

Forensic Archaeology to Maximize Evidence Recovery

This two-day class (14 credit hours) by The Center for Forensic Science Research & Education will introduce attendees to the array of techniques that archaeology has to offer to homicide investigation. Participants will take part in a field exercise that will simulate the recovery of human remains using archaeological techniques that will maximize evidence recovery at outdoor crime scenes. .

Educational Focus

Forensic archaeology applies archaeological methods to crime scene examination and human remains recovery. The use of routine archaeological skills, such as documentation, excavation, and a methodical approach, greatly increases the amount of recovered evidence at an outdoor crime scene. In this course, attendees will be introduced to the array of techniques that archaeology has to offer to homicide investigation. Through the utilization of a series of lectures, class discussions, and practical field exercises, this course will demonstrate the practical application of archaeological theory and methodology to crime scene examination. Participants will take part in a field exercise that will simulate the recovery of human remains using archaeological techniques that will maximize evidence recovery at outdoor crime scenes. Additional learning goals for the program are as follows:

Competence:

- a. Theory: Participants who complete the forensic archaeology program should understand and be able to articulate, both orally and in writing, the core theoretical concepts that form the foundation of forensic archaeology today. Core concepts are derived from traditional archaeological methodology and include excavation techniques, documentation techniques, stratigraphical interpretation, and artifact recovery.
- b. Practice: Participants who complete the forensic archaeology program should understand how an outdoor scene should be processed using archaeological methods and how human remains should be excavated to ensure optimal evidence recovery.
- c. Research Methods: Participants who complete the forensic archaeology program should be familiar with the tools, techniques, and data sources necessary for empirical analysis of environmental evidence. Participants should understand the various ways that environmental evidence is used in forensic science and the availability of resources for the analysis of soils, pollen, and arthropods.

Critical Thinking:

Upon completion of the forensic archaeology program participants should be able to apply their understanding of core concepts and practical tools to the evaluation of real world casework, including current crime scene processing procedures for outdoor scenes and clandestine grave excavation, and assess the practicality of utilizing environmental evidence.

Scholarship:

Upon completion of the forensic archaeology program participants should be able to apply their understanding of core concepts and practical tools to the evaluation of real world casework, including current crime scene processing procedures for outdoor scenes and clandestine grave excavation, and assess the practicality of utilizing environmental evidence.

Expert Instructors

This course is taught by Kimberlee Sue Moran, MSc, RPA. Ms. Moran has been an archaeologist, educator, and forensic consultant since 2002. She holds an undergraduate degree in archaeology from Bryn Mawr College and a Master of Science degree in forensic archaeological science from the Institute of Archaeology at University College London. Kimberlee has worked on a number of cases in a range of capacities, most recently as a provider of forensic services to legal professionals in the UK. She helped to launch the JDI Centre for the Forensic Sciences in 2010 and has run an educational organization, Forensic Outreach, since 2004. Kimberlee is an active member of the Society for American Archaeology, the UK Fingerprint Society, the Association for Women in Forensic Science, and Forensic Archaeology Recovery. Her doctoral research is in the field of ancient fingerprints. Please see attached curriculum vitae for additional information.

Lack of Commercialism:

All lecture materials and field equipment for the course are either primary materials produced by the course instructors, or photocopies of copyrighted materials (excerpts from forensic archeological textbooks or journal articles) and cited as such. There will be no endorsements of course materials or equipment.

Non Discrimination:

All RPAs are eligible to participate in this professional development course.

CPE Credit:

The class will be held over two days from 9 am until 4:30 pm, for a total of 14 hours. RPAs will receive 14 hours of CPE credit based on their attendance and participation in both classroom lecture and fieldwork. Attendees will be asked to complete a written assessment at the end of the classroom-based portion of the program and a course evaluation form at the end of the field exercise.

Evaluation:

Upon completion of the course and its assessments, The Center for Forensic Science Research & Education will submit copies of attendance logs and participant evaluations to the Register of Professional Archaeologists within the 20-day deadline.

[Click here to visit the website for this RPA-Certified CPE Course.](#)