

Course Syllabus

Department: Environmental Conservation and Horticulture

Date: April 6, 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: CON 240

Course Name: Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation and Forensics

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites:

This course introduces the student to the study of criminal investigative techniques and the analysis of evidence with an emphasis on crimes against wildlife and the environment. The focus throughout the course will be the collection, protection and preservation of evidence as it relates to the investigative process. Analysis of actual closed criminal cases and simulations with mock crime scenes will allow students to put into practice classroom discussions and readings.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

1. Identify and describe the basics of a criminal investigation. (professional competency)
2. Describe the purpose and importance of documenting the investigative process. (professional competency)
3. Summarize the roles of different crime scene personnel. (professional competency)
4. Identify, describe and apply the laws associated with crime scene investigations. (professional competency, citizenship)
5. Apply investigative methods and critical thinking to process mock crime scenes,

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> writing | <input type="checkbox"/> computer literacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> oral communications | <input type="checkbox"/> ethics/values |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reading | X citizenship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | |

- c) Determining what constitutes physical evidence
- d) Collecting physical evidence
- e) The role of photography
- f) Legal considerations at a crime scene
- g) Chain of custody requirements
- h) Interviewing witnesses and suspects
- i) Search warrants/NYS CPL
- j) The crime scene technician

II. Crimes against wildlife

- Poaching/ illegal trade in wildlife
- Illegal use of pesticides/hazardous wastes
- Endangered species protection

III) Field techniques for crime scene investigation:

- lead test
- pupil dilation
- body temperature/time of death
- castings
- hunter related shooting Incidences
- timber thefts
- Bullet trajectory

IV. Cooperating agencies will be discussed throughout the course. Examples of such agencies follow:

- The role of DEC officers/Investigators
- State and local police
- DEC state pathologist
- USFWS wildlife crime lab

