CJE 4675 - Modern Fingerprinting Technology

Course Description:

A study of the detection, preservation, and removal of fingerprint evidence pertaining to latent, patent and plastic prints. **Pre – req. CJT 2100, Co-requisite: CJE 4641**

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will outline the basic elements needed to collect fingerprints by:

a. identifying the three types of prints as latent, patent, or plastic
b. identifying the need to record prints photographically
c. lifting a print and documenting the lift for processing
d. sketching a crime scene

Competency 2: The student will discuss the proper method and use of fingerprint powder; its strengths and weaknesses by:

a. identifying the different types of fingerprinting methods
b. identifying the types of powder used for a specific surface
c. analyzing the history and theory of fingerprinting, fingerprint identification and fingerprint development
d. utilizing magnetic powder as well as graphic powders ninhydrin, cyanoacrylate to preserve and identify prints

Competency 3: The student will demonstrate the proper method of collecting latent, patent and plastic prints by:

a. documenting a lift for processing
b. identifying the type of print
c. securing the crime scene
d. discussing the chain of command
e. packaging the print properly to be sent to the crime lab

Competency 4: The student will demonstrate the proper method of documenting the collection and location of each fingerprint found at a crime scene by:

a. writing a detailed report describing each print lifted
b. photographing each print
c. identifying the print card on which the fingerprints are placed

d. separating the crime scene into grids

Competency 5: The student will identify the hazards at a crime scene and the proper equipment needed to make the scene safe to process by:

a. describing elements of a hazardous crime scene
b. analyzing when a crime scene is too dangerous to enter
c. identifying appropriate protective gear and deciding when to use it

Competency 6: The student will describe the proper method of preserving each fingerprint that is lifted at the scene for presentation in court by:

a. identifying and discussing the need for a warrant to search and seize evidence
b. outlining the chain of custody and chain of command
c. creating a major crime scene log
d. demonstrating the proper method of securing the crime scene

Competency 7: The student will outline the proper method and use of other methods of lifting prints other than with powders by:

a. utilizing an alternate light source for lifting prints
b. utilizing photo-printing techniques
c. utilizing the superglue process for lifting prints
d. developing prints with ninhydrin

Competency 8: The student will describe and discuss the best methods to preserve fingerprints that are lifted using ninhydrin, cyanoacrylate ester, and the use of stains for presentation in court by:

a. analyzing the black light process for fingerprinting
b. lifting prints through the use of ninhydrin
c. lifting prints through the use of cyanoacrylate ester or superglue
d. packaging prints for court room presentation

Competency 9: The student will describe and discuss the proper method of testifying relating to the collection of fingerprints and the chain of custody by:

a. defining evidence
b. preparing evidence for courtroom presentation and testifying
c. documenting properly for testifying
d. testifying properly to the sequence of events as they apply to the collection of the fingerprints and other evidence

Competency 10: The student will describe and discuss the proper method of storing the collected fingerprints for presentation in the courtroom by:

a. creating a major and minor crime scene log
b. demonstrating the placement of fingerprints in a secure property room using a barcode or number system
c. outlining the chain of custody
d. utilizing appropriate secure crime scene methods