

Assume nothing

Believe no one

REYNOLDS FORENSIC CONSULTING

Check everything

Do it yourself

ADVANCED (Scene Based) BLOODSTAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS TRAINING COURSE

Course Dates: 12 – 16 August 2019

Presented by Dr Mark Reynolds APM & Sergeant Dave Spivey MSFS

Hosted by Cedar Crest College, Allentown, Pennsylvania, USA

As crime demographics change around the world and the number of true “stranger” homicides decline, the HOW is often more important than the WHO. This course is designed to teach attendees the underpinning sciences as they apply to BPA and develop greater interpretative skills for examining complex scenes. The foundation of the course is that the true “value add” of any reconstructive BPA effort hinges on getting it right at the start. This course will also demonstrate to attendee’s that a fundamental, yet advanced, knowledge of BPA principles is pivotal for obtaining reliable interpretive opinions. Subsequently, this course will focus on helping attendees understand what and why they do what they do, not just show them how.

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

- Theory, assumptions and limitations of Directional Analysis
- Conics (the mathematics behind the mathematics)
- Advantages / pitfalls of the three bloodstain selection methods, cautioning on the use of small bloodstains
- Management of multiple forensic disciplines within a complex BPA scene
- Deciphering complex bloodstain patterns using appropriate pattern classification criteria
- Concepts for the management of case-specific contextual information and appropriate documentation of critical decisions and pathways
- Concepts on fundamental physics and fluid dynamics as they pertain to BPA

- Recognition of general and case-specific assumptions / limitations and the pitfalls of “early theory development”
- Recent research into the reliability of BPA
- Interactive homicide case study presentations
- Preparation and content of expert reports and court presentation of expert opinion evidence inclusive of moot court presentations by attendees
- Desktop and practical exercises examining and linking theoretical concepts to actual casework

On the final day, attendees will sit a written test and then examine a complex BPA scene from which they will prepare a comprehensive expert report.

Who should attend?

The course is designed for experienced crime scene investigators and forensic scientists who have scene-based casework experience, have completed a 40-hour basic BPA course and who perform complex BPA scene examinations from which they provide expert opinions. The format of the course is such that participants will be able to immediately implement the knowledge gained from its content into their daily casework activities.

Who are Mark and Dave?

With almost 30 years of law enforcement experience, Mark was until recently, employed by the Western Australia Police (WAP) as their Forensic Science Consultant and Manager, Quality Assurance. He holds a BSc, MSFS and a PhD in BPA. Coupling his formal education with 18 years of practical experience in the use of science to investigate homicides and almost 10 years of supervising post graduate

research students Mark is well placed to understand and link the theoretical concepts and practical implications of using science to forensically investigate major crime.

Dave is currently the WAP BPA program manager and chair of Australia’s ANZPAA NIFS BPA Scientific Working Group. It is Dave’s full-time responsibility to attend BPA scenes, develop and mentor BPA trainees and deliver Level II and III BPA training around Australia. Dave holds several BSc degrees and a MSFS in BPA. Mark and Dave bring more than 30 years of practical BPA experience and 15 years of university level science education to the course. Together they present a unique and well-considered perspective on advanced BPA scene examination methods.

Testimonials

“Very intense. A lot of work but really valuable”

“Thank you so much for your willingness to share your knowledge and experience and for pushing the envelope on how we can do much better”

Course duration and assessments

With pre and post course self-directed learning the course duration is **80 hours**. The course has three assessments; a pre-course assignment, a written examination and preparation of a post course scene examination report.

How much will the course cost?

USD \$1995.00 per person. The fee is registration only, all other costs are the responsibility of the registrant.

For more information and to register your interest:

Sheila Heller at syheller@cedarcrest.edu