



COURSE OUTLINE: NRL212 - WILDLIFE FORENSICS

Prepared: Bryon Cosgrove

Approved: Bob Chapman - Dean

Course Code: Title	NRL212: WILDLIFE FORENSICS
Program Number: Name	5007: NAT RES/ENV ENFORCE
Department:	NATURAL RESOURCES PRG
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	This course is designed for students pursuing careers in natural resources law enforcement, with a specialized focus on wildlife forensics. The curriculum provides a thorough understanding of the legal, scientific, and investigative techniques essential for addressing wildlife crimes. Students will learn to apply forensic science to the investigation and prosecution of crimes against wildlife and natural resources.
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	42
Prerequisites:	There are no pre-requisites for this course.
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	5007 - NAT RES/ENV ENFORCE
Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.	VLO 1 Extend the resource technician's knowledge into the field of natural resource and recreational law, local, national and international.
	VLO 2 Introduce the student to the Canadian System of Justice as it relates to natural resources and recreation.
	VLO 3 Familiarize the student with the history of law enforcement.
	VLO 4 Familiarize the student with the more common violations encountered by the Conservation Officer, the Deputy Conservation Officer, the Park Warden, and Inspector, by using interpretation of the legislation and its intent using modules, sequential analysis and case study.
	VLO 5 Instruct the student in the power of arrest, search and seizure under the various statutes.
	VLO 6 Familiarize the student with the laws of evidence and judicial procedures.
	VLO 7 Provide instruction on the proper use of legal documents, the proper techniques used while investigating a common type of offence, the keeping of proper notes, collecting and preserving of evidence and the preparation of crown briefs.
	VLO 8 Prepare the student for the final step in a prosecution.
Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.
	EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.



- EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.
- EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.
- EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.
- EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.
- EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.
- EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.
- EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.

Course Evaluation:

Passing Grade: 50%, D

A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.

Other Course Evaluation & Assessment Requirements:

Academic success is directly linked to attendance. Missing more than 1/3 of the course hours in a semester shall result in a F Grade for this Course.

Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:

Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1
1. Identify the provisions of the Charter of Rights applicable to the gathering and admission of evidence into the court.	1.1 Explain the rights of suspects and the obligations of peace officers as contained in section 10 of the Charter regarding the gathering of evidence 1.2 Explain the requirements that must be met to comply with the rights and obligations set out in section 8 of the Charter regarding the search for and seizure of evidence 1.3 Explain the legal rights and obligations set out in section 9 of the Charter regarding the evidence obtained during detention 1.4 Explain, in the context of section 24 of the Charter, the remedies available to the court regarding evidence obtained in violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
2. Identify and explain the types of evidence available.	2.1 Explain the standard of proof and burden of proof required to prove a Criminal/ Provincial offence 2.2 Identify the types of evidence that may be used to prove an offence 2.3 Explain the basic rules that govern the admissibility of evidence 2.4 Identify how evidence is used to prove the facts in issue required to prove identified criminal offences.
Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
3. Explain how evidence is weighed by the courts.	3.1 Explain relevant and material evidence within the context of a Criminal/Provincial prosecution 3.2 Explain the probative verses the prejudicial value of evidence 3.3 Define and identify direct and circumstantial evidence 3.4 Identify situations where corroborative evidence is required or not required



	Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
	4. Identify factors that determine the weight and admissibility of evidence.	4.1 Define hearsay evidence 4.2 Identify the exceptions to the admissibility of hearsay evidence 4.3 Explain opinion evidence 4.4 Identify the exceptions to the opinion evidence rule 4.5 Explain expert opinion evidence 4.6 Explain the conditions under which expert opinion evidence may be admissible 4.7 Explain character evidence and the rules governing the admission of character evidence
	Course Outcome 5	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5
	5. Recognize crime scenes and containment areas.	5.1 Describe how a crime scene should be secured 5.2 Identify potential hazards that may be found at crime scenes 5.3 Explain and apply the concept of continuity of evidence
	Course Outcome 6	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 6
	6. Comprehend and apply wildlife protection laws and regulations in enforcement scenarios. Conduct detailed wildlife crime scene investigations using forensic science principles. Recover ballistic evidence through animal necropsy collecting forensic evidence that can be used in legal proceedings. This includes tissue samples, bullet fragments, or toxic substances. Analyze forensic evidence and prepare it for legal proceedings. Navigate the legal system and effectively present forensic findings in court. Address ethical dilemmas and uphold professional standards in wildlife forensics. Conduct animal necropsy.	6.1 Determine cause of death of wildlife 6.2 Gather evidence- following Scenes of the Crime guideline, collect all physical evidence 6.3 Collect samples to be sent for DNA analysis and firearms/ballistic analysis 6.4 Document and record all findings meticulously including photography, toxicology/DNA/ballistics reports in preparation for court.

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Final Exam	20%
Participation	20%
Quizzes	20%



	Scenarios	20%
	Tests	20%

Date: December 2, 2025

Addendum: Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.