



FORENSIC SCIENCE

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
Forensic Science Program

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**FSC 624 Advanced Crime Scene
Investigation
Spring 2025**

Instructor											
Name: Capt. S. Compton Phone: 304-360-0289 Email: compton4@marshall.edu Office Hours: Call/email for appointment											
Required Texts											
None											
Recommended Texts											
Practical Crime Scene Analysis and Reconstruction, Tom Bevel & Ross M. Gardner											
Course Description											
This course will give you the knowledge, skills, and abilities to investigate a complex crime scene involving bloodstain patterns through lecture and hands-on applications. (3 hours) <u>LOCATION: Thursday 3:30-6:30pm in West Wing 1 / Crime Scene House</u>											
Prerequisites											
Formal admission to the Forensic Science Program based on academic achievement, supportive letters of recommendation, and passing a background check and Introduction to Crime Scene Investigation, FSC 606											
Objectives											
By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge of the development, history and advancement of crime scene analysis • Recognize proper protective measures to follow in a bloodstained scene • Recognize key bloodstain patterns and understand the mechanism by which they were created • Document and identify blood stains from different angles and surfaces • Identify blood enhancement techniques and how/when to use them • Performing proper quality assurance standards as established by SWGSTAIN • Calculate angle of impact, point of convergence, and point of origin • Reconstruct a complex crime scene involving multiple blood stains • Develop skills to properly document, photograph, & sketch a crime scene involving multiple blood stains • Discuss the legal and ethical aspects of the field of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis 											
Evaluation/Assessment of Learner Objectives											
There will be one midterm exam and one final, non-comprehensive exam. There will be practical application exercises as well.											
Grading Policy											
Exam 1 – 33 % Final – 33 % Practical –33%	<p>Grading Scale:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>90-100%</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80-89%</td> <td>B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>70-79%</td> <td>C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60-69%</td> <td>D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>59% and below</td> <td>F</td> </tr> </table>	90-100%	A	80-89%	B	70-79%	C	60-69%	D	59% and below	F
90-100%	A										
80-89%	B										
70-79%	C										
60-69%	D										
59% and below	F										

Attendance Policy / Make-up Policy

Attendance is Mandatory: Students enrolled in the Forensic Science Program are expected to attend all classes, laboratories, seminars, internship sessions, and presentations offered by guest speakers. If you are sick or are not able to make it to class, a phone call or e-mail is required BEFORE class time. If you are unable to take an exam on the selected day, arrangements must be made BEFORE the scheduled date to take the exam. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade. <http://www.marshall.edu/wpmu/student-affairs/files/2011/08/Medical-Withdrawal-Policy.pdf>

Student Absence Form: www.marshall.edu/forensics <Student Only> <Forms>; <http://www.marshall.edu/forensics/student-resources>; <http://www.marshall.edu/forensics/faculty-resources-and-forms>

Completion of an Instructor-signed Student Absence Form is facilitated by the Student and sent on to the Program Coordinator for all absences. This may occur BEFORE the absence (recommended) or on the first day of class upon return. Whether the absence is EXCUSED or UNEXCUSED will dictate whether the student will be granted make-ups and whether they will receive point or grade reductions. Completed Absence Forms will be placed in the student's formal file. A Completed Absence Form is one bearing signatures of the student, instructor(s), and program coordinator. If the student is not able to attend class for any reason, a phone call or e-mail to the Instructor is required BEFORE class time as this is a standard employer practice.

Excused Absences: The Program Coordinator and Instructor must be notified of absences. Formal documentation is required for Excused Absences which may involve physician statements excusing the student from class, obituaries, or professional travel documentation. With an Excused Absence, the student may be asked to take an exam BEFORE the scheduled date. No exams, labs, or other formal exercises will be made up without an Excused Absence.

Examples of Excused Absences include:

- Personal Medical Emergency – Formal documentation is required from a licensed physician or appropriate healthcare provider
- Death in the Immediate Family – Documentation required
- Forensic Professional Travel – Documentation required. Marshall University Forensic Science Program, Marshall University, the West Virginia Policy Board for Higher Education is not liable for accidents or injuries incurred during trips within or out of the state.

Unexcused Absences: Any unexcused absence in which a student misses a lab or exam or other graded activity will result in the deduction of one letter grade from the student's final grade or a reduction of points as specified in the Course Syllabus. Any quizzes missed during an unexcused absence will result in a zero.

Medical Withdrawal: <http://www.marshall.edu/wpmu/student-affairs/files/2011/08/Medical-Withdrawal-Policy.pdf>

Final Grade Appeal: Any student who believes the final course grade is wrong may appeal the grade. See (<http://www.marshall.edu/graduate/graduate-student-appeals/>). The appeal is limited to three areas: a) The final grade assigned for a course is based on an obvious error (e.g. a clear error such as error in computing a grade or failure to grade one of the answers on an exam). b) Standards different from those established in written department, or Graduate College policies, if specific policies exist, were used in assigning the grade. c) The instructor departed from his or her previously articulated, written standards, without notifying graduate students, in determining the grade. There are several steps in the appeal process. These are designed to allow the student, faculty, and program director to correct the error or come to a mutual compromise before it goes to the Graduate College/College of Science Dean's Office for final review.

Make-up Policy: The program coordinator and instructor must be notified of absences. Doctor's excuse may be required if more than one absence occurs.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as “submitting as one’s own work or creation any material or an idea wholly or in part created by another. This includes oral, written, and graphical material, and both published and unpublished work. It is the student’s responsibility to clearly distinguish his/her own work from that created by others. This includes the proper use of quotation marks, paraphrase, and the citation of the original source” (2008-2009, Graduate Catalog, p. 61). Refer to Marshall University Board of Governors Policy No. AA-12 Academic Dishonesty - <http://www.marshall.edu/president/Board/Policies/MUBOG%20AA-12%20Academic%20Dishonesty.pdf>– for complete details.

Policy for Student’s with Disabilities

Marshall University is committed to equal opportunity education for all students, including those with physical, learning and psychological disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with disabilities to contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS) in Prichard Hall 117 (304.696.2271) to provide documentation of their disability. Following this, the DSS Coordinator will send a letter to each of the student’s instructors outlining the academic accommodation he/she will need to ensure equality in classroom experiences, outside assignment, testing, and grading. The instructor and student will meet to discuss how the accommodation(s) requested will be provided. For more information, access the website for the Office of Disabled Student Services: <http://www.marshall.edu/disabled/>

Affirmative Action Policy

It is the policy of Marshall University to provide equal opportunities to all prospective and current members of the student body, faculty, and staff on the basis of individual qualifications and merit without regard to race, color, sex, religion, age, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation. To obtain information on the implementation of the policy regarding nondiscrimination, contact the Director of Equity Programs, Old Main, Marshall University, Huntington, WV 24755 (304.696.2592)

Acceptable Use Policy

Access to Marshall University’s resources is a privilege and is provided with an expectation of responsible and acceptable use. To read the principles and guidelines as well as federal, state, and local regulations, please go to <http://www.marshall.edu/ucs/cs/acptuse.asp>.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the case of inclement weather, please follow Marshall’s procedures if any cancellations/delays occur. <http://www.marshall.edu/ucomm/weather.html>.

Miscellaneous Policies

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies. Please read the full text of each policy (listed below) by going to [MU Academic Affairs: University Policies](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/). (URL: <https://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/>)

- Academic Dishonesty Policy
- Academic Dismissal Policy
- Academic Forgiveness Policy
- Academic Probation and Suspension Policy
- Affirmative Action Policy
- Pre-Finals Week Policy
- D/F Repeat Rule
- Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates
- Inclement Weather Policy
- Sexual Harassment Policy- Title IX prohibits the harassment of students based on sex, which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions. This includes that students will not be penalized for taking medically necessary leave related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions. Marshall’s Title IX Office may be contacted at TitleIX@marshall.edu
- Students with Disabilities (Policies and Procedures)
- University Computing Services Acceptable Use Policy

Week	Date	Topic
Week 1	Jan 16	Introduction to Crime Scene Analysis
Week 2	Jan 23	Principles of CSA
Week 3	Jan 30	Post Blast Investigation
Week 4	Feb 6	Buried Body & Underwater Evidence Collection
Week 5	Feb 13	February Break-No Class
Week 6	Feb 20	Reconstruction Methodology 1
Week 7	Feb 27	Reconstruction Methodology 2
Week 8	Mar 6	Mid Term Exam
Week 9	Mar 13	Shooting Reconstruction 1
Week 10	Mar 20	Spring Break-No Class
Week 11	Mar 27	Shooting Reconstruction 2
Week 12	Apr 3	Shooting Reconstruction Practical
Week 13	Apr 10	Shooting Reconstruction 3
Week 14	Apr 17	Analysis Practical
Week 15	Apr 24	Reasoning & Bias
Week 16	May 1	Report Writing
Week 17	May 8	Final Exam