RON SMITH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

LATENT PRINT SEARCH AND COMPARISON TECHNIQUES

Course Description

This 40-hour intermediate-level course is designed to assist forensic science professionals who are presently comparing friction ridge evidence, yet feel they could increase their skills and knowledge through participation in a formalized course. Numerous practical exercises, supplemented by lectures and discussion are among the techniques used to enhance the students understanding of the identification methodology. From determining useful target areas, to the friction ridge characteristics used to individualize (Levels II and III), each step of this course will enable the student to effectively analyze, search, compare and evaluate developed friction ridge evidence.

The course focuses primarily on the use of several different practical exercises, each designed as a step-by-step process to increase the student's application of the identification methodology. In turn, this makes for a more efficient and accurate analyst. Additionally, this course complements the International Association for Identification's Friction Ridge Skin Identification Training Manual (supplementing the goal and objectives of the Supervised Comparison Training, Sections C, D, E, F & G).

The objective of this course is to provide each participant with an increased understanding of the friction ridge science with emphasis on locating, analyzing, searching, comparing and evaluating latent fingerprints. Phalange, crease, scar and palm print analysis and comparison will also be discussed.

Target Audience

This course is designed for the intermediate-level examiner/analyst; it is not designed as an introductory-level course. Examiners/analysts with some experience will benefit from both the course content and the many practical exercises that are part of this course. Attendees without any prior comparison experience or who are at a very basic-level of comparison experience should probably satisfy that level of training and experience prior to participating in this course. Students with active experience levels between six months and 20+ years have attended this course and benefited from the different difficulty levels of the exercises that are available to the participants.

Must Bring to Class

Each student must bring a fingerprint magnifier, ridge counters are encouraged and a desk lamp may be beneficial.

Dress is business casual as the course will be conducted in a professional environment and facility.

**Class Instructor:
Jon Stimac, CLPE**

Tuition: $650.00
5 Days
40 I.A.I. Approved Training Hours

*This course approved for
I.A.I. Certification & Re-certification*

Daily Schedule

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Hour 1	Registration Course Overview Introductions	*Comparative Concentration* Exercises (1-12)	Crease Association Lecture & Exercises	Phalange Lecture & Exercises	Palm Print Tracing Exercise
Hour 2	Our Past, the Present & our Future				Palm Print Association Exercises
Hour 3		Focal/Target Area Lecture	Comparison Exercises A	Comparison Exercises C	Palm Print Concentration
Hour 4	ACE-V & Scientific Methodology	*Target Area* Exercises			Palm Print Comparison
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Hour 5	Photo Hunt Exercise	Scar Comparison Exercise	Contemporary Issues Presentation	Contemporary Issues Presentation	Contemporary Issues Presentation
Hour 6	Friction Ridge *"Discrimination"*	Searching Smart: Loops, Arches & Whorls	Comparison Exercises B	Comparison Exercises C	Plantar Presentation
Hour 7	*Alpha* Comparison Exercises (1-12)	Comparison Exercises A			Friction Ridge *Jeopardy!*
Hour 8				Visual Perception Lecture	Summary

Pre-Requisites

Examiners without prior comparison experience or at basic-level of comparison experience should satisfy that level of training prior to participating in this course. Students will be expected to participate in the daily performance of intermediate-level comparisons, including, but not limited to, offering opinions, answering questions directed at the student, and giving a position on an issue. Students are in a training environment and as such will be encouraged to explore new concepts, procedures and ideas.

Should be Able to Perform

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be (better) able to:
- Understand and utilize Level I, II and III Detail of friction ridge impressions.
- Understand and utilize the ACE-V identification process of friction ridge impressions.
- Utilize the analysis process to determine friction ridge impressions value.
- Understand and demonstrate key aspects of the analysis process (substrate, matrix, etc.)
- Understand and utilize focal and target areas to assist in the identification process.
- Understand and utilize searching smart techniques to assist in the identification process.
- Conduct intermediate and possibly advanced-level comparisons of fingerprint, phalange and palm impressions.
- Understand and associate observed creases in our fingers, phalanges and palms.
- Document the conclusion of an analyzed and compared latent print impression.
- Understand basic problems and practices in comparing friction ridge impressions.
- Understand the fundamentals of our visual and cognitive processes.

Recommended Reading

Ashbaugh, David; Quantitative-Qualitative Friction Ridge Analysis, 1999.

Olsen, Robert D.; Cult of the Mediocre, Journal of Forensic Identification, 42(1), 1991.

Wertheim, Pat; The Ability Equation, Journal of Forensic Identification, Vol. 46 (2), 1996.