Training Announcement

"Methods of Instruction – Training Practical Professional Policing Skills Certification Course"

Hosted by:

Lac La Biche County & the Alberta Training Academy

September 25-29, 2023

Edmonton, Alberta

Take a science-based approach to your training programs

The integrity of policing in our society is dependent upon 'rightful policing' practices. These practices reside upon the ability of police and law enforcement officers to demonstrate exceptional judgment and appropriate application of force if and when necessary. Officers must assess critical situations and decide how to best respond in a risk-effective manner in what can often be time-compressed situations.

How individual officers respond during such incidents is heavily underpinned by how the officers were trained. This places an immense responsibility on law enforcement trainers and use of force instructors. As we continue to discover more about human performance and decision-making in complex, high-consequence, rapidly unfolding events, there is an absolute nexus between the quality of an officer's decision-making and survivability and how the officer was trained. *"An officer never 'rises to the occasion; they fall to the level of their training."*

Bad training exists and should be categorized as education built without the foundational research and science in neurology, cognition, and motor learning principles. Training is both art and science. Therefore, the responsible law enforcement trainer's focus and efforts necessitate creating training programs that reflect current research centered on correct skill selection, training design, and delivery for optimal learning and retention of critical police skills.

Course Overview

The Methods of Instruction – Training Practical Professional Policing Skills course fills a critical void in modern-day law enforcement training. During this intensive course, participants will be challenged by diving into paradigm-breaking scientific principles that can be immediately and directly applied to their academy or agency training program.

This learner-centric course utilizes an adult learning, problem-based approach. Individuals can expect to do a minimum of 20 hours of pre-class reading/viewing and assignments in addition to 40-hours of in-class instruction. Successful completion of this course requires the student to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the material and its application in a variety of contexts.

At the end of this course, participants will have a broad understanding of identifying critical training needs and building and instructing an evidence-based training program to address the essential skills required by law enforcement. In addition, instruction will include developing realistic, verifiable, and justifiable course training standards (CTS) to guide future teaching while protecting the agency and trainers.

The course is immensely challenging. It requires a willingness of the participant to leave behind strongly held biases and traditionalism and embrace a growth mindset.

Topics Covered

This course is delivered over a series of twelve modules with materials presented in scaffolded and interleaved methods, utilizing the same research-based learning methods participants are encouraged to use in their training programs.

In addition, each day will consist of both 'priming' and 'booster' sessions to reinforce and cement the critical aspects of the course into long-term memory. The instructor will utilize various learning tools throughout the course to create 'desirable difficulties' and 'effortful retrieval' of the following topics:

- Scientific Foundations for Learning

- Constraints Led Approach (CLA) to training ecological-based, non-linear motor skills

- Skill Retention and Perishability

- Block vs. Interleaved Training

- Training Myths

- Applicable Neuroscience

- Mind Model

- Vision, Perception, Attention, and Performance

- Stress Arousal and Performance

- Decision Making Models

- Decision Training and Behavior Training

- Implications of Memory / Applying Offline Modulators

- Principles of Motor Learning and Performance

- Types of Motor Movements; Motor Skill and Motor Learning Principles

- Memory and Motor Learning

- Role of Exercise to Enhance Learning

- Role of Sleep and Learning

- Mirror Motor Neurons

- Feedback Methods: Types and Timings

- Training 'Specificity'

- Contextual Interference, Effortful Retrieval, Spacing Effect, and Desirable Difficulties

- Skill Transfer to Novel Settings

- Skill Boosting and Priming

- Types of Performance Errors

- Identification and Validation of Critical Officer Skills / Gap Analysis

- Role of Student Motivation and Instructional Techniques to Enhance Learning

- How Imagery and Visualization Techniques Enhance Learning

Who Should Attend?

The professional nature of this program is specifically intended to target the experienced law enforcement survival / motor skills instructor (arrest and control, firearms, EVOC, etc.). Most of the students are actively employed in either full-time or part-time law enforcement instruction in either the academy or agency-level training regimen. However, the rigor of this course requires a strong student commitment – pre-course study work is required and involves approximately six reading/viewing exercises and metacognition drills. Students are also expected to engage actively in in-class discussions, group work, and class presentations. Students are required to attend the course in its entirety to complete the program successfully.

The Course Facilitator

Chris Butler, Chief Training Officer for Raptor Protection & Safety Services Inc., retired as an Inspector after 34 years in law enforcement.

Prior to joining the Calgary Police Service, Chris was a Search and Rescue Technician for six years responsible for conducting high angle mountain rescue, swift water rescue and avalanche rescue. During this time Chris was involved in developing and delivering intensive training for Search and Rescue Technicians. This began his interest and study in human factors, human error, decision making and motor learning principles.

During his tenure with the Calgary Police Service, Chris became a full-time instructor in the academy, teaching both recruits and in-service police officers a variety of physical use of force techniques as well as combat firearms instruction. For the last several years of his career, Chris developed and instructed Incident Command / Crisis Decision-Making training to sergeants, staff sergeants and Inspectors.

Chris has an extensive background in law enforcement use of force and has been certified as an instructor or instructor trainer in numerous incident command, firearms, physical combatives, less lethal/chemical agents and emergency vehicle operation disciplines. Chris is currently a National Trainer for National Law Enforcement Training Center (NLETC) and a senior instructor for Force Science. He has had the opportunity to work alongside and learn from some of the best elite-level national and international athletic coaches as well as numerous academic professionals in human performance. Having worked with law enforcement trainers at the local, state and national levels, Chris's ambition is to ensure training methods are based upon the most current science and research in human factors.

Registration Information

NOTE: This course will be capped at 30 Students. Register early to guarantee your spot.

Cost: $1,000.00 per student

Location: Alberta Justice Solicitor General Training Academy, Edmonton, AB

Dates: September 25-29, 2023

Contact: training@laclabichecounty.com to register.

Need more Information?

About course logistics? Contact Taylor Browett at taylor.browett@gov.ab.ca

About course content? Contact the Course Facilitator at chris@raptorprotection.com

Explore the course in detail here: https://raptorprotection.com/methods-of-instruction/

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