

COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

Prepared by: John F. Cardani, Interim Department Chair
Monica Baker, Dean
Status: Permanent

Date: Spring 2004

A. Identification:

1. Subject Area: Forensic Investigations
2. Course Number: FOR 150
3. Course Title: Death Investigations
4. Credit Hrs: 3
5. Catalog Description:

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the procedures of Scene Investigators, and the Medical Examiner's Office, in determining cause and manner of death. Students will study the techniques and technologies utilized in modern death investigations, and become fully aware of the legal issues surrounding these activities. Three lecture.

B. Course Goals:

This course will provide practical skills to prepare students for entry into the various fields involved in the investigation of death.

C. Course Outcomes:

Students will:

1. Identify the legal issues involved with death investigations, the Medical Examiner's Office, and various investigative agencies.
2. Understand the objectives of medicolegal investigation.
3. Demonstrate competent knowledge of causes and manner of death.
4. Diagnose the difference between natural, accidental, suicidal, and homicidal deaths.
5. Describe and demonstrate fundamental crime scene processing techniques.
6. Practical approach to the processing of a mock crime scene
7. Demonstrate competent knowledge of the role of the forensic scientist
8. Demonstrate awareness of pre autopsy, autopsy, and post autopsy procedures
9. Successfully identify techniques utilized in the methods of identification of deceased if unknown
10. Demonstrate awareness of the jurisdiction of the various investigative agencies and the medical examiner
11. Understand the role of the investigator and medical examiner as a witness and/or expert witness in court
12. Demonstrate competent knowledge of the limitations and common errors in forensic pathology

D. Course Content:

Will include:

1. Overview of death investigations
2. History of forensic science
3. Physical aspects death investigations
4. Crime scene investigation techniques
5. Class and unique characteristics of evidence
6. Conclusions and opinions based on physical evidence