COURSE DESCRIPTION

This 5-day (40 hour) course is designed to teach the analyst the methods used to locate and identify body fluids. The course will cover the tests commonly used in the forensic field: description and scientific basis, strengths and weaknesses, choice of testing procedures (analytical scheme), test interpretation, and preservation of biological evidence. The course will emphasize the testing of blood, semen, and saliva, but sweat and urine will also be covered, and vaginal secretions and fecal material will be discussed. The concepts covered in this class include:

1. Evidence detection, recognition, collection, packaging, and preservation
2. Laboratory safety
3. Examining and describing deposits and stains: documentation and note-taking
4. Species identification
5. Information from microscopic examinations of extracts
6. Interpretation and limitations of test results
7. Working in the adversarial system: making your work and records defensible.