Forensic Taphonomy

Instructors:
Melissa Torpey, MS, & Mel Bishop, MSC

August 24 - 26, 2020 | 8 am - 5 pm

Tuition: $649

Hosted By:
San Diego Police Department

Course Location:
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar - Provost Marshal's Office
Miramar Way, Bldg. 7117 | San Diego, CA 92145

Lodging Information:
Holiday Inn San Diego / Miramar
9335 Kearny Mesa Road | San Diego, CA 92126
858-695-2300

Room Rate: $149 plus tax | Free Wi-Fi, Free Parking

Booking Info: Call the hotel directly or use the booking link on the course page at www.tritechtraining.com
COURSE DESCRIPTION

Forensic Taphonomy

The Forensic Taphonomy Course provides students with an in-depth, hands-on workshop that focuses on the field investigative techniques of collecting, processing, and analyzing taphonomic evidence for the purposes of estimating time since death, interpreting the circumstances surrounding death, and the location of scattered or buried human remains. Emphasis is placed on collecting, preserving, and interpreting insect evidence, plant and soil evidence, and the search and recovery of human skeletal remains.

Students learn how to manage an outdoor crime scene, properly collect and preserve insect evidence, document and collect any associated physical evidence, strategically search for buried bodies, and properly exhume human skeletal remains.

This course is taught by both a forensic anthropologist and a forensic entomologist. It also involves hands-on group activities, mock outdoor death scenes, and mock burials.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will demonstrate the ability to survey and process an outdoor death scene, identify taphonomic evidence of forensic importance, search and recover insect and human skeletal evidence, as well as display the ability to work as a team and properly collect and package evidence to be analyzed by a forensic entomologist or forensic anthropologist.

COURSE INSTRUCTORS

MELISSA TORPEY, MS

Melissa Torpey has worked as a forensic anthropologist in the field for over 12 years and received her M.S. in Forensic Science from Michigan State University and B.A. in Anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. For several years, she served as a subject matter expert for the Counterterrorism and Forensic Science Research Unit at the FBI Laboratory. Her research and casework experience has included vertebral aging, unidentified and missing persons cases, facial imaging, facial reconstruction, search and recovery of scattered and buried bodies, and time since death.

Melissa currently teaches for the Anthropology department and for the Forensic Science: Crime Scene Investigation Certificate program at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She is also an adjunct instructor for the University of Maryland University College. Melissa is a member of the North Carolina division of the International Association of Identification and actively consults with law enforcement in and around North Carolina.

MEL BISHOP, MSC

Mel Bishop graduated from the 49th session of the Virginia Forensic Science Academy in Richmond, Virginia, receiving a diploma in crime scene technology. He received his Master’s degree from the University of Nebraska/Lincoln in the field of Entomology.

He was a master police officer, detective, and forensic technician with the Charlottesville, Virginia, police department. After retiring from this department, he continued his career in law enforcement by becoming a death investigator for the medical examiner’s office in Daytona Beach, Florida; a sheriffs deputy/forensic technician with the Marion County Sheriffs Office in Ocala, Florida; a magistrate for the Commonwealth of Virginia; and a fire investigator/assistant Fire Marshall with Albemarle Fire and Rescue in Charlottesville, Virginia. He officially retired in 2015 after thirty years of experience in law enforcement and death investigations.

Mel has lectured at several Universities and Colleges in the field of entomology and blood spatter. Additionally, he has been involved in nearly 100 death investigations involving insect evidence. He currently consults and instructs police agencies in the field of forensic entomology and collection procedures.