



Broward Community College

Course Outline

STATUS: A

COMMON COURSE NUMBER: CJE 2643

COURSE TITLE: Advanced Forensic Investigation

CREDIT HOURS: 3

CONTACT HOURS BREAKDOWN:

Lecture/Discussion 48

Lab 0

Other 0

Contact Hours/Week 3

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisite: CJE 2600, CJE 2640 or Instructor's permission

Corequisite: None

This course explores the scientific and investigative methods used to solve serious crimes against persons. Topics include distinguishing between causes of death, such as accidental, suicide or homicide; the use of autopsies; and child and elderly abuse investigation. (NOTE: this course utilizes graphic material that may make some students uncomfortable.)

UNIT TITLES:

1. Mechanisms of Death
2. Natural Death
3. Accidental Death
4. Suicide
5. Homicide
6. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
7. Autopsy
8. Sexual Deaths
9. Child and Elderly Abuse

I. Course Overview:

Upon successful completion of this course, the students should be able to

II. Units:

Unit 1. Mechanisms of Death

General Outcome:

1.0 The students should be able to recognize and understand what causes the mechanisms of death, and to be able to provide an approximate time of death.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 1.1 Recognize death.
- 1.2 Understand cause vs. manner of death.
- 1.3 Recognize Rigor Mortis and its cause.
- 1.4 Recognize Liver Mortis and its importance in death investigation.
- 1.5 Understand decomposition and its time frame.
- 1.6 Understand how the body cools after death.
- 1.7 Recognize petechinal hemorrhage and what it is associated with.
- 1.8 Understand cadaveric spasm and what causes it.
- 1.9 Recognize tache noire.

Unit 2. Natural Death

General Outcome:

2.0 The students should be able to identify different causes of natural death based on the importance of recognition of medication and the contact with the family doctor.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 2.1 Understand the importance of contact with the family doctor.
- 2.2 Recognize what the person was being treated for based on the medication.
- 2.3 Understand the causes of sudden death.
- 2.4 Be aware of AIDS and other diseases that are contagious to the public.

Unit 3. Accidental Death

General Outcome:

3.0 The students should be able to recognize different elements that separate accidental death from other manners of death.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

3.1 Recognize if a particular death is criminal or civil or natural.

3.2 Recognize electrical deaths.

3.3 Recognize drowning deaths.

3.4 Recognize hypothermia.

3.5 Recognize hypertherma.

3.6 Recognize lightning deaths.

3.7 Recognize suffocation/strangulation.

3.8 Understand pulmonary edema.

Unit 4. Suicide

General Outcome:

4.0 The students should be able to recognize the injuries that are associated with suicide and learn methods to prove that the injuries were deliberately self-inflicted.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 4.1 Prove intent.
- 4.2 Profile the victim.
- 4.3 Understand State Statute 782.08.
- 4.4 Understand assisted suicide.
- 4.5 Discuss suicide as a moral, religious or criminal issue.
- 4.6 Recognize which age groups and ethnic backgrounds are the highest risk for suicide.
- 4.7 Recognize what means of suicide are associated with what age group.
- 4.8 Discuss "Suicide by Cop" (is it justifiable homicide).

Unit 5. Homicide

General Outcome:

5.0 The students should be able to recognize the difference between the degrees of murder, the type of injuries associated with homicide and if a particular death is a murder or a homicide.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 5.1 Recognize homicide vs. murder.
- 5.2 Recognize first degree murder.
- 5.3 Recognize second degree murder.
- 5.4 Recognize manslaughter.
- 5.5 Recognize gunshot wounds.
- 5.6 Recognize incised wounds.
- 5.7 Recognize stab wounds.
- 5.8 Recognize blunt force traumas.
- 5.9 Understand methods of latent recovery from the human body.
- 5.10 Explain justifiable vs. excusable homicide.

Unit 6. Sudden Death Syndrome (SID)

General Outcome:

6.0 The students should be able to recognize the risk factors associated with SIDS and what are the basic mechanisms. The student should also be advised of the recent research involved in SIDS deaths.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 6.1 Understand the mechanisms associated with SIDS.
- 6.2 Understand the risk factors that are associated with the SIDS victims.
- 6.3 Distinguish between SIDS and other causes of death.
- 6.4 Understand State Statute 383.3362.
- 6.5 Recognize the ethnic and socioeconomic breakdown of SIDS.
- 6.6 Understand the "Back to Sleep" movement.

Unit 7. Autopsy

General Outcome:

7.0 The students should be able to understand the difference between the hospital and forensic autopsy, and the importance of each.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

7.1 Understand State Statute 406.11.

7.2 Understand State Statute 406.12

7.3 Explain Medical Examiner vs. Conner System

7.4 Understand the importance of the hospital autopsy and the reason of its decline.

7.5 Understand the toxicology investigation associated with the autopsy.

Unit 8. Sexual Deaths

General Outcome:

8.0 The students should be able to identify the difference between accidental sexual deaths and lust murders.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

8.1 Recognize autoerotic death.

8.2 Recognize injuries associated with lust murders and how to profile the culprit.

Unit 9. Child and Elderly Abuse

General Outcome:

9.0 The students should be able to understand how children and the elderly bruise and the difference between being restrained and abused.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

9.1 Understand State Statute 825.112.

9.2 Recognize and understand injuries.