



Curriculum Outline

Course Title: *Advanced Homicide Investigation Course*

Course Description:

The study of responding to different types of death and homicide investigations, analyzing evidence found at the crime scene, investigative techniques of interview and interrogation, interpreting wounds and injuries, and legal rights are the emphasis of this course. Classroom instruction will be lecture style using PowerPoint presentations. Hands-on training will be conducted in an indoor or outdoor field environment. Students will be provided with an Advanced Homicide Investigation Course CD. Dress for inclement weather is required.

Number of instructional hours: 40

Number of lecture hours: 16

Number of hands-on training hours: 24

Submitted by: *Sgt. Miguel Santiago and Det. Terry Brandon*

Course Objectives Classroom Training:

- **Footwear and Tire Track Impressions:** *Learn awareness, detection and treatment of footwear impressions, photography of footwear impressions, casting 3D impressions, casting procedures, soil conditions, snow and ice, marking and packaging, treatment of 2D impressions, chemical enhancement of impressions, tire track impressions, impressions and tracks, types of tires, design elements, tire track evidence, recovery of tire evidence, analysis of evidence, and references.*
- **Human Skeletal Remains “Recovering and Identifying the Victim”:** *Learn about buried body cases, where to locate forensic scientists, searching for burial site, considerations, identified burial site, investigation, photography, photograph the grave site, crime scene investigation, site sketch, the body, removing and packaging remains, methods of identification, and NamUs missing person database.*
- **Interview and Interrogation:** *Learn the definitions of interview and interrogation, the interviewer, structure of the interview, know the case, factors, recording laws, types of distances, advantages, rapport, open-ended questions, verbal and non-verbal cues, stress response, body language, signs of truthfulness, signs of deception, two types of deception, and custodial vs. non-custodial interrogation.*

- **Suicide by Cop:** *Learn of the phenomenon known as police officer assisted suicide, the victim, common tactics, plan vs. impulse, mental state, primary focus, photographs, scene photos, scene investigation, hospital scene, suicide by cop investigation, and the subject's background.*
- **Wounds and Pattern Injuries:** *Learn about bullets and shells, shot shell wadding, homicide vs. suicide, mechanism of shooting, types of gunshot wounds, abrasion collar, abrasion margin, smudging and smoke, stippling, contact wounds, ricochet wounds, shotgun distance range, intermediate range, contact range, cutting wounds, stabbing wounds, defensive wounds, blunt force injuries, lacerations, and chopping wounds.*
- **Natural Deaths:** *Learn about concerns with cause of death, focus of the investigation, crime scene photos, investigation, follow-up investigation, pulse rates, blood pressure, and respiration rate.*
- **In-Custody Death Investigation:** *Learn the definition of in-custody death, victim's family, minority groups, attorneys, media, methodical investigation, dual investigation, separate detectives, investigation, crime scene investigation, crime scene photos, hospital scene, deceased victim at the hospital, prisoner in custody, transport evidence, and conductive energy device related deaths.*
- **SIDS-Infant Death Investigation:** *Learn about infanticide, SIDS, CDS data, SIDS profile, abused children, morphology of child abuse, the 4 possibilities for child death, accidental death, child abuse, battered child syndrome, SIDS vs. child abuse & neglect, injuries associated with child abuse, direction of investigation, crime scene photos, scene investigation, and the infant/child death investigation form.*
- **Cold Case Investigation:** *Learn the definition of a cold case, unsolved cases, why cases get cold, cases most likely to get cold, cold case squad, personnel, most common cold case squad, external resources, reviewing cases, high priority cases, moderate priority cases, low priority cases, time as a friend, where to start?, investigating cold cases, cold case review format, new developments, asking questions, crime scene, physical evidence, and closing a cold case.*
- **Sexual Homicide Investigations:** *Learn how to identify a sexual homicide, the critics, crime scene, focus of the investigation, crime scene photographs, outdoor crime scene, Medical Examiner workup request, indoor crime scene, investigation, organized offender, disorganized offender, categories of sex related homicides, autoerotic fatalities and serial sexual questionnaire.*
- **Altercation Homicides:** *Learn the definition of an Altercation Homicide, difficulty of investigation, victim & suspect relationship, focus of the investigation, crime scene photos, scene reconstruction, crime scene investigation, weapons used, missing items, time frame of incident, body examination, transport to Medical Examiner's Office, victim's background, suspect's background, developing information, and further investigation.*
- **Delayed Murder Investigation:** *Learn about delayed murders, wounds vs. treatment, investigation, photographs, photographs in the morgue, transport to the Medical Examiner's Office, trauma score codes, and hospital produced wounds/injuries.*

- **Drug Related Murders:** *Learn what is a drug related murder, reasons for drug related murders, investigation, crime scene photos, crime scene investigation, follow-up investigation, post event strategy, media, victim killed as an example, victim's background, and victim's family.*
- **Robbery Homicides:** *Learn the definition, reconstructing the scene, preliminary investigation, photographs, crime scene, and follow-up investigations.*
- **Officer Involved Shooting Investigation:** *Learn about due diligence, officer involved shooting, dual investigation, separate detectives, media, focus of the investigation, photographs, shooting scene, hospital scene, shooting investigation, common bullets, shot pattern testing, function testing, gunshot residue, shooting reconstruction equipment, trajectory rods, trajectory string kit, horizontal and vertical angle measurements, and trajectory laser pointers.*
- **Bloodstain Pattern Analysis:** *Learn that blood patterns are predictable, the function of bloodstain analysis, interpret bloodstain evidence, 3 styles of bloodstains, 3 velocities of blood spatter, importance of bloodstain evidence, directionality, 6 basic event types, presumptive tests, and blood enhancement chemicals.*

Course Objectives Hands-On Training:

- **Homicide Scenario 1:** The students will be divided in two groups. Group 1 will be the investigators and group 2 will be role players. Group 1 will receive a call for service to respond to a possible homicide. Group 1 will be expected to manage the personnel and resources to investigate, process the crime scene, identify a possible suspect and obtain an arrest warrant based on probable cause.
- **Homicide Scenario 2:** The students will be divided in two groups. Group 2 will be the investigators and group 1 will be role players. Group 2 will receive a call for service to respond to a possible homicide. Group 2 will be expected to manage the personnel and resources to investigate, process the crime scene, identify a possible suspect and obtain an arrest warrant based on probable cause.
- Homicide scenarios will be different for each group.
- **Case Study:** *Review a real life homicide case to identify the investigative techniques learned during these courses that were utilized during the investigation.*