

Detecting Deception

Instructor: Mike Ruggiero

Sergeant Mike Ruggiero has been a deputy and sergeant for the Orange County Sheriff's Office in Orlando, Florida since 1991. Sergeant Ruggiero has over 20 years of investigative experience in sex crimes, internal investigations, and homicide. Sergeant Ruggiero has completed numerous hours of training in the fields of graphology, kinesics, and statement analysis. He has provided thousands of hours of advanced training in the fields of investigations, interviewing, and detecting deception through identifying aspects of handwriting, body language, and statement analysis. Sergeant Ruggiero has been involved in the investigation of several hundred homicides as both an investigator and the sergeant of the Homicide Squad. He was involved in the high-profile investigations of Caylee Anthony and Markeith Loyd. Mike earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology from Columbia College in 2012. Mike has provided instruction for central Florida Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers, the US Peace Corps, the International Chiefs of Police Association, the Florida Homicide Investigators Association, and various other police departments and security professionals across the US. He is a member of the teaching staff at P.A.T.C. (the Public Agency Training Council), Valencia College in Orlando, and Daytona State College.

Course Objectives:

Detecting Deception is a course designed to provide insight and training into the only three ways people can be deceptive: writing, body language, and any type of verbal statements. An individual who has training in these areas is far better able to detect when someone is being truthful or deceptive. The skills learned in this training will not only be able to be applied to cases you are going to be involved in, but it can also be applied to previous cases. Most people, even law enforcement officers, are simply not well trained in the ability to determine a truthful subject from someone who is deceptive. This has been shown in studies conducted by many renowned Psychologists, including Dr. Paul Eckman.

Even experienced investigators have been misled or miss valuable cues. This course focuses on aspects of human nature that are as reliable today as they were 100 years ago. Through numerous examples provided and discussed in class, students will observe and practice the techniques of detecting deception that can be applied and are reliable gauges of truthfulness or deception. Not only will students be able to better distinguish truthfulness from deception, but where in the statement the subject is being deceptive.

Students will receive a comprehensive student guide to complete as part of the training. This is a valuable resource that can be referenced long after attending the training. Practical exercises are incorporated throughout the training to enable the students to learn the concepts and how to apply them. Many examples from actual cases are also incorporated into the training to demonstrate the concepts being taught are not just applicable in a classroom, but in the real world.

Handwriting Analysis

Detecting Deception training begins with handwriting analysis. The mind and body are connected, and a profile of the writer's personality emerges through an analysis of their writing. The insight that can be gained through the examination of handwriting into the persons thought processes and personality can prove valuable in a subsequent interview. In addition, students will learn signs of aggression, truthfulness, and deception in handwriting; signs that were previously overlooked or ignored.

Kinesics

The study of a person's body language is extremely beneficial. With little or no training available to law enforcement officers, the training focuses on body language as it relates to conducting interviews. The body language that accompanies verbal responses can provide the investigator with valuable information. Is the subject really being forthcoming? Are they still hiding something? The communicative aspects of hands, feet, eyes, posture, voice pitch, touch and other aspects of body language are covered to provide students with a wide variety of knowledge in assessing what is being conveyed through the body language of a subject.

Detecting Deception

Statement Analysis

Investigator will be able to evaluate written or verbal statements as well as 911 calls. The length of statements, breaking down statements, pronoun usage, and “red” flags present in statements will be covered. Students will review statements and apply the skills being taught. The use of statement analysis has proven to be an asset to those departments who utilize it. In a study conducted by the FBI, departments who used statements analysis had a 6% higher clearance rate over those that did not. Learn how to interpret what is already in front of you. Students will be able to identify areas where a subject is being untruthful or withholding information and know where to focus their questions. Do not rely on a gut feeling that can be easily influenced.

The skills taught over this 2.5-day course will enable students to possess far greater insight into what is really being conveyed. It is fast paced training that is as entertaining as it is informative. The skills taught in this training are not only valuable while working and conducting investigations, but also when off-duty and observe interviews with a public figure, enjoy a night out with friends or family, or read an article. Using these skills on a regular basis will help students hone their skills and increase their proficiency.

Day 1

8:00 a.m.—8:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Registration

Signs of Aggression
Signs of Deception
Signature Analysis

11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
12:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Lunch (On Your Own)

Handwriting Zones
Various Personality Traits Identified
Through Handwriting

Day 2

8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Signs of Stress Manifested in Body Language

- Voice Pitch
- Liars Triangle
- Posture
- Barriers
- Eye Movement

12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Lunch (On Your Own)

Length of Truthful Statements
Formula for Evaluating Statements

Day 3

8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Identifying Key Words and Phrases
Importance of Pronouns
Recognizing Verbal Evasiveness

Certificate Presentation