Study Programme: Master academic studies of forensics

Course Unit Title: Forensic trace evidence analysis

Course Unit Code: OF-11

Name of Lecturer(s): Full Professor Vladimir Pilija, Associate Professor Sanja Belić

Type and Level of Studies: Master Academic Degree

Course Status (compulsory/elective): Elective

Semester (winter/summer): Summer

Language of instruction: English

Mode of course unit delivery (face-to-face/distance learning): Face-to-face

Number of ECTS Allocated: 6

Prerequisites: None

Course Aims:

This MSc programme is designed to provide students with an in-depth working knowledge of the processing and evaluation of all kinds of material evidences that can be found primarily at the crime scene, i.e. essential in solving every crime. The major strength of this programme is that students would be acquainted with procedures and methods of identifying, sampling, transporting, analyzing and storing evidence.

Learning Outcomes:

This programme will equipped student with particular knowledge of performing the basic forensic procedures on the crime scenes (gathering information, marking, photographing, numbering the place of events, etc.); independently recognizing material clues at the scene; properly sampling and packing as well as transporting and storing; selecting appropriate methods of analysis for different types of material evidences; and overall be capable to form appropriate documentation depending regarding the type of evidence, in accordance with applicable normative rules. This programme also enables postgraduates to gain experience in reporting on the results of the investigation of material evidence before a court and to successfully communicate with professionals from the same or other scientific fields.

Syllabus:

Theory

The basic forensic procedures applicable on the crime scene. Introduction to trasology. Crime scene evidence: blood, human excretions, samples of DNA, traces of papillary lines, psychoactive substances, fibers, clothing, footwear, tire tags, tool traces, color flakes, traces of the consequences of fire and explosions, documents, patterns for mechanoscopic fittings and second – sorts and methods of tracing the clues, the location of their finding, the procedures for converting clues into material evidences. Sampling of various crime scene evidences, preservation and marking, transport and storage of it. Material evidence's records. Selecting appropriate method for analyzing various material evidences. Processing results of forensic analysis of material evidences. Reporting on the results of the analyses of material evidences. Forensic institutions worldwide.

Practice

Case simulation and competent case law studies.

Required Reading:

1. Crime Scene Investigation. A Guide for Law Enforcement, National Forensic Science Technology Center, 2012.
2. Staff skill requirements and equipment recommendations for forensic science laboratories, Laboratory and scientific section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna. United Nations, New York, 2011.

Additional Literature:

1. Lecture material

Weekly Contact Hours: 75	**Lectures:** 45	**Practical work:** 30

Teaching Methods:

Lectures, auditory exercises and consultations.

Knowledge Assessment:

Pre-exam obligations	points	**Final exam**	points
Active class participation	10	written exam	35
Practical work	20	oral exam	35