

**University of Rhode Island
College of Pharmacy
BPS 101, Criminal Investigation:
Scientific Evidence I, Fall 2026**

Office Location: Dennis Hilliard, Fogarty Hall, Room 49
Telephone: 401-874-5056
Email: Dhilliard@uri.edu;
Class Days/Time: Fridays from noon-6PM

Classroom: Fogarty Hall, room 28
Primary Instructors: Mark Zabinski: mzabinski@uri.edu
Jimmy Clift: jclift822@verizon.net

Covid Protocols

Description

- If COVID protocols are changed at any time, the course will follow all URI requirements and recommendations.
- Students experiencing symptoms of illness should not come to class. Please stay home and notify URI Health Services by phone at 401-874-2246.
- If you are already on campus and feel ill, go home and self-isolate. Call URI Health Services immediately at 401-874-2246 to notify them.
- If you cannot attend class, please notify me before the start of class: dhilliard@uri.edu.

Course Description

Theory and practice of crime scene investigation employing the modern techniques of crime scene preservation, crime scene search, and the collection, preservation, and transmission of physical evidence. Emphasis on crime scene guidelines and processing, the photography, development, lifting, and classification of latent fingerprints, and report writing.

Course Objectives

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

- Understand and demonstrate the various concepts of crime scene documentation and forensic evidence collection.
- Properly identify, collect, and process a variety of forensic crime scene evidence.
- Capably explain each procedure and the results in detail to ensure a thorough and complete understanding of the material presented.

Required Textbooks

- Crime Scene Photography, 3rd Edition, by Edward Robinson, 2016, Academic Press-Elsevier, Inc. ISBN 13: 978-0-12-802764-6 (for the Hardback). If you are using the 2nd edition, the pages within the syllabus are separated by the edition.

- Practical Crime Scene Processing and Investigation, 3rd edition, by Ross M. Gardner, 2019, CRC Press. ISBN 13: 978-1138047785 (for the Hardback)
- Fundamentals of Fingerprint Analysis, 2nd Edition, by Hilary Moses Daluz, 2021, CRC Press. ISBN 13: 978-0367778743 (for the Hardback)

Required Equipment / Material Requirements

Photographic equipment is required for every class except where notated. Every student **MUST** have a tripod and camera equipment available (even if two students are from the same department) that meets the following requirements:

1. SLR (single-lens-reflex) digital camera body with the following features:
 - a. Aperture Priority Mode
 - b. Shutter Priority Mode
 - c. Program or Automatic Mode
 - d. Manual Mode
 - e. Self-timer or Shutter release cord
2. Lenses:
 - a. Wide Angle, Normal, and Telephoto Lenses or a Zoom lens that covers all three areas of focal length (For example, 35-70 mm Zoom Lens).
 - b. An attachment that allows at least 1:1 close-up photography. Example: a 1:1 macro lens: 60 mm or 105 mm (highly recommended)
3. TTL Dedicated Flash with sync cord to allow dedicated TTL flash off-camera
4. Camera Lens Filters: Orange Lens Filter (Example: Tiffen Orange 21 Filter), Circular Polarizing Filter (Example: Tiffen Circular Polarizing Filter), and a Protective Clear or UV Filter to protect camera lens. The filter size is dependant on the size of the camera lens. Call the Lab for assistance with this purchase of any of the camera items, if necessary.

Course Format

BPS 101/ Criminal Investigation: Scientific Evidence I, Fall 2025 Course Schedule

**Camera Equipment is needed for every
class unless stated otherwise.**

Week & Date	To pic	Readings, Assignments
1 09/11/26	1. Overview: Forensic Labs and Services 2. Introduction to Prelog 3. Lab Safety & Proper Chemical Handling/SDS, lab safety quiz 4. Basic Evidence Submission 5. Camera Component Assignment turned in and camera components reviewed. Camera/Equipment needed.	
2 09/18/26	Photography: Introduction to Camera Equipment, Photography with an SLR Camera, Basic Exposure and Exposure Exercise. Photography: Bracketing, Flash (Manual, Auto & TTL) & Flash Exercise	Gardner (both eds.): Ch. 6 Rob: Ch. 4 & 5 Weekly Quiz

3 09/25/26	Photography: Program Modes, Aperture & Shutter Priority (Depth of Field & Metering, ASA/ISO, aperture & shutter speed), See-Saw Exercise (Motion). Photography: Digital and Video, Video exercise	Gardner 2 nd ed.: pp. 25-44 Gardner 3 rd ed. pp. 19-34 Rob.: Ch. 6 & 10 Weekly Quiz
4 10/02/26	Group 1 (room 28) Forensic Biology Lecture, Introduction to Trace Evidence, Sexual Assaults, ALS. Group 2 (room 120) Fingerprint Basics, Part I-History of Identification, Fingerprint Pattern Definitions & Morphology of Friction Ridge. Each group will switch locations at the halfway point of the class	Gardner 2 nd ed.: pp. 278-296 Gardner 3 rd ed.: Ch. 11 Robinson: Ch. 7 Daluz: Ch. 1-4 Weekly Quiz
5 10/09/26	Group 1 (room 28) 3-D Footwear Impressions, 2-D Footwear Impressions. Outside Labs Group 2 (room 120) Fingerprint Basics, Part II-History of Identification, Fingerprint Pattern Definitions & Morphology of Friction Ridge. Each group will switch locations at the halfway point of the class	Robinson: pp. 312-340 Daluz: Ch. 1-4 Gardner 2 nd ed.: pp. 254-257 Gardner 3 rd ed.: pp. 207-210 Weekly Quiz
6 10/16/26	Group 1 (room 120) Crime Scene Guidelines; Part I: Securing Scene, Search Methods, Chain of Custody, Documentation-photo, video, sketch, notes & report writing Group 2 (room 28) Hit and Run Lecture + Lab (outside); Accident Photography Lecture + Lab (outside) Each group will switch locations at the halfway point of the class.	Daluz: Ch. 15 Gardner (both eds.): Ch. 1, 3, 4 Robinson: Ch. 3, pp. 96-101 & 566-586 Weekly Quiz
7 10/23/26	Group 1 (room 120) Crime Scene Guidelines; Part II Group Mock Crime Scene Processing I Group 2 (room 28) Lectures and lab for B&E, Blue Star, and a Homework Assignment Each group will switch locations at the halfway point of the class. EXAM 1, Information from weeks 1-6, at 5 pm	Gardner (both eds.): Ch. 5, 7 & 8 Handouts Gardner: pp. 51-54 READ Daluz: Chap. 18
8 10/30/26	Mock Crime Scene Presentations I and crime scene folder Group Mock Crime Scene Processing- II Proper Recording Techniques for Prints/AFIS-LiveScan Fingerprint Basics Cont. Fingerprint Lab: Safety, Dusting for Prints using Black & Magnetic Powders, WetWop	Gardner 2 nd ed.: pp. 257-278 Gardner 3 rd ed.: pp. 210-219 Daluz: Chap. 14, Handouts Weekly Quiz
9 11/06/26	FALL PHOTO NOTEBOOK DUE <i>Mock Crime Scene Presentations II and Crime Scene folder</i> Group Mock Crime Scene Processing- III Fingerprint Lab: Safety, Ninhydrin, Cyanoacrylate	Gardner 2 nd ed.: 249-253 Gardner 3 rd ed.: 191-205 Daluz: Chap. 11 & 12 Handouts Weekly Quiz
10 11/13/26	<i>Mock Crime Scene Presentations III and Crime Scene folder</i> Group Mock Crime Scene Processing- IV	Daluz: Chap. 13

	Fingerprint Lab: Safety, Blood processing, LCV, Hungarian Red, SPR, Amido Black	Weekly Quiz
11 11/20/26	<i>Mock Crime Scene Presentations IV and Crime Scene folder</i> Retrieval of latent prints from human skin Processing for the Individual Final Crime Scene and Goodie Bag Your start time is the file: 2026 Crime Scene Groups Goody Bag day. 18 of you will come at 9am and leave at 3pm. The rest of the class comes in at the regular start time of noon. Check to see if you are to come early.	Handouts Check schedule for starting times in the Groups folder (2026 CS Goodie bag groups)
11/27/26	<i>Thanksgiving Break, no class</i>	
12 12/04/26	Legal: Issues about crime scene search/evidence collection: RIAG's office Trace: P-GSR lecture Firearms: Lab Analysis, Shooting Reconstruction, Distance Determination, NIBIN, Gunshot Residue Analysis, Handling, Safety of Firearms & Photography Painting with Light LP: AFIS	Handouts Gardner 2 nd ed.: 300-305 Gardner 3 rd ed.: 255-260 Rob: pp. 347-363. Daluz: Chap. 7 Weekly Quiz
13 12/11/26	Be on time! Class photo taken at noon. EXAM 2, Information from weeks 7-12 The exam is not cumulative, except for camera/photography terms and camera settings on both exams. <i>Individual Presentations: Crime Scene/Goodie Bag</i> Camera/Equipment not needed	

Course Requirements and Assessments

Quizzes, Crime Scene Folders, Camera Component Exercise, and Video Assignment: 25%
Photo Notebook: 25%
Final Individual Practical Presentation: 25%
Exam 1 and Exam 2: total 25%

Quizzes/assignments/notebooks are due on the date specified. Late work will be graded accordingly.

93-100= A	90-92= A-	87-89= B+	83-86= B	80-82= B-
77-79= C+	73-76= C	70-72= C-	67-69= D+	63-66= D

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS. “Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires the University of Rhode Island to provide academic adjustments or accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The student with a disability shall be responsible for self-identification to the Disability Services for Students in the Office of Student Life, providing appropriate

documentation of disability, requesting accommodation promptly, and follow-through regarding accommodations requested.” It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements for any special needs and the instructor’s responsibility to accommodate them with the assistance of the Office of Disability Services for Students.

ACADEMIC HONESTY & INTEGRITY. All submitted work must be your own. Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. A student’s name on any written work, quiz, or exam shall be regarded as assurance that the work results from the student’s independent thought and study. If honesty and integrity are compromised, this may fail the course.

ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT. This is a challenging course. Success requires attending class regularly, keeping pace with the work, understanding course concepts, and studying effectively. Students are advised to seek assistance from course instructors or the course coordinator when they need help with concepts and assignments. The work in this course is complex and intensive.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR. Students are expected to treat faculty and classmates with dignity and respect. Students are responsible for being familiar with and adhering to the published “Student Code of Conduct,” which can be accessed in the [University Student Handbook \(https://web.uri.edu/studentconduct/student-handbook/\)](https://web.uri.edu/studentconduct/student-handbook/). If you must come in late, please do not disrupt the class. Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, or any electronic devices.

CLASS ATTENDANCE. Students are expected to attend all classes and classroom activities. Occasionally, students may miss class activities due to illness, severe weather, or a previously discussed sanctioned event. In the event of severe weather and URI cancels Kingston Campus classes, the director will make the final decision to hold class on the day of class. Since all classes must be made up, regardless of cancellations, students must attend another day. If the class may be held on the original date, all attempts will be made to have the class on the original day. Students will be notified by email of any changes to the schedule. Also, it is the policy of the University of Rhode Island to accord students, on an individual basis, the opportunity to observe their traditional religious holidays. Students desiring to observe a holiday of particular importance must inform each instructor and discuss options for missed classes or examinations. See [Sections 8.51.11 – 8.51.14 of the University Manual](#) for policy regarding the make-up of missed classes or examinations.

