San Bernardino Valley College

Curriculum Approved: October 20, 2003

Last Updated: October 2003

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

A. Department Information

Division: Criminal Justice
Department: Police Science
Course Number: CRMJUS 089

Course Title: Forensic Photography

Prerequisite: None Lecture: 24 Hours Lab: 30 Hours

Units: 2.0 Per semester

B. Catalog and Schedule Description

This course is designed as an overall photography class with an emphasis on techniques needed for crime scene and evidence documentation. This course will discuss different types of cameras used for crime scene documentation, their advantages and disadvantages and special applications. This course will cover manual camera operations necessary for close-up, nighttime and other specialty photographs.

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One

III. EXPECTED OUTCOME FOR STUDENTS:

Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

- A. Understand the basic operations of a 35mm camera.
- B. Determine the different types of cameras and their uses.
- C. Distinguish between flash photography and light sources.
- D. Use photography skills for crime scene processing and documenting.
- E. Prepare and assemble a photo compact disc using a digital camera.
- F. Differentiate the uses and applications of several types of photographing.

IV. CONTENT:

- A. History of the Camera
- B. How a Camera Works
 - SLR Cameras
 - 2. Lenses
- C. Film
 - Black and White Films
 - 2. Color Films
- D. Daylight Photography
 - 1. Aperture
 - 2. Focus
 - 3. Depth of Field
 - 4. Stop Motion
 - 5. Show Motion
 - 6. Light Metering
- E. Flash Photography
 - Types of Flashes
 - 2. Flash Synchronization
 - 3. Fill-in Flash
 - 4. Bounce Flash
 - 5. Off-Camera Flash
 - 6. Flash Distance
 - 7. Preventing Flash Failure
- F. Nighttime Photography

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- 1. Painting With Light
- 2. Ambient Light
- 3. Exercise Assignment
- G. Impression Photography
 - Oblique Lighting
 - 2. Shading
 - 3. Tire tracks
 - 4. Long trails
 - 5. Fingerprints
- H. Alternate Light Sources
 - 1. Filters
 - One to One
- I. Close-up Photography
 - 1. Macros
 - 2. 1:1
- J. Large format cameras
 - 1. Uses and applications
 - 2. MP-4 Photography
 - 3. MP-4 Camera Parts
 - 4. Film for the MP-4
 - 5. One to One Photography
 - 6. One to Two Photography
 - 7. Two to One Photography
 - 8. 120/220 Cameras
- K. Video
 - 1. Uses and applications
 - 2. Cameras
 - Videotaping
 - a) Focus / Zooming
 - b) Panning
 - 4. Video Tapes
 - 5. Video Re-enactments
 - 6. Video Interviews
- L. Polaroid Cameras
 - 1. Uses and applications
 - 2. One to One
- M. Digital Photography
 - 1. Uses and applications
 - 2. Kodak DC 120 Digital Camera
 - 3. Daylight Photography
 - 4. Flash Photography
 - 5. Focus
 - 6. How it Works
 - 7. Resolution
 - 8. Close-ups
 - 9. Computer Download
 - 10. Making a CD
- N. Crime Scene Photography
 - 1. Overalls
 - 2. Mid Range
 - 3. Close-ups
 - 4. Photographing Homicide Victims
 - 5. Photographing Injuries
 - 6. Using Scales

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V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Discussion
- B. Visual presentations
- C. Demonstration
- D. Hands-on exercises
- E. Practical exercises

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Lecture
- B. Reading
- C. Class and Group Discussions of Significant Issues and Topics
- D. Outside photography assignments

VII. EVALUATIONS:

- A. Methods of Evaluation
 - Feedback/Discussions
 - 2. Practical exercises after each subject taught
 - 3. Midterm examination, multiple choice and true/false
 - 4. Final examination, multiple choice and true/false
 - 5. Final examination, mock court

B. Frequency of Evaluation

- 1. Feedback and discussion throughout course as deemed necessary
- 2. Practical exercises after each subject is taught
- 3. Examinations as outlined above
- C. Typical Exam Questions:
 - Flash distance is:
 - a) Distance from camera to subject
 - b) Distance from flash to subject
 - c) Distance from camera to subject and back again
 - d) Distance from flash to subject to camera
 - 2. Crime scene photography can always be done on full program
 - a) True
 - b) False

VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):

Current text(s) and/or handouts provided by instructor as approved by P.O.S.T. and San Bernardino Valley College.

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED BY STUDENTS:

Adjustable 35mm camera with detachable flash