



Marshall University Forensic Science Program

Course Title/Number	FSC 617 Advanced Photography and Crime Scene Documentation
Semester/Year	Spring 2025
Days/Time	Monday 4p to 6p
Location	MUFSC WW2
Instructor	Capt. Stephen M. Compton, BA
Office	N/A
Cell Phone	(304) 360-0289
E-Mail	compton4@marshall.edu
Office Hours	Call/text/email to set up an appointment.
University Policies	By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/ . Academic Dishonesty/Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/Computing Services Acceptable Use/Inclement Weather/Dead Week/Students with Disabilities/Academic Forgiveness/Academic Probation and Suspension/Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/Affirmative Action/Sexual Harassment

Course Description

This series of lectures and practical exercises introduces the student to sophisticated crime scene documentation techniques including sketching, surveying, photography, and crime scene management techniques. This course addresses all aspects of crime scene photography. It encompasses both lectures and practical exercises, which will enable the students to get more hands on training. Basic & advanced camera settings are discussed as well as painting with light, exposure and flash concepts and digital imaging/enhancement.

Course student learning outcomes	How students will practice each outcome in this course	How student achievement of each outcome will be assessed in this course
Students will...be able to outline and discuss the steps taken during the documentation phase of a crime scene investigation. (comprehension)	Active listening during lecture	Exam questions

Texts, Additional Reading, and Other Materials

Crime Scene Photography by Edward Robinson, 3rd Edition
ISBN: 978-0-12-802764-6

Recommended:
Practical Crime Scene Processing and Investigation by Ross Gardner, 2005
ISBN: 0-8493-2043-7

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General Rules/Course Requirements/Due Dates

The following general rules will be in effect:

- Any assignments or lecture notes missed will be the responsibility of the student to obtain.
- Respect the opinions of others.
- Cheating on exams or plagiarism of written assignments will not be tolerated. Cheating will result in a zero rating on the exam/written assignment.
- Make-up exams are to be given at the discretion of the instructor, if: 1) a valid reason for missing the exam exists, and 2) timing permits. Make-up days will not be during the regular instruction time. A student may not expect to make up more than one exam. If a student misses two exams, the first missed exam will receive a grade of zero.

Grading Policy

Ten point grading scale will be used.

90-100 %	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and lower	F

There will be 2 exams and several practical's.

Mid Term Exam	33%
Final Exam	33%
Practical Application	33%
Total	100%

Attendance Policy (Pre-COVID-19)

While students are EXPECTED to attend classes, the instructor recognizes the dedication and work involved in attendance and class participation is often not included in final grade evaluations. In addition, it is also recognized that student evaluations that are based totally on exam performance may not in all cases, be the most accurate evaluation for all students. Thus, any student who attends all classes without missing MAY receive 1 point toward their final grade. The instructor has the right to use discretion where excused absences are at hand. Any points to be awarded will not be added until the end of the grading period.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic / Practical
Week 1	Jan. 14 th	Documentation Review & Photographic Exposure
Week 2	Jan. 21 st	Photographic Exposure Practical
Week 3	Jan. 28 th	Low Light & Flash Technique
Week 4	Feb. 4 th	CSI Photography
Week 5	Feb. 11 th	CSI Photography Practical
Week 6	Feb. 18 th	No Class—AAFS
Week 7	Feb. 25 th	Evidence Photography

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Week 8	Mar. 4 th	Evidence Photography Practical
Week 9	Mar. 11 th	Mid-Term Exam
Week 10	Mar. 18 th	Spring Break—No class
Week 11	Mar. 25 th	Exam Quality Photos
Week 12	Apr. 1 st	Vehicle & Clothing Documentation
Week 13	Apr. 8 th	Light Spectrum & Shooting Scene
Week 14	Apr. 15 th	Bloodstain Documentation
Week 15	Apr. 22 nd	Fire Scene Photography
Week 16	Apr. 29 th	Dead Week
Week 17	May 6 th	Final Exam