

# AJ 119: CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION

**Proposer:**

Name:	Email:
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**Effective Term:**

Fall 2026

**Does this course use a CA Common Course Number**

No

**Credit Status:**

Credit - Degree Applicable

**Subject:**

AJ - Administration of Justice

**Course Number:**

119

**Discipline:**

And/Or	Discipline
	Administration of Justice (Police science, corrections, law enforcement)

**Catalog Title**

Criminal Identification

**COS Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to the role of forensics in criminal investigations. It examines the methods used in the forensic analysis of crime scenes, pattern evidence, firearms, questioned documents and controlled substances.

**Method of Instruction:**

Distance Education  
Lecture and/or Discussion

**Course Units/Hours:**

**Course Units Minimum:**

3

**Lecture Hours Minimum (week)**

3

**Lab Hours Minimum (week)**

0

**Activity Hours Minimum (week)**

0

**Total Contact Hours Minimum (semester)**

52.5

**Total Outside Hours Minimum (semester)**

105

**Total Student Learning Minimum Hours (semester)**

157.5

**Repeatability:**

No

**Open Entry/Exit:**

No

**Field Trips:**

Not Required

**Grade Mode:**

Standard Letter

**TOP Code:**

210500 - \* Administration of Justice

**SAM Code:**

C - Clearly Occupational

**Course Content****COS Methods of Evaluation:**

Essay quizzes or exams  
 Multiple choice tests  
 Oral presentations  
 Problem solving assignments or activities  
 Problem solving quizzes or exams  
 Project  
 Short answer quizzes or exams  
 Skill demonstrations  
 Written essays or extended papers

**COS Course Topics:**

COS Course Topics	
1	Role of Forensic Science within the Criminal Justice System
2	Arson and Explosive Evidence
3	Analysis of Document Evidence
4	Analysis of Pattern Evidence in Investigations
5	Crime scene analysis versus crime scene processing.
6	Types of Controlled Substance Evidence
7	Collection, Preservation and Analysis of DNA Evidence
8	Firearms and Tool Mark Analysis
9	Principles of Fingerprint Identification

**COS Course Objectives:**

COS Course Objectives	
1	identify and explain the processes for analyzing questioned documents.
2	identify and differentiate the chemical and material evidence in Arson and Explosives crime scenes.
3	identify the three methods of DNA typing.
4	identify and explain the process for analyzing tool mark and firearm evidence.
5	identify and differentiate depressant, stimulant, hallucinogen, and narcotic substances and explain the methods of analyzing each type of substance in a forensic laboratory.
6	explain the procedures for collecting and preserving DNA evidence to prevent contamination.

- |    |                                                                                                                                 |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7  | identify and explain the Personal Identification Patterns that identify a person.                                               |
| 8  | identify and differentiate the types of pattern evidence and explain their respective importance in crime scene reconstruction. |
| 9  | identify the various types of crime scenes and differentiate between crime scene process versus crime scene analysis.           |
| 10 | identify and explain the role of forensic specialists in the criminal justice system.                                           |

**Course Outcomes:**

Course Outcomes	
1	#1: Crime scene security and evidence: Given a staged crime scene, the student will be able to thoroughly investigate the scene, using contemporary crime scene investigatory techniques that includes proper scene security/search, photography/sketch, evidence search /collection, and then prepare a police report that meets all contemporary reporting protocols that will satisfy established law enforcement reporting standards and those of the district attorney
2	#2 Forensic Specialist, evidence collection, ethics and integrity: The student will be able to explain the role of forensic specialists and how their role currently impacts the Criminal Justice System and be able to discuss the importance of maintaining ethics and integrity as it relates to evidence collection and preservation.
3	#3: Fingerprinting: Students will be able to identify and explain Personal Identification patterns that identify a person. The student will then perform how to obtain rolled/inked fingerprints, process and lift latent fingerprints and identify the three main classifications of fingerprint identification.
4	#4: Identify various substances: The student will be able to identify and differentiate depressant, stimulant, hallucinogen, and narcotic substances and explain the difference between field presumptive testing and methods of analyzing each type of substance in a forensic laboratory.
5	#5: Locard's Exchange Principle: The student will be able to recognize Locard's Exchange Principle, and identify evidence that could be collected by applying this principle and explain procedures for the collection and preserving this DNA evidence to prevent contamination.

**Assignments:**

Assignment Type:	Details
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students are required to read the assigned chapter and answer at least two of the chapter review questions.</li> <li>- Students are required to read the assigned chapter and complete a short chapter quiz each week.</li> <li>- Students are expected to read the assigned chapter(s) each week in preparation for classroom discussion.</li> </ul>
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students are required to identify at least one current course specific criminal justice issue that is in the news (print or electronic) and write a one to two page observation paper, relating course content to their response.</li> <li>- Students are required to maintain a journal as it relates to the topic instructed in class (reflection) and to make entries during the week that relate to events in the news that are related to Forensics.</li> <li>- Students are required to prepare written documents (outline, test questions, resources and expert interview information) in support of their chosen presentation assignment.</li> <li>- Students are required to choose a particular topic that is related to the course of study (prior approval required) and then write a five-page paper regarding the chosen topic.</li> </ul>
Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students are expected to read the assigned chapter(s) each week in preparation for classroom participation.</li> <li>- Students are required to read the assigned chapter(s) and define key terms associated with the content of each chapter.</li> <li>- Students are expected to do research work and otherwise prepare for their respective presentations as required for this course.</li> <li>- Students are assigned a research project that directly relates to the topic of Forensics.</li> </ul>

## Representative Texts, Manuals, and/or OER that is equivalent, Other Support Materials:

Texts used by individual institutions and even individual sections will vary. The list of representative texts must include at least one text with a publication date within five (5) years of the course outline approval date.

### COS Textbooks or other support materials

Resource Type:	Details
Books	Crime Scene Investigation: The Forensic Technician's Field Manual Young and Ortmeier Prentice Hall 1 2011 10-0135127122
Web/Other	Department of the Treasury. The Science of Fingerprinting. Updated Yearly. Department of Justice Publisher.
Books	Crime Scene Investigation & Reconstruction - 2018 Robert Ogle & Sharon Plotkin Pearson Publishing
Books	Forensic Science: From the Crime Scene to the Crime Lab, 5th edition Published by Pearson (January 14, 2025) © 2026. Richard Saferstein Forensic Science Consultant Tiffany Roy

### Transferable to CSU

Yes - Approved

### Other Degree Attributes

Degree Applicable  
Not a Basic Skills Course

### Distance Learning Addendum

DLA - Senate Approved - Updated 10-25.pdf

### Banner Title:

Criminal Identification

### Curriculum Committee Approval Date:

02/04/2026

### Academic Senate Approval Date:

02/11/2026

### District Governing Board Approval Date:

03/09/2026

### Course Control Number:

CCC000185329

### C-ID:

AJ150

Equity Review

Select elements of the COR that were reviewed for equity. Must select at least one:

Advisory  
Assignments