



# Sam Houston State University

*A Member of the Texas State University System*

## COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

## **FORS 4364**

### **Crime Scene Investigations Techniques**

**Spring Semester 2018**

#### Course Information:

PROFESSOR: Kelsie Bryand, MS

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CLASS HOURS: On-line

CLASSROOM: On-line

OFFICE HOURS: On-line

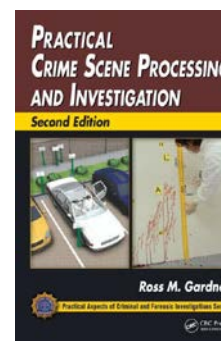
#### Textbook:

- Practical Crime Scene Processing and Investigation, Second Edition

✕ Author Ross M. Gardner

✕ ISBN: 9781439853023

✕ Publisher CRC Press Taylor & Francis Group



- Publisher website: <https://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781439853023>

#### Course Description:

This course introduces students a brief overview of the principles of the crime scene investigation and developments in crime scene techniques. Students will learn scene assessment, photography, crime scene preservation, evidence collection, processing of evidence, the roles and the responsibilities of the Criminalistics laboratories. Upon completion, students should be able to, explain, and demonstrate the techniques of the investigative process, report preparation, basic knowledge of various

types of physical evidence, such as fingerprint, impression, hair, fiber, trace, firearms, tool marks, bloodstain patterns, and courtroom testimony. Credits: 3.

### **Course Objectives:**

- Recognition of items of evidentiary value at the crime scene
- Understanding the proper procedures for processing indoor and outdoor crime scenes through the development of criteria and evaluation skills.
- Understanding the proper techniques for collection and preservation of physical evidence at the crime scene.
- Understanding of the value and the limitations of evidence, such as body fluids, firearms, impressions, glass, and trace materials discovered at the crime scene.
- Demonstrate the proper techniques for diagramming and photographing a crime scene.
- Understand how to hypothesize the sequence of events at a crime scene based upon interpretation of physical evidence.
- Demonstrate the appropriate safety techniques that are used in the collection of potentially bio-hazardous evidence.
- To aid the student in his/her academic and career interests relative to the crime scene investigation.

### **Course Requirements:**

There is one required textbook for this online course: Practical Crime Scene Processing and Investigation by Ross M. Gardner. This class will be conducted through SHSU online blackboard. The lectures will be posted online within each unit along with chapter topics, learning objectives, question/answer segment, and other learning resources. It is a self-paced online course. Course materials will be released in unit blocks. These will be accessible the night before the start of a new unit. Students are responsible for accessing course documents, and taking quizzes and exams in the Blackboard system. If you have any questions on the material, quizzes, exam, homework, and etc., please send them via email, [kelsie@shsu.edu](mailto:kelsie@shsu.edu). The prerequisite course is FORS 3366 Introduction to Forensic Science.

### **Attendance Policy:**

This is an online course; no class meeting times are scheduled. However, this is an intensive online course. If you even THINK you are a procrastinator, then this online course is NOT for you. A student's willingness or desire to learn is what actually makes the eLearning experience work.

In this course you will be expected to be self-paced with a suggested study schedule and timing the taking of quizzes and exams. The schedule has been developed to help you complete the course requirements and meet the course objectives. This online course was developed with non-traditional students in mind, i.e., mature students and those unable or those who find it difficult to come to campus to take the course in a classroom setting. If you are a student who does not typically works ahead of schedule in anticipation of interruptions, then again, this course is NOT for you. That being said, this course allows you the flexibility to manage your time, resources and assessments within each unit.

### Grading Policy:

There will be 12 on-line quizzes (25%), 4 Exams (50%), Discussion Group (10%) and a Final Exam (15%) in this course. The grades for the quizzes, exams, and final exam will be posted after they are submitted. The grade for the discussion group assignment will be posted within 48 hours after the deadline for each unit.

Assessment	Topics	Points	Percentage
Quiz 1	Syllabus	10	25%
Quizzes 2-12	On Each Chapter	10/quiz or 110	
Group Discussion 1-4	Case Studies	5/assignment or 20	10%
Exam A	Chapters 1-3	100	50%
Exam B	Chapters 4-6	100	
Exam C	Chapters 7-9	100	
Exam D	Chapters 10&12	100	
Final Exam	Comprehensive	100	15%
		<b>Total</b>	100%

### Grade scale:

90 – 100%	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 69%	D
Below 60%	F

## **Make-up Exams:**

**Quizzes and Exams are timed and can only be taken once. THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS OR QUIZZES.**

## **Blackboard:**

The course Home Page for FORS 4362 can be reached via: <http://distance.shsu.edu/>. Login to Blackboard system with your university username and password. Since announcements and handouts will be posted on the course home page, it is your responsibility to check the course home page regularly in order to keep up with the course. You are also responsible to take quizzes and exams on time from the Blackboard system.

If you have technical problems such as lectures not opening, please contact SHSU online Support desk at [blackboard@shsu.edu](mailto:blackboard@shsu.edu), (936) 294-2780, or send a chat request through blackboard. The first day of class, the schedule hours of SHSU Online Support desk are 7:00 am to midnight, Monday through Saturday. For questions about your class schedule, e-mail account, or password assistance, please refer to the IT@Sam help desk. They can be reached at (936) 294-1950, or by e-mail [helpdesk@shsu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@shsu.edu).

## **Student Academic Policies:**

Student Academic Policies concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students, and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

## **Schedule of Lectures and Course Material and the Annotated Outline of Topics to be Covered):**

It is a self-paced online course. Course materials will be released in unit blocks. These will be accessible the night before the start of a new unit. Students are responsible for accessing course documents, and taking quizzes and exams in the Blackboard system. However, to help students complete the course requirements and meet the course objectives, the study schedule is organized below:

## Schedule of Lectures and Course Material

	Release Date	Assessment	Topic	Due Date (Midnight)
	Jan 17	Quiz 1	Syllabus Quiz	January 26 (Fri)
Unit A	Jan 18	Quiz 2	Chapter 1 - Introduction	February 16 (Fri)
		Quiz 3	Chapter 2 - Understanding the Nature of Physical Evidence	
		Quiz 4	Chapter 3 - Actions of the Initial Responding Officer	
		Group Discussion #1	Case Study – part 1	
		Exam A	Chapters 1-3	
Unit B	Feb 17	Quiz 5	Chapter 4 - Processing Methodology	March 16 (Fri)
		Quiz 6	Chapter 5 - Assessing the Scene	
		Quiz 7	Chapter 6 - Crime Scene Photography	
		Group Discussion #2	Case Study – part 2	
		Exam B	Chapters 4-6	
Unit C	Mar 17	Quiz 8	Chapter 7 - Crime Scene Sketching and Mapping	April 13 (Fri)
		Quiz 9	Chapter 8 - Crime Scene Notes and Reports	
		Quiz 10	Chapter 9 - Basic Skills For Scene Processing	
		Group Discussion #3	Case Study – part 3	
		Exam C	Chapters 7-9	
Unit D	Apr 14	Quiz 11	Chapter 10 - Shooting Scene Documentation and Reconstruction	May 4 (Fri)
		Quiz 12	Chapter 12 - The Body as a Crime Scene	
		Group Discussion #4	Favorite Case	
		Exam D	Chapters 10 & 12	
Unit A-D	May 5	Final Exam	Comprehensive	May 9 (Wed)

All quizzes and exam within a unit will be made available when each unit begins.  
All quizzes and exam MUST be completed by the due date listed above.

## **Contact Information:**

Any questions on the material, quizzes, exams, and group discussion, the best way to reach Professor Bryand via email, [kelsie@shsu.edu](mailto:kelsie@shsu.edu). A response will be issued within 36 hours during the business week. Any questions or concerns emailed during the weekend or holiday, a response will be issued within two business days.

## **Group Discussion:**

There are **4 assignments** for the group discussion board. The **1<sup>st</sup>** assignment is called case study – part 1 and it will be available in Unit A. The **2<sup>nd</sup>** assignment is called case study – part 2 will be available in Unit B. The **3<sup>rd</sup>** assignment is called case study – part 3 and it will be available in Unit C. Each part of the case study will be located under the course content. After you review the movie and/or PowerPoint presentation in each Unit, your assignment is to post your thoughts on the discussion board using the information given. Also, you are required to comment on other posts as well. The group discussion will be interactive and your responses will be professional.

For Unit D (the **4<sup>th</sup>** assignment), you will post your favorite case study from the textbook on the group discussion board. Tell us which case study is your favorite and why. Is there anything unique about your favorite case? Please give the title, chapter number, and page number.