ESSENTIAL RIDGEOLOGY CONCEPTS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This five day introductory course is designed to familiarize the student with the fundamental concepts of Ridgeology, which is a holistic approach to fingerprint examination. This course examines in detail the following topics: theory, technique, standards and standards for conclusions. The theories of skin growth, persistency and biological uniqueness are presented, along with the contributions of key researchers in the science of fingerprints.

The focus then shifts heavily toward technique. Considerable time is spent discussing ACE-V methodology, but preferential treatment is given to the analysis phase. Students will analyze numerous impressions, record their bench notes and then articulate and defend those notes for the class. This will reinforce the material presented and will better enable the student to understand the appearance of a given impression. It will also highlight the importance of a transparent case record that can withstand scientific scrutiny. Students will also complete two (2) separate comparison exercises.

Both legal and scientific standards will then be discussed, along with what comprises our standards for conclusions. Key legal decisions pertaining to the science of fingerprints will be discussed, as will issues raised by prominent critics of the science. Students will complete a written assessment at the end of the course.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This course is designed to assist the student in becoming a better-rounded and more competent fingerprint examiner. Those newer to the science of fingerprints will benefit from basic explanations of complex topics, while more seasoned examiners—such as those trained to a numerical standard for identifications—will benefit from discussions involving all aspects of the deposition process. Students with experience levels between two weeks and 25+ years have attended this course.

DAILY SCHEDULE

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SHOULD BE ABLE TO PERFORM

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be (better) able to:

* Understand and articulate the science of friction ridge skin examination.
* Utilize all available information in a given impression for examination purposes.
* Articulate the importance and necessity of "running the ridges."
* Understand objective measurements utilized during the examination process.

MUST BRING TO CLASS

* Magnifier(s), ridge counters, pen, red thin sharpie pen and paper. It is highly recommended that at least a 5x power magnifier be brought to the class.
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MUST BRING TO CLASS

Attendees must bring a fingerprint magnifier and ridge counters.
Dress is business casual as the course will be conducted in a professional environment and facility.

PRE-REQUISITES

Attendees of this course should consider taking the Introduction to the Science of Friction Ridge Examination course first, however it is not required.

RECOMMENDED READING

Ashbaugh, David R. Quantitative-Qualitative Friction Ridge Analysis: An Introduction to Basic and Advanced Ridgeology; CRC Press LLC. Boca Raton, FL, 1999


WHAT’S NEXT

Advanced Palm Print Comparison Techniques is the next course in the Friction Ridge, Latent, curriculum.

HOST A CLASS

If your agency would like to host this course the following classroom requirements must be met:
* Classroom style seating, including tables
* Ample overhead lighting.
* PowerPoint projector and screen.
* Speaker system for laptop.
* Dry erase board (or easel pad) with markers
* Extra table for instructor use

I.A.I. APPROVED TRAINING HOURS

This course provides 40 training hours and is approved for IAI Certification and re-certification.