

Criminal Investigation (CRIJ 2314)



Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None

Course Description

Investigative theory; collection and preservation of evidence; sources of information; interview and interrogation; uses of forensic sciences; case and trial preparation.

Required Textbook and Materials

1. *Criminal Investigation* by Christine Hess Orthmann and Karen M. Hess (9th edition) ISBN: 978-1-43-54-6993-8

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

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Course Syllabus

- 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:

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|---------------|-----|
| 1. Unit Tests | 80% |
| 2. Projects | 20% |

Course Policies

- 1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
- 2. Computers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class or used only with permission of the instructor.
- 3. Do not bring children to class.
- 4. 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.

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Course Syllabus

5. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

Technical Requirements (for courses using Blackboard)

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

[https://help.blackboard.com/en-](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1)

[us/Learn/9.1](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1) 2014 04/Student/015 Browser Support/015 Browser Support Policy

A functional broadband 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 online resource:

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

Student Code of Conduct Statement

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office.