

Technical College of the Lowcountry  
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**CRJ 200**  
**LATENT PRINT DEVELOPMENT AND COLLECTION TECHNIQUES**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introduction to the value of latent fingerprint evidence, the various conditions that affect the development and recovery of latent fingerprints, and the optimum methods of processing items of evidence found in crime scenes. 3 Cr (3 lect/pres, 0 lab, 0 other)

3 Credits

**COURSE FOCUS**

The student will be introduced to collecting, developing, and processing fingerprints from crime scenes.

**TEXT AND REFERENCES**

**Fingerprint Identification** William Loe, 1st Edition (2004), LawTech Custom Publishing, Inc.

**COURSE GOALS**

The following list of course goals will be addressed in the course. These goals are directly related to the performance objectives. (\*designates a CRUCIAL goal)

1. Understand what the expectations of conduct are for fingerprint examiners
2. Understand the importance of fingerprint examiners remaining impartial in their investigations and analysis
3. Understand the importance of fingerprint examiners maintaining a high level of competence
4. Understand the concept of uniqueness
5. Be able to differentiate between class and individual characteristics
6. Understand how fingerprint evidence is used in the justice system
7. Recognized the importance of following the rules of evidence
8. Become familiar with the scientists and medical researchers whose work has established that all areas of friction skin are unique and permanent
9. To develop an appreciation of this powerful crime fighting tool

10. Provide an understanding of the history of the acceptance of fingerprint evidence of fingerprint evidence in the courts of the world.
11. Identify the factors now used in Federal Court to determine if evidence is reliable and scientifically valid
12. Understand how fingerprint evidence satisfies the Daubert factors
13. Provide an understanding of how friction skin is formed
14. Provide a thorough understanding of the concept that all areas of friction skin are permanent and unique
15. Define the anatomical designations of the hand
16. Be able to recognized the major areas of the hand and their anatomical designations
17. To recognize the basic three pattern types and their sub-divisions
18. To understand the various terms used in fingerprint classification
19. Understand the uses of recorded finger and palm prints
20. Appreciate the ramifications of poorly recorded prints
21. Learn how to correctly record a fingerprint exemplar card
22. To classify a fingerprint card using the Henry System of fingerprint classification
23. To classify a fingerprint card using the NCIC classification
24. To provide an understanding of the role of AFIS in the criminal justice system
25. To provide an overview of how the AFIS works and its ability to solve crime
26. Provide an understanding of the three types of evidence prints found at crime scenes
27. Provide an understanding of the limitations of fingerprint evidence
28. Define the composition of latent prints
29. Provide an overview of how fingerprint investigations are conducted
30. Become familiar with the components of the fingerprint kit
31. Discuss the concept of how and why fingerprints develop on the surface of objects
32. Learn the mechanics of latent print development with powders and brushes
33. Discuss the importance of proper documentation of evidence prints to ensure the integrity of the evidence
34. Identify the various types of chemicals that can be used to develop latent prints
35. Provide an understanding of the different chemical reactions that result in the development of latent prints
36. Discuss the role of different chemical processes on porous and non-porous surfaces
37. Explore the methodology used by fingerprint examiners to conduct their examinations
38. Provide an understanding of how clarity will affect the type and amount of ridge detail needed to individualize areas of friction skin
39. Provide a thorough understanding of the mechanics of the comparison process
40. Discuss the acceptable conclusions of a fingerprint comparison
41. Provide a discussion of identification philosophy
42. Discuss identification standards
43. Define the difference between distortion and dissimilarity
44. Explain why friction skin identification is an objective science
45. Define the legal definition of an expert witness
46. Explain the process of qualifying as an expert witness
47. Discuss the role of the expert and the privileges afforded an expert while testifying
48. Review the typical questions and answers that a finger print examiner would encounter on the witness stand.
49. Provide an understanding of how jurors perceive the presentation of fingerprint evidence
50. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of various types of court exhibits

## STUDENT CONTRIBUTION

Each student will spend at least 6 hours per week preparing for class. Attendance is critical in this class. There will be a midterm, a final exam, and 2 practicums.

## COURSE EVALUATION

Your performance objective and exams will be translated to points and the points to grades. There are 100 possible points and grades will be earned as follows:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

### Tests and Quizzes

The mid-term examination is a comprehensive examination and consists of multiple-choice, true/false, and fills in the blank type questions. The mid-term is value at 20% of the final grade.

The final examination is a comprehensive examination and consists of multiple-choice, true/false, and fills in the blank type questions. The final is value at 20% of the final grade.

### Practicums

Each student is required to locate people associated with TCL and fingerprint them. This practicum is valued at 20% of the final grade.

Each student is required to lift five latent prints and attempt to locate the owner of the print in the local database. This practicum is valued at 20% of the final grade.

### Classroom Participation

Each student is required to complete all classroom assignments. CP is valued at 20% of the final grade.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Readings	Date	Discussion/Assignment/Test Due
1	Introduction	8/21/2014	None
2	Chapter 1 & 2	8/28/2014	Reading
3	Chapter 3 & 4	9/4/2014	Reading
4	Chapter 5 & 6	9/11/2014	Reading

5	Chapter 7	9/18/2014	Reading
6	Chapter 8	9/25/2014	Reading
7	Chapter 9	10/2/2014	Reading
9	Chapters 10	10/9/2014	Reading
<b>9</b>	<b>Mid Term Due</b>	<b>10/16/2014</b>	<b>None</b>
10	Chapter 11	10/23/2014	Reading
11	Chapter 12 & 13	10/30/2014	Reading
12	Chapter 14	11/6/2014	Reading
13	Chapter 15	11/13/2014	Reading
14	Chapter 16	11/20/2014	Reading
<b>15</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>11/27/2014</b>	<b>School closed</b>
16	Chapter 17 & 18	12/4/2014	Reading
	<b>FINAL</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Final Due (TBD)</b>

Approved by: Kenneth Flick

Developed/Revised: 8/15/2014

## ADA STATEMENT

The Technical College of the Lowcountry provides access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation, contact the counselor for students with disabilities at (843) 525-8228 during the first ten business days of the academic term.

## ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

There is no tolerance at TCL for academic dishonesty and misconduct. The College expects all students to conduct themselves with dignity and to maintain high standards of responsible citizenship.

It is the student's responsibility to address any questions regarding what might constitute academic misconduct to the course instructor for further clarification.

The College adheres to the Student Code for the South Carolina Technical College System. Copies of the Student Code and Grievance Procedure are provided in the *TCL Student Handbook*, the Division Office, and the Learning Resources Center.

## ATTENDANCE

The College's statement of policy indicates that students must attend ninety percent of total class hours or they will be in violation of the attendance policy.

- Students not physically attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
- Students taking an online/internet class must sign in **and** communicate with the instructor within the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester to indicate attendance in the class. Students not attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
- Reinstatement requires the signature of the division dean.

In the event it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from the course OR if a student stops attending class, **it is the student's responsibility to initiate and complete the necessary paperwork**. Withdrawing from class may have consequences associated with financial aid and time to completion.

When a student exceeds the allowed absences; the student is in violation of the attendance policy. The instructor **MUST** withdraw the student with a grade of "W", "WP", or "WF" depending on the date the student exceeded the allowed absences and the student's progress up to the last date of attendance

*or*

o under extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the class, allow the student to continue in the class and make-up the work. This exception must be documented at the time the allowed absences are exceeded.

Absences are counted from the first day of class. There are no "excused" absences. All absences are counted, regardless of the reason for the absence.

- A student must take the final exam or be excused from the final exam in order to earn a non-withdrawal grade.

A copy of TCL's **STATEMENT OF POLICY NUMBER: 3-1-307 CLASS ATTENDANCE (WITHDRAWAL)** is on file in the Division Office and in the Learning Resources Center.

## **HAZARDOUS WEATHER**

In case weather conditions are so severe that operation of the College may clearly pose a hardship on students and staff traveling to the College, notification of closing will be made through the following radio and television stations: WYKZ 98.7, WGCO 98.3, WGZO 103.1, WFXH 106.1, WWVV 106.9, WLOW 107.9, WGZR 104.9, WFXH 1130 AM, WLVH 101.1, WSOK 1230 AM, WAEV 97.3, WTOC TV, WTGS TV, WJWJ TV, and WSAV TV. Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. [www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp](http://www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp)

## **EMERGENCY TEXT MESSAGE ALERT**

Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. Participants receive immediate notification of emergency events and weather cancelations via text messaging on their cell phones. Participants can also opt in to receive non-emergency news and announcements. Go to [www.tcl.edu](http://www.tcl.edu). On the homepage, click on “emergency TextAlert at TCL” and fill out the form or go to [www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp](http://www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp)

**BROADCAST LEARNING FORMAT:** This class is being taught in a broadcast learning format. Images and word of class participants may be transmitted live or on a delayed basis to other locations. Classes may be rebroadcast due to extenuating circumstance.