Instructor Information

**Instructor:** See information provided in the Syllabus link in the classroom

**Email:** Please use internal classroom messaging system

Course Description (Catalog)

This course will provide the student with a basic understanding Bloodstain Pattern Analysis and its use in criminal investigations. The student will learn how to identify bloodstains using the Bloodstain Classification Taxonomy and the importance of the scientific method in bloodstain pattern analysis. This course will discuss proper documentation and collection methods of bloodstains and the legal standards that support bloodstain evidence as well as courtroom presentation. Students will
examine several bloodstain patterns from crime scenes and determine the types of stain and their relevance to the criminal case.

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Course Scope

The course is designed to provide students with a basic and overall understanding of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis. The course will provide students with basic concepts that are adapted to the use of bloodstains in criminal investigations. The course will identify and analyze ways in which investigators may utilize bloodstains with successful strategies which will be explored through the use of practical application.

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Course Objectives (CO)

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to

CO1: Explain the history of bloodstain pattern analysis.
CO2: Use the proper bloodstain pattern terminology.
CO3: Identify the different types of bloodstains using the Bloodstain Classification Taxonomy.
CO4: Apply the scientific method to bloodstain analysis.
CO5: Examine bloodstains in order to determine directionality, point of convergence and area of origin.
CO6: Evaluate the various types of bloodstain evidence, their value, and methods of collection and documentation.
CO7: Apply the legal standards that support bloodstain evidence and its presentation in court.
CO8: Describe the medium of blood, anatomical considerations and the different tests available to determine if a stain is blood.

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Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday evening of the week as noted and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded forum), examination,
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and individual assignments submitted for review by the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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Course Resources

Required Textbook (E-book):


Supplemental in course material:

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Evaluation Procedures

Grades for this course will be based on the following assignments.
Introduction Forum: 1%
Forums (6): 34%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 30%
Project: 15%
Total: 100%

Forums:
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Original responses to the Forum questions each week need to be substantial (350 words) and significantly supported by the course textbook and at least one other scholarly source. Students must also use proper spelling, grammar, and sentence structure. The in-text citations and references will be in APA Format.

Students will also be required to respond to at least two (2) other students posting with significant comments that have substance (250 words). Comments such as, “Good job!” or “I agree” do not earn you any participation points. Your responses to another’s work should be posted as a sub-thread to the student’s original posting whom you are commenting. Your main post is due on the board by Thursday at 2359 hours. And your responses to other students are due no later than Sunday at 2359 hours.

**Midterm & Final Exam:**
The Midterm Exam is comprised of actual crime photographs of bloodstains that will require students to apply the course material in order to classify the stains. Students will develop a comprehensive discussion for each bloodstain presented. The Midterm Essay must be at least 1000 words. The student must utilize APA format and utilize at least (2) scholarly references.

The Final Exam requires students to process a fictional crime scene by identifying important evidence, discussing collection and documentation of the evidence and discussing which bloodstains may be present at the crime scene and why. The student will also provide their testimony to several questions presented by the Prosecution and Defense regarding the same crime scene/case. The Final Essay must be at least 1500 words. The student must utilize APA format and utilize at least (2) scholarly references.

**Project:**
The term Project requires students to select a real homicide case in which bloodstain analysis was utilized as a forensic tool to assist in determining “what” happened. First, the student will summarize the case. Second, the student will explain in detail the role of bloodstain analysis in the case. What did the bloodstain analysis reveal? Finally, the student will discuss the use of the scientific method in the selected case and in bloodstain analysis in general and the importance of remaining objective.

This project must be at least (5) content pages with separate title and reference pages. The student must utilize APA format and utilize at least (4) scholarly references.
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### Course Outline

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University’s grading scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Learning Objectives</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td><strong>CO-1:</strong> Explain the history bloodstain pattern analysis.</td>
<td><strong>Text Readings:</strong> Bevel &amp; Gardner, Chapters 1-2</td>
<td>Introduction Forum #1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>History of Bloodstain Analysis</td>
<td><strong>CO-2:</strong> Use the proper bloodstain pattern terminology.</td>
<td><strong>In Course Materials:</strong> Lessons Week 1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Classification and Methodology</td>
<td><strong>CO-3:</strong> Identify the different types of bloodstains using the Bloodstain Classification Taxonomy</td>
<td><strong>Text Readings:</strong> Bevel &amp; Gardner, Chapters 3-4</td>
<td>Forum #2</td>
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<td><strong>CO-4:</strong> Apply the scientific method to bloodstain analysis.</td>
<td><strong>In Course Materials:</strong> Lessons Week 2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Anatomical Considerations</td>
<td><strong>CO-8:</strong> Describe the medium of blood, anatomical</td>
<td><strong>Text Readings:</strong> Bevel &amp; Gardner, Chapters 5, 6 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Forum #3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Medium of Blood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presumptive Testing</td>
<td>considerations and the different tests available to determine if a stain is blood.</td>
<td>In Course Materials: Lessons Week 3</td>
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| Determining Directionality | **CO-3:** Identify the different types of bloodstains using the Bloodstain Classification Taxonomy.  
**CO-5:** Examine bloodstains in order to determine directionality, point of convergence and area of origin. | Text Readings: Bevel & Gardner, Chapters 7-9  
In Course Materials: Lessons Week 4 |
| Determining Point of Convergence & Area of Origin  
Evaluating Impact Pattern Stains | | Complete Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-9 & Lessons 1-4) |
| Characteristic Patterns of Blood  
Bloodstained Clothing | **CO-3:** Identify the different types of bloodstains using the Bloodstain Classification Taxonomy.  
**CO-6:** Evaluate the various types of Bloodstain evidence, their | Text Readings: Bevel & Gardner, Chapters 10-11  
In Course Materials: Lessons Week 5 |
<p>| | | Forum #4 |</p>
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| **6** | **Documenting Bloodstains**  
**Crime Scene Reconstruction** | **CO-6:** Evaluate the various types of bloodstain evidence, their value, and methods of collection and documentation. | **Text Readings:** Bevel & Gardner, Chapters 13 & 14  
**In Course Materials:** Lessons Week 6  
**Forum #5** |
| **7** | **Legal Issues**  
**Presenting Evidence** | **CO-7:** Understand the legal standards that support bloodstain evidence and its presentation in court. | **Text Readings:** Bevel & Gardner, Chapter 15  
**In Course Materials:** Lessons Week 7  
**Forum #6** |
| **8** | **Experiments in Bloodstain Analysis**  
**Bloodborne Pathogens** | **CO-4:** Apply the scientific method to bloodstain analysis.  
**CO-7:** Understand the legal standards that support bloodstain evidence | **Text Readings:** Bevel & Gardner, Chapters 16-17  
**In Course Materials:** Lessons Week 8  
**Week 8 Forum**  
**Final Exam**  
**Project Due** |
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Policies

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- Drop/Withdrawal Policy
- Plagiarism Policy
- Extension Process and Policy
- Disability Accommodations

Writing Expectations
All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. It is recommended that students try to adhere to a consistent format, which is described below.

- Typewritten in double-spaced format with a readable style and font and submitted inside the electronic classroom (unless classroom access is not possible and other arrangements have been approved by the professor).
- Time New Roman 12-point font
- Page margins Top, Bottom, Left Side and Right Side = 1 inch, with reasonable accommodation being made for special situations and online submission variances.

Citation and Reference Style
Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

Late Assignments
Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.
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Deductions:
Late forum posts can be penalized up to 5 points per day
Late assignments can be penalized up to 5 points per day

Netiquette
Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- Technology Limitations: While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- Humor Note: Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), : ), 😊

Disclaimer Statement
Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.
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- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.

- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.


The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

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**Turnitin.com**

- **Turnitin.com:** Turnitin.com is a tool to detect plagiarism. Turnitin.com reviews students' papers for matches with Internet materials and with thousands of student papers in its database, and returns an Originality Report to instructors.