting evidence using alternate light sources
 (Hands-on exercise: using ultraviolet light to document results of Trace Metal Detection Technique evidence)
 10:15-12:15 Individual group activities
 Groups 13-18: Mock Crime Scene Photography
 Groups 1-6: Finish crime scene diagrams
 Groups 7-12: Documenting evidence using alternate light sources
 (Hands-on exercise: using ultraviolet light to document results of Trace Metal Detection Technique evidence)
 12:15-1:15 Lunch
 1:15-3:15 Individual group activities
 Groups 7-12: Mock Crime Scene Photography
 Groups 13-18: Finish crime scene diagrams
 Groups 1-6: Documenting evidence using alternate light sources
 (Hands-on exercise: using ultraviolet light to document results of Trace Metal Detection Technique evidence)
 3:15-4:00 Court presentation of documentary evidence: introduction and presentation of diagrams, photographs, models, etc. Digital evidence: enhancement vs. alteration
 4:00-4:30 Quiz
 4:30-5:00 Case Presentations

Saturday, January 9, 2010

8:00-8:15 Review quiz
 8:15-9:45 Review crime scene diagrams and photographs. Present completed scenes to the class.
 9:45-11:00 Final exam