

## **CRIME SCENE RECONSTRUCTION**

*Instructor: Charlotte Braziel*

Hello. I'd like to welcome you to Crime Scene Reconstruction, our class for this semester. I'm Charlotte Braziel.

Before we start our class I'd like to give you a little background of myself. I'm a retired FBI agent. I served 26 years in the Tampa division, but out of Clear Water. All that wonderful sunshine.

During the course of my career I was fortunate to work organized crime, terrorism, violent crimes, just about every type of investigative matter the FBI does. In addition I have been the evidence response team leader. That is the FBI's equivalent to crime scene investigations, which has given me and provided me wonderful opportunities and a love of this topic.

I'd like to go over the difference between crime scene reconstruction and forensic science. I'd like to say that we're the broader vision. Forensic science is in our picture, however it's more detailed. What we're going to be looking at is the larger picture. How do these techniques in the pictures apply to every scene?

We're going to be looking at legal constraints, how to manage a crime scene, how to manage our resources and our specialists, which we'll apply using forensic science specialists. We give the broader overview and incorporate those techniques.

I'm very excited about the way we have designed this class. Of course we had to incorporate some readings in your traditional exams, however we've also posted very interesting videos for your review where you post to the discussion board your impression and dialogue with your fellow students. They're controversial subjects such as, is fingerprints scientific evidence? We also incorporated some practical exercises where you can practice what we're teaching you online and submit those to the discussion board. So I think you'll find this course very engaging.

It is my belief this course will benefit both investigators and crime scene investigators. Crime scene investigators will get that bigger picture and confidence knowing these techniques apply to all situations. As an investigator you may not have a direct hands on at the crime scene, but you'll learn the tools of how this skill can benefit your investigation. Because ultimately we're all concerned about the same objective, success in the courtroom.

In order to be successful I really advocate that you must read the assignments, read the books, go through the video presentations, ask questions again if you're confused, and engage with your fellow students in the discussion board. Everyone comes to this class with a wealth of knowledge and experience. We've learned through our mistakes and the things we've done right. Share those and we will all be enriched in this class.

As we conclude here I want to tell you, I love this subject. It's like doing a puzzle. When you do the puzzle it all comes together and we meet our goals. This system works, I can attest to you. I love it, it's fantastic, and I hope you will. I wish you the best of success in the class.

The syllabus will be posted on board and you could always email me or call me if you have any questions.