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COURSE: PHYSICAL FORENSIC SCIENCE 333

SYLLABUS FOR THE FIREARMS/TOOLMARKS EXAMINATION SECTION

Instructor Background:

Curtis Kubo has received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Zoology and Sociology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He started his career at the Honolulu Police Department in 1982 as a Police Evidence Specialist. In 1993, he began his training in the area of Firearms Examination and has since been assigned to the Crime Lab as a Criminalist.

His training in firearms examination consisted of on-the-job training from Detective Charles Davis (retired), a three-month internship at the Connecticut State Police Forensic Science Laboratory and courses at the California Criminalistics Institute and the FBI. He has been qualified as an expert in the field of firearms examination/identification in State and Federal courts of Hawaii.

Mr. Kubo is a member in the International Association for Identification and the Association of Firearm and Tool Marks Examiners.

Topic Objective:

To give the student an orientation to the field of firearms/tool mark examination and to provide information on specific areas of the discipline.

Areas To Be Studied:

1. An introduction to firearms and ammunition.
2. The comparison microscope.
3. Bullet and cartridge case identification.
4. The DRUGFIRE and IBIS systems.
5. Distance determination.
6. Recovery of firearm related evidence.
7. Serial number restoration.
8. Tool mark identification.
9. Miscellaneous examinations.

Examination:

There will be one (1) quiz worth 50 points given at the start of the second session of this section which will have a 45 minute time limit to complete. The questions will be derived from information covered in the first session of this section and will be taken from the text, lecture and/or handouts. The format of the questions will be multiple choice, true/false and fill-in the blank type. Questions related to information covered after the quiz will appear on the final examination. The grading is described in the COURSE INFORMATION AND OBJECTIVES.

Attendance:

See the COURSE INFORMATION AND OBJECTIVES for requirements.

Required Text:

Criminalistics, An Introduction To Forensic Science, 6th Edition, by Richard Saferstein.