

Modern Death Investigation and the Pennsylvania Coroner's Basic Education Course

Hershey, PA
December 11-December 16, 2017
Sponsored by

Applied Forensic Sciences Department
Mercyhurst University, Erie, PA

Course Syllabus

Monday: The Office of the Pennsylvania Coroner: Roles, Duties, Nuts and Bolts

- 7:30-8:00 Registration
- 8:00-8:30 Introduction, Course Content (Dirkmaat)
- 8:30-9:30 **1** History of the Office of the Coroner (Kwiatkowski)
- 9:30-9:45 Break
- 9:45-11:30 **2** Roles and Duties of the Coroner (Kwiatkowski)
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30-2:00 **3** Types of Deaths Investigated by Coroner's Office (Kwiatkowski)
- 2:00-2:15 Break
- 2:15-4:00 **4** Nuts and Bolts of the Coroner's Office (Kwiatkowski)
- 4:00-4:15 Break
- 4:15-5:45 **5** Right to Know/Filling out the death certificate (Grim)

Tuesday: Recovery of Physical Evidence and Context at the Indoor Crime Scene

- 8:00-9:30 **6** Processing Indoor Crime/Death Scenes (Grim)
- 9:30-9:45 Break
- 9:45-11:30 **7** Processing Indoor Crime/Death Scenes (Grim)
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30-2:00 Investigating the Indoor Crime Scene: Mock Scene (Grim)
- 2:00-2:15 Break
- 2:15-3:30 **8** Fatal Motor Vehicle Accidents (Grim)
- 3:30-3:45 Break
- 3:45-5:45 **9** Fatal Motor Vehicle Accidents – Part 2 (Grim)
- 10** Blood Sample Collection (Grim)
- 11** Drugs: The New Epidemic (Grim)

Wednesday: Recovery of Physical Evidence and Context at the Outdoor Crime Scene

- 8:00-9:30 **12** Evidence Recovery at the Outdoor Crime Scene (Dirkmaat)
- 9:30-10:00 **13** Postmortem Interval
- 10:00-10:15 Break
- 10:15-11:30 **14** Investigating the Outdoor Crime Scene: Surface-scatter remains (Dirkmaat)
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30-1:30 **15** Use of the Cadaver Dog (Ackerman)
- 1:30-2:15 **16** Forensic Entomology (Dirkmaat)
- 2:15-2:30 Break
- 2:30-3:45 **17** Buried Body Recovery (Dirkmaat)
- 3:45-4:45 **18** Fatal Fire Scenes (Dirkmaat)
- 4:15-5:45 **19** Mass Disaster Scenes (Dirkmaat)

Thursday: Recovery of Evidence at the Medicolegal Autopsy

- 8:00-10:00 **20** Introduction to the Medicolegal Autopsy (Starling-Roney)
10:00-10:15 Break
10:15-11:30 **21** Forensic Pathology: Determining Cause of Death (Starling-Roney)
11:30-12:30 Lunch
12:30-2:00 **22** Trauma and Postmortem Interval (Vey)
2:00-2:15 Break
2:15-4:15 **23** Case Studies in Forensic Pathology I (Vey)
4:15-4:30 Break
4:30-5:45 **24** Child and Elderly Abuse Investigation (Vey)
3:45-5:45 **25** Response to the Mass Fatality Incident (Kontanis)

Friday: Establishing Identification and Circumstances of Death: Forensic Specialists

- 8:00-9:45 **26** Forensic DNA analysis (Young)
9:45-10:00 Break
10:00-11:30 **27** Preparing for court (Grim)
11:30-12:30 Lunch
12:30-2:00 **28** Forensic Odontology: Lecture and Hands-on Demonstration (Scanlon)
2:00-2:15 Break
2:15-3:30 **29** Forensic Osteology (Getz)
3:30-3:45 Break
3:45-4:45 Forensic Taphonomy and Trauma - Hands-on (Getz)

Saturday: Special Considerations and Overview of the Coroner's Office

- 8:00-9:30 **30** Ruling on Cause and Manner of Death: Case Studies (Kwiatkowski)
9:30-9:45 Break
9:30-10:45 **31** Mental Health in the Coroner's Office (Kwiatkowski)
10:45-11:00 Break
11:00-2:00 **Examination**

Instructors

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