

Criminal Investigation (CRIJ 2314) Online



Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: Completed the Online Orientation and answered 7+ questions correctly on the Online Learner Self-Assessment: <http://www.lit.edu/depts/DistanceEd/OnlineOrientation/OOStep2.aspx>

Course Description

This course provides a survey of police criminal investigations function. Investigative theory; collection and preservation of evidence; sources of information; interview and interrogation; uses of forensic sciences; case and trial preparation. *This course is time-bound, structured and completed totally online.*

Required Textbook and Materials

Criminal Investigation by Christine Hess Orthmann and Karen M. Hess (9th edition)

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define the goals and objectives of criminal investigation.
2. Demonstrate ability to conduct proper crime scene investigations.
3. Illustrate the use of forensic science for various statutory offenses.
4. Organize the criminal case including field notes, reports, crime scene activities, and mandatory documentation of statutory warning.

Course Outline

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| A. Syllabus | 1. Definitions |
| 1. Introduction of Faculty and students | 2. Investigative Equipment |
| B. Criminal Investigation: An Overview | 3. Frequently Examined Evidence |
| 1. Definitions | G. Obtaining Evidence |
| 2. Basic Functions | 1. Sources of Information |
| 3. Crime Scene Investigators | 2. The Interview |
| C. Documenting the Crime Scene | 3. The Interrogation |
| 1. Field Notes: The Basics | H. Identifying and Arresting Suspects |
| 2. Basic Scene Photography | 1. Identifying Suspects at the Scene |
| 3. Sketching the Crime Scene | 2. Surveillance |
| D. Writing Effective Reports | 3. Undercover Assignments |
| 1. The Importance of Reports | 4. Legal Arrests |
| 2. The Well Written Report | I. Death Investigations |
| 3. The Final Report | 1. Classification of Deaths |
| E. Searches | 2. Elements of a Crime |
| 1. Legal Searches | 3. The Medical Examination |
| 2. The Exclusionary Rule | 4. Cold Cases |
| 3. Search Pattern | |
| 4. Use of Dogs | |
| F. Forensics / Physical Evidence | |

Approved 1/2014

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Course Syllabus

- J. Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking and Elder Abuse
 - 1. Assault
 - 2. Special Investigations
- K. Sex Offenses
 - 1. Rape/Sexual Assault
 - 2. Sex Offenders
 - 3. Police Response
 - 4. Interviewing the Victim and Witness(s)
- L. Crimes Against Children
 - 1. Effects of Child Abuse
 - 2. Evidence
 - 3. The Suspect
 - 4. The Pedophile
- M. Robbery
 - 1. Classifications
 - 2. Elements
 - 3. The Complete Investigation
- N. Burglary
 - 1. Classification
 - 2. Elements
 - 3. Responding to a Burglary Call
 - 4. Recovering Stolen Property
- O. Larceny / Theft / White Collar Crime
 - 1. Overview
 - 2. Classification
 - 3. Proving the Elements of the Crime
- P. Motor Vehicle Theft
 - 1. Elements of the Crime
 - 2. Investigation
- Q. Arson, Bombs, Explosives
 - 1. The Arsonist
 - 2. Special Investigation
 - 3. Search Warrants
- R. Drug and Organized Related Crime
 - 1. Identification of Drugs
 - 2. Clandestine Drug Laboratories
 - 3. Organized Crime: An Overview
 - 4. The Threat of Organized Crime
- S. Criminal Activities of Gangs
 - 1. Gangs Defined
 - 2. Extent of Gangs
 - 3. Types of Gangs
 - 4. Hate Groups
 - 5. Ritualistic Crimes
- T. Preparing for and Presenting Cases in Court
 - 1. The Final Report
 - 2. The Role of the Prosecutor
 - 3. Testifying in Court

Grade Scale

| | |
|----------|---|
| 90 – 100 | A |
| 80 – 89 | B |
| 70 – 79 | C |
| 60 – 69 | D |
| 0 – 59 | F |

Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Module Discussions | 10% |
| 2. Module Assignments | 20% |
| 3. Module 1 Test | 10% |
| 4. Course Project | 20% |
| 5. Research Paper | 20% |
| 6. Final Exam | 20% |

Course Requirements

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Course Syllabus

1. Complete the chapter quizzes.
2. Participate in students-to-instructor discussions pertaining to the studied chapter assignments.
3. Complete a 3 to 5 page report on a topic assigned by the instructor.
4. Participate in student-to-student discussions regarding articles included in selected chapters.
5. Complete a comprehensive final exam.

Course Policies

1. Respect all LIT Faculty, Staff, and Students at ALL times.
2. **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL BE DEALT WITH MOST STRICTLY!** - An automatic F for the semester, plus a report will be filed.
3. No late assignments will be accepted.
4. Makeup exams will not be given, unless arranged for in advance. If you miss an exam (including the final) for any reason, without making arrangements with me prior to the exam, you will receive a zero on that exam.
5. Exams (including the final) will begin on time.
6. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an 'F' in the course.
7. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

Technical Requirements

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at:

<http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=25368512>

A functional internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources.

Disabilities Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building.

<http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/default.aspx>

Course Schedule (subject to change)

| Week | Topic | Reference |
|-------------|--|---|
| 1 | Course Introduction and policies Chapter 1: Criminal Investigation: An Overview | Online: Orientation Module AND Module 1 Textbook: pp.4-31 |
| 2 | Chapter 1: continued | Online: Module 1 |

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Course Syllabus

| Week | Topic | Reference |
|------|--|--|
| | Chapter 2: Basic Investigative Responsibilities | Textbook: pp. 4-31 and pp. 34-63 |
| 3 | Chapter 3: Writing Reports | Online: Module 1 Textbook: pp. 66-87 |
| 4 | Chapter 4: Searches | Online: Module 1 Textbook: pp. 88-110 |
| 5 | EXAM I (Chapters 1 – 4) | Online: Module 1 Textbook: pp. 4 - 110 |
| | Chapter 5: Forensics/Physical Evidence | Online: Module 2 Textbook: pp.112-157 |
| 6 | Chapter 6: Obtaining information and intelligence Fingerprinting, Impressions, Skeletal Remains | Online: Module 2 Textbook: pp.112-157 |
| 7 | Chapter 7: Identifying and Arresting suspects Photo Line-ups Exercise | Online: Module 2 Textbook: pp. 158-189 |
| 8 | Chapter 8: Death Investigations The Medical/Legal Examination Autopsy Series Research Paper Due | Online: Module 2 Textbook: pp. 190-227 |
| 9 | ***SPRING BREAK*** | |
| 10 | Autopsy Series Chapter 9: Assault, Domestic Violence Review Chapters 5,6,7,8 | Online: Module 3 Textbook: pp.232-267 and pp.270-293 |
| 11 | Chapter 10: Sex Offenses Chapter 11: Crimes Against Children | Online: Module 3 Textbook: pp. 294-315 and pp. 316-351 |
| 12 | Chapter 12: Robbery Chapter 13: Burglary Chapter 14: Theft/Fraud Chapter 15: Motor Vehicle Theft Course Project Due | Online: Module 3 Textbook: pp. 352-371 and pp.374-390 and pp. 392-424 and pp.426-449 |
| 13 | Chapter 16: Arson, Bombs , and Explosives Chapter 17: Computer Crime | Online: Module 4 Textbook: pp. 450-473 and pp. 476-510 |
| 14 | Chapter 18: Drug Related Crime Chapter 19: Criminal Activities of Gangs | Online: Module 4 Textbook: pp. 512-549 and pp. 550-581 |
| 15 | Chapter 21: Presenting Cases in Court Final Exam Review: Chapters 16, 18, 19, and 21 | Online: Module 4 Textbook: pp. 612-643 |
| 16 | Final Exam (Chapters 16, 18, 19, and 21) | |

Contact information varies by instructor.