

Introduction to Firearms Identification

Course Description:

In this introductory course to firearms examination, students will learn about the different types of firearm operation with respect to common pistols, revolvers, rifles, and shotguns, and how the function relates to comparisons of firearm related evidence. The manufacturing process will also be explored in relation to markings imparted to firearm surfaces (i.e. the breech face, firing pin, and barrel), as well as markings left by a firearm on fired cartridge cases and bullets. Students will get hands on experience with the disassembly of common firearms and the comparison of cartridge cases and bullets using comparison microscopes and the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS). Other topics to be covered include ammunition design and trajectory reconstruction.