



COURSE CURRICULUM

Course Title: QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS & FINGERPRINTS

Course Code: FSIC 708

Credit Units: 3

Course Level: PG

L	T	P/S	SW/F W	TOTAL CREDIT UNITS
3	0	0	0	3

Course Objectives: The course focuses on following objectives:

- Developing an understanding and appreciation for the scope of Questioned Documents and Fingerprints.
- Develop an understanding on different types of questioned documents, the types of forgeries and disguise generally encountered.
- Give brief description on various methods of their detection and examination.
- Develop comprehensive knowledge on fingerprint patterns, fingerprint classification, the various methods of fingerprint development.

Pre-requisites: No Pre-requisite.

Course Contents/Syllabus:

	Weightage (%)
Module I : Introduction to Questioned Documents & Collection of standards	
Descriptors/Topics Document and Questioned documents, Various types, Characteristic features of genuine handwriting/ signatures, Forgery and its types, characteristic components of forged documents and its examination, Disguise writings, features of disguised writings and its examination. Procedure adopted for collection of standards for comparison of documents, admitted signature/writing, specimen signature/writings.	20
Module II : Principle of Handwriting Identification	
Descriptors/Topics Introduction of Handwriting, Principle of handwriting identification, Handwriting characteristics: Class and individual characteristics, Natural variations in handwriting, causes of variations, Tampered Documents: addition, alteration, obliteration, secret writing. Examination of the documents for the ink, paper, photocopies/ xerox, printouts and scanned documents.	20
Module III : History, Pattern and Classification of Fingerprints	
Descriptors/Topics History, Biological generation of ridges and its significance, Fingerprints and ridge characteristics, Classification of fingerprints – Henry System of Classification, Single digit Classification, Extension of Henry’s classification.	20
Module IV : Fingerprint at the Scene of Crime and Development techniques	20

Descriptors/Topics Chance Fingerprints, Latent & Visible Fingerprints, Plastic Fingerprints, composition of sweat, conventional method of development: Physical methods - Powder method (Black, grey, colored, fluorescent), Iodine fuming and Chemical methods: Silver Nitrate, Ninhydrin, Osmium tetra oxide, Cynoacrylate, DFO, Laser Method etc.	
Module V : Fingerprint Identification and Examination	
Descriptors/Topics Identification of fingerprint patterns, comparison of fingerprint patterns and ridge details, ridge counting, ridge tracing, individual characteristics, Lifting of fingerprint and its preservation.	20

Student Learning Outcomes: After completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- **demonstrate** report in the court of law.
- **evaluate** the handwriting and their characteristics.
- **assess** the Fingerprint and its characteristics.
- **Examine** Questioned Documents.

Pedagogy for Course Delivery:

This course will be taught in active-learning mode, featuring lectures, presentations on requirement, which will provide students the vast knowledge of subject, enhance their reasoning skills and provide them abundant opportunity to express their opinions.

Lab/ Practicals details, if applicable: NA

Assessment/ Examination Scheme:

Theory L/T (%)	Lab/Practical/Studio (%)	Total (%)
100	0	100

Theory Assessment (L&T):

Continuous Assessment/Internal Assessment				End Term Examination
Components (Drop down)	A	H	CT	
Weightage (%)	5	10	15	70

Text Reading & References:

- Osborn, A. S. (1998). Classes of Questioned Documents. Questioned Documents, 2nd edition, First Indian reprint, Universal law publishing co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
- Kelly, J. S. Lindblom, B. S. (2006). Science, Handwriting Examination and the Courts. Scientific Examinations of Questioned Documents, 2nd edition, CRC Press, Taylor & Francis group.
- Huber, A. R. Headrick, A. M. (1999). The Discrimination and Identification of writing. Handwriting Identification Facts and Fundamentals, CRC Press, Boca Raton London.
- Saferstein, Richard, Criminalistics, An Introduction to Forensic Science, 6th Ed. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey, 1998.
- Sharma, B. R., Forensic Science in Criminal Investigation and Trials (3rd Edn) Universal Law Publishing Co. Ltd. New Delhi, 2001.
- Cossidy, M.J., Footwear Identification, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ontario, Canada, 1980.
- Charles, C. Thomas, I.S.Q.D. Identification System for Questioned Documents, Billy Prior Bates, Springfield, Illinois, USA, 1971.
- Charles C. Thomas, Typewriting Identification I.S.Q.D.; Billy Prior Bates; Springfield, Illinois, USA, 1971.
- Hard less, H.R., Disputed Documents, handwriting and thumbs – print identification: profusely illustrated, Low Book Co., Allahabad, 1988.

- Lerinson, Jay, Questioned Documents, Acad Press, London, 2001.
- Morris, Ron, N., Forensic handwriting identification, Acad Press, London, 2001.
- Ordway Hilton, Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents, Rev. ED., Elsevier, New York, 1982.
- Wilson, R., Harrison, Suspect Documents – Their Scientific Examination; Universal Law Publishing, Delhi, 1997.