

Assume nothing

Believe no one

REYNOLDS FORENSIC CONSULTING

Check everything

Do it yourself

CRIME SCENE RECONSTRUCTION COURSE: SCIENCE FROM SCENE TO COURTROOM

Course Dates: July 29 to Aug 2, 2019

Presented by Dr Mark Reynolds APM

Hosted by Cedar Crest College, Allentown, Pennsylvania, USA

Recent scrutiny of law enforcement has identified a noticeable dearth of underpinning scientific support in many areas of endeavour. One area highlighted is the apparent lack of knowledge on how to examine and test case-specific scientific data with reconstructive processes so that experimentally derived results are robust, reliable and supported by fundamental scientific principles.

This course will provide attendees with an understanding of fundamental science and how it can be applied to case specific reconstructive efforts so that experimentally derived data and reconstructive determinations are reliable, defensible and most importantly, case circumstance specific. The course will also illustrate that reconstructive efforts can be as simple as just the correct identification, collection, and testing of evidence samples or so complex as to require formal planning, multiple replicates and documented dependent and independent variable control. The course foundation is premised on the fact that irrespective of complexity, the “value add” of any reconstructive effort hinges on getting it right at the start. Upon course completion attendees will also be able to describe reasoning models involved in reconstructive efforts, identify and evaluate case specific assumptions and limitations, explain the compilation, reporting and delivery of expert reconstructive outcomes and recognise and avoid, the dangers of “early theory development”.

Who should attend the course?

The course is designed for experienced crime scene investigators and forensic scientists who have scene-based casework experience and who are required to perform crime scene interpretations and reconstructions. The format of the course is such that participants will be able to immediately implement the knowledge gained from the course into their daily casework activities.

What can attendees expect from the course?

The **first four days** of the course will use theoretical and practical interaction to examine topics such as:

- How reasoning model and the application, or not, of logic can influence experimental design and results
- The importance of experimental planning and case specific variable identification for the generation of scientifically reliable results
- Recognising and understanding the divergence between the scientific method and criminal investigations following suspect identification
- The recognition of general and case-specific assumptions and limitations and having the courage to report them
- Understand and apply Popper’s Theory of Falsification and Ockham’s Razor to reconstructive outcomes
- The importance of critical decision recording in supporting forensic pathways especially where investigative directions change
- The pitfalls of “early theory development”
- Concepts for the management of case-specific contextual information
- Interactive homicide case presentations demonstrating reconstructive processes and outcomes
- Preparation and presentation of expert reports and court presentation of expert opinions (including moot court presentations by attendees)
- Desktop exercises examining and linking theoretical concepts with practical outcomes

Who is Mark?

With almost 30 years of law enforcement experience, Dr Mark Reynolds was, until recently, employed by the Western Australia Police as their Forensic Science

Consultant and Manager, Quality Assurance. Mark holds a BSc (Biology), MSFS and a PhD in BPA. Coupling his formal education, 18 years of practical experience in the use of science to investigate homicides and almost 10 years of supervising MSFS and PHD post graduate research students, Mark is well placed to understand and link the theoretical concepts and practical implications of using science, experimental design and hypothesis testing to actual casework. A strong proponent of the absolute need to support forensic opinion evidence with scientific facts, Mark brings a unique skill set to the course and is dedicated to demonstrating the valuable linkages between reconstructive experimentation and complex firearm and bloodstained death scenes.

Testimonials

“You introduced concepts that I had never even considered”

“Well....I guess we can and need to do a lot better”

Course duration and assessments

80 hours inclusive of pre and post course self-directed learning. The course has three assessments; a pre-course assignment and on the final day attendee’s will sit a written theory examination followed by a case review requiring the development of a complex reconstructive experiment from which they will prepare a comprehensive reconstructive experimental plan.

Course Cost: USD \$1595.00 per person. The fee is registration only, all other costs are the responsibility of the registrant. Full payment must be made at least 28 days prior to course commencement.

For more information and to register your interest:

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