

Advanced Forensic Investigative Techniques: Identifying the Victim

This is a self-paced class with continuous enrollment.

Cost: \$25.00

Since most homicides are committed by someone who knows the victim, knowing the identity of the deceased can lead to the successful solution of a crime. Thus, it is critical for forensic investigators to know the possible ways to identify the deceased. The accuracy of this determination can make it possible to identify and eliminate suspects in a homicide, help determine cause and manner of death, and establish patterns of inheritance. All told, it is one of the most valuable and essential of all forensic tools.

This course describes methods that can be used to determine the identity of human remains regardless of the amount of time that has elapsed since death. In addition, it provides an overview of the many types of forensic experts available to assist in the identification process. With each lesson, students will follow the investigation of actual cases, answering a series of questions on each.

Course Requirements:

No prerequisites; no text book purchase is required. Online references have been provided to help the student learn or review any background information they may be lacking. The student is expected to read all 8 lessons. In addition, there are assignments, case studies, and online exercises to perform in order to get the most benefit from this course.

WARNING: Some material presented in this class is of a graphic nature and may be offensive to some students. Viewer discretion is advised.

The course will deal at length with the following Topics:

Lesson 1 – Fingerprint Analysis to Identify The Deceased

- Bertillonage
- The History of Fingerprints
- Inked Fingerprints
- The Henry Fingerprint Classification System
- Identification Points for Fingerprint Types
- Pattern Nomenclature
- Fingerprint Pattern Types
- NCIC Classification System
- Henry Classification System
- A. F. I. S.
- Fingerprinting the Deceased

Lesson 2 – The Value of Distinguishing Features In Victim Identification

- What Constitutes A Distinguishing Feature?

- Tattoos
- Scars
- Body Piercing
- Missing and Added Parts
- Other Distinctive Features

Lesson 3 – Forensic Anthropology

- What is Forensic Anthropology?
- The History of Forensic Anthropology
- The Human Body
- Human or Not Human?
- Biological Profile of the Deceased
- Sex Determination of the Deceased
- Age Determination of the Deceased
- Stature of the Deceased
- Regression Formulae for Determination of Deceased's Stature
- Biological Affinity of the Deceased

Lesson 4 – Forensic DNA Analysis

- What is DNA?
- Before DNA Testing...Blood Typing
- Nuclear DNA
- Mitochondrial DNA or mtDNA
- Non-coding or 'Junk' DNA
- Sample Size and Type Needed for Identification of Unknown Victim
- Terminology of Molecular Biology
- How is Nuclear DNA Inherited?
- DNA Preparation
- Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphisms
- Variable Number of Tandem Repeats or VNTRs
- Short Tandem Repeats or STRs
- Y-Chromosome Analysis
- Paternity Testing
- Purification and Profiling of mtDNA
- Heteroplasmy of mtDNA
- Inherited Gene Patterns

Lesson 5 – Forensic Radiology

- What is Forensic Radiology?
- Identity of Trabeculae
- Identity of Harris Lines
- Evidence of Previous Trauma
- Evidence of Deformities and Bone Anomalies
- Genetic and Congenital Abnormalities
- Craniofacial Deformities
- Evidence of Nutritional Deficiencies

Identification of Prosthetic Implants
Identity of Antemortem and Postmortem CT Scans

Lesson 6 – Forensic Odontology

What is Forensic Odontology?
Age Determination by Forensic Odontology
Ancestry Determination by Forensic Odontology
Dentures, Orthodontic Appliances, and Other Dental Hardware
Evaluating Dentition to Determine Occupation, Medical History, Habits, and Country or Place of Residence
Dental Abnormalities and Anomalies
Comparing Ante- and Postmortem Dental X-Rays and Charts

Lesson 7 – Pathological Conditions

What Constitutes A Pathological Condition?
Indications of Infectious Diseases
Malignancies
Arthritis and Arthritis-Related Conditions
Osteoporosis, and Other Bony Abnormalities
Miscellaneous Pathological Conditions Affecting the Head
Pathological Conditions Indicative of Occupation
Skeletal Fluorosis
Chromosomal Defects
Miscellaneous Pathological Conditions

Lesson 8 – Forensic Art: Facial Reconstruction and Superimpositioning

What is Forensic Art?
Two-Dimensional Facial Reconstruction
Three-Dimensional Facial Reconstruction
Computer-Assisted Facial Reconstruction
Photo- or Superimpositioning
Age-Progression
Shortcomings of Forensic Art

Grading Policy

A = 100 - 90
B = 89 - 80
C = 79 - 70
D = 69 - 60
F = 59 - Below

Students have the opportunity to purchase certificates upon successful completion of the course.

This course is worth 2 Continuing Education Units (2 CEUs)

- A score of 90% and above entitles the student to purchase a **Certificate of Academic Excellence**
- A score of 80-89% entitles the student to purchase a **Certificate of Merit**
- A score of 75% entitles the student to purchase a **Certificate of Appreciation**

Certificates cost \$25 and can be purchased after completion of the course.

Disclaimer

This class is for informational or refresher purposes, not certification. It cannot be substituted for any state, government, licensing, or educational requirements.

Questions?

Contact me prior to enrollment at webbycyberclasses@yahoo.com