



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Subject:	AJ
Course Number:	133
Descriptive Title:	Fingerprint Classification and Investigation
Division:	Health Sciences and Athletics
Department:	Administration of Justice
Course Disciplines:	Administration of Justice
Catalog Description:	This course covers the basic principles of fingerprints, including lifting, classification, and identification. The history and scientific basis for fingerprints are studied in relation to current practices and procedures.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	Prior to July 1992
Transfer UC:	No
Effective Date:	
General Education:	ECC
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	

Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	<p>SLO #1 Fingerprint Fundamentals</p> <p>Given instruction, demonstration and practice, students enrolled in AJ 133 will be able to describe and explain basic fingerprint definitions and describe the major fingerprint patterns using correct terminology.</p> <p>SLO #2 Identification by Fingerprints</p> <p>Given instruction, demonstration and practice, students enrolled in AJ 133 will be able to compare and document latent prints with known prints and form an opinion of identification.</p> <p>SLO #3 Lifting Fingerprints</p> <p>Given instruction, demonstration and practice, students enrolled in AJ 133 will be able to use fingerprint powder, fingerprint brush, card and lifting tape, process a potential site for latent fingerprints, develop a print, lift it and place it on a print card.</p>
Course Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify types, values and characteristics of physical evidence. 2. Explain basic fingerprinting definitions, fundamentals and terminology. 3. Analyze the structure and growth of friction skin. 4. Explain the history and scientific research of fingerprint identification. 5. Identify basic fingerprint patterns. 6. Block and Classify real fingerprint cards using the Henry Classification Method and NCIC Method. 7. Compare and identify fingerprinting to fingerprint identifications on fingerprint cards. 8. Demonstrate how to properly process a crime scene including the preservation and collection of evidence. 9. Demonstrate the ability to process an item of evidence for latent prints using powders. Document required information on the latent print lift card.
Major Topics	<p>I. FINGERPRINT TERMINOLOGY (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Forensic job descriptions and requirements for hire B. Crime scene photos of types of evidence C. Class characteristics vs. individual characteristics D. Structure of friction skin E. Ridge characteristics <p>II. FINGERPRINT TERMINOLOGY AND LOOP PATTERN (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Ridge Flow B. Delta and Delta Rules C. Core and Core Rules D. Ridge Counting

- E. Loop Pattern

III. ARCH AND TENTED ARCH PATTERNS (5 hours, lecture)

- A. Arch Pattern
- B. Tented Arch Pattern
- C. Differences between loop and tented arch patterns
- D. Differences between arch and tented arch pattern
- E. History of Fingerprints
- F. Basis for fingerprint identification

IV. WHORL PATTERNS (5 hours, lecture)

- A. Plain Whorl
- B. Central Pocket Whorl
- C. Double Loop Whorl
- D. Accidental Whorl
- E. Whorl tracings

V. FINGERPRINT CARD BLOCKING FOR HENRY CLASSIFICATION (3 hours, lecture)

- A. Review of all fingerprint patterns on fingerprint cards
- B. Blocking of fingerprint cards
- C. Introduction to Henry Classification

VI. HENRY CLASSIFICATION (3 hours, lecture)

- A. Primary
- B. Secondary
- C. Subsecondary
- D. Final
- E. Major
- F. Key

VII. HENRY CLASSIFICATION AND NCIC CLASSIFICATION (6 hours, lecture)

- A. References in classification
- B. Filing order
- C. NCIC Classification

VIII. COMPARISON AND IDENTIFICATION (6 hours, lecture)

- A. Science of fingerprints
- B. Comparison methodology
- C. Levels of Detail
- D. How prints are compared
- E. Comparison Battery

IX. CRIME SCENE PROCESSING FOR LATENT PRINTS (5 hours, lecture)

- A. "Individual" Crime Scene Investigator
- B. Crime scene processing procedures

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C. Problems at the crime scene identified during trial D. Crime scene protection E. Evidence collection procedures <p>X. LATENT PRINT PROCESS (6 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Latent Processing Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Field processing 2. Lab processing 3. Surfaces B. How to process and lift prints C. Comparison Battery <p>XI. LATENT PRINT PROCESSING (6 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Processing for latent prints on boxes and other materials B. Comparison of lifted latent prints to fingerprint cards <p>XII. COURT TESTIMONY (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The fingerprint technician B. The fingerprint expert C. The investigating officer D. Manner of presentation E. Direct and cross examination
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
Primary Method of Evaluation	3) Skills demonstration
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Compare two fingerprints and evaluate if they are made by the same person or not. Report your findings in writing to the instructor as to yes, made by same person, or no, made by two different persons.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Develop a print using fingerprint powders and compare the developed latent print to several known fingerprint cards and form an opinion of identification on the fingerprint card. Submit fingerprint card to the instructor.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Given several surfaces to process for latent prints, discern what fingerprint powder to use and develop these prints. Process and lift latent prints and document the fingerprint lift card appropriately. Submit fingerprint lift card to instructor with evaluation of quality of latent prints developed for comparison purposes.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Class Performance, Essay Exams, Homework Problems, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Other Exams, Performance Exams, Quizzes, True/False, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Demonstration, Discussion, Guest Speakers, Lecture, Multimedia presentations, Role play/simulation

If other:	Practical exercises Internet Presentation/Resources
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Observation of or participation in an activity related to course content (such as theatre event, museum, concert, debate, meeting), Problem solving activity, Required reading, Skill practice, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Textbooks:	Hillary Daluz, Fundamentals of Fingerprint Analysis 2nd Ed., Routledge. 2021
Alternative Textbooks:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
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Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	John Hampton
Date:	10/16/2014
Original Board Approval Date:	12/15/1973
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Dina Maguer
Date:	04/02/2022
Last Board Approval Date:	06/20/2022