

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

CJUS 361

CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will learn and apply principles of photography in digital format. Within the field of forensic science, the use and understanding of photography is essential. The course will focus on the areas of aerial, underwater, and macro photography as used to document and present criminal investigations. Students must have access to a digital camera that has aperture settings (example: Sony P200) and a tripod.

RATIONALE

The purpose of this course is to give students a technological foundation that will be needed for a vocation in forensic Crime Scene Investigation concentrating on the specific area of crime scene photography. This course will teach students to apply the principles of photography directly to crime scene investigation and the digital documentation of evidence. Students will master certain skills that pertain directly to capturing evidence, and it will support students who are exploring fields within the legal justice system by providing an understanding of the what, why, and how evidence is photographed.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)
- D. Photoshop recommended (not required), version CS2 or later edition (available at a special discount to Liberty University students)
- E. Microsoft Image Resizer (free and will be provided on Blackboard)
- F. TV and CD/DVD player and burner

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Describe the basic functions of the digital camera and how they apply to crime scene photography.
- B. Utilize camera settings such as aperture and shutter speed in combination with alternative light sources to improve quality of photographic images.
- C. Perform successful photography in various environments overcoming various challenges such as: darkness, shadows, and reflective surfaces while still effectively capturing evidence through digital photography.
- D. Apply the camera settings for close-up photography (macro) resulting in a clear representation of very small items of evidence (i.e. latent fingerprints).
- E. Explain how a Christian ethic can provide theoretical underpinnings for the implementation of forensic science.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board forums (6)

There are 6 Discussion Board forums in this course. The student will respond to 2 questions for each forum (one single post, 400 words for your initial original post, 2 sources). Once again, each initial post should include 2 scholarly references appropriately cited in APA format. The student will then reply to 2 of his/her classmates' threads (100 word minimum for each response, 1 scholarly reference). Discussion Board responses can include a student's opinion as it is offered in a constructive and professional manner. The initial post will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Thursday of the assigned module/week, and 2 replies are due the following Monday by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the same module/week.

- D. Photography Assignments (4)

The student will complete 4 Photography Assignments in this course. Each Photography Assignment will require a series of photographs (i.e. depth of field, paint with light, indoor, and outdoor) to be taken, which will demonstrate the student's abilities to photograph forensic evidence. Each assignment will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the assigned module/week.

- E. Mini-Research Paper (WEEK 1)

The student will research forensic photography and its importance to forensic sciences and criminal investigations. The student will also include in his/her research a sentence or two explaining how a Christian ethic can provide a foundation for forensic photography and sciences. This assignment will be due by

11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 1. (This is only an introduction research paper, 1 page is all you will need.)

F. Reflection Paper

The student will reflect on the use one photography technique they have learned from their reading and its use in forensic photography and forensic sciences. In his/her reflection, the student will discuss whether this method is necessary; support his/her opinions with outside research. This assignment will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 5.

G. Final Project

The student will collect all previous photography assignments, including any improvements and additional photographs to compile a final project. The presentation will be detailed and each slide will contain a photograph with the following information: ISO, SHUTTER, and APERTURE Settings. Auto settings with flash is encouraged but manual settings will be necessary in some situations. This assignment will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

H. Quizzes (4)

There are 4 quizzes in the course. Quizzes will be open-book/open-notes and questions are taken from the reading assignments and Discussion Board topics. Quizzes consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions. Quizzes will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the assigned module/week.

I. Final Exam

The Final Exam will be a comprehensive exam covering all the information contained in the course. The Final Exam is open-book/open-notes, has true/false and multiple-choice questions, and questions are taken from the reading assignments, Discussion Board topics, and prior quizzes. The Final Exam will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board forums (6 at 40 pts ea)	240
Photography Assignments (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
Research Paper	50
Reflection Paper	50
Final Project	200
Quizzes (4 at 40 pts ea)	160
Final Exam (Modules 1–8)	100
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board posts or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. CJUS Policy

The nature of the criminal justice community demands that persons involved be of a high level of integrity, and education is not merely academic in nature, but is holistic. Students enrolled in CJUS courses will be held to a high standard. Self-control is imperative for CJUS practitioners. If not “merely” to honor Christ, your family, and this academic institution, on a purely pragmatic level, in anticipation of future employability in the career field of your choice, conduct yourselves so as not to place yourselves in difficult and embarrassing situations.

E. Tests/Quizzes

1. For timed tests/exams students are required to complete the exam within the assigned time. For students who exceed this time limit, a penalty of 1% point will be deducted for each minute they exceed the assigned time limit.
2. Students must take the exam during the assigned module/week. A 5% deduction from the tests final grade will be assigned for each day the test is late.
3. No test will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the professor. This approval must be sought prior to tests due date. Disability Assistance

- F. Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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COURSE SCHEDULE

CJUS 361

Textbook: Robinson, *Crime Scene Photography* (2016).

WEEK/ MODULE	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Robinson: chs. 1-2, 10 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist DB Forum 1 Research Paper	10 40 50
2	Robinson: ch. 3 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Quiz 1	40 40
3	Robinson: ch. 4 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Photography Assignment 1	40 50
4	Robinson: chs. 5, 7 1 presentation	Photography Assignment 2 Quiz 2	50 40
5	Robinson: ch. 8 1 presentation	DB Forum 4 Reflection Paper Quiz 3	40 50 40
6	Robinson: chs. 6, 9 1 presentation	DB Forum 5 Photography Assignment 3 Quiz 4	40 50 40
7	Robinson: Review ch. 9 1 presentation	DB Forum 6 Photography Assignment 4	40 50
8	Robinson: chs. 11-12 1 presentation	Final Project Final Exam	200 100
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.