

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

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

1. *Criminal Investigation* by Christine Hess Orthmann and Karen M. Hess (9th edition) ISBN: 978-143-54699-38

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Syllabus<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction of Faculty and studentsB. Criminal Investigation: An Overview<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Definitions2. Basic Functions3. Crime Scene InvestigatorsC. Documenting the Crime Scene<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Field Notes: The Basics2. Basic Scene Photography3. Sketching the Crime SceneD. Writing Effective Reports<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. The Importance of Reports2. The Well Written Report3. The Final ReportE. Searches<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Legal Searches2. The Exclusionary Rule3. Search Patterns | <ul style="list-style-type: none">4. Use of DogsF. Forensics / Physical Evidence<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Definitions2. Investigative Equipment3. Frequently Examined EvidenceG. Obtaining Evidence<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Sources of Information2. The Interview3. The InterrogationH. Identifying and Arresting Suspects<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Identifying Suspects at the Scene2. Surveillance3. Undercover Assignments4. Legal ArrestsI. Death Investigations<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Classification of Deaths |
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Course Syllabus

- 2. Elements of a Crime
- 3. The Medical Examination
- 4. Cold Cases
- 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 Test	10%
4. Course Project	20%
5. Research Paper	20%
6. Final Exam	20%

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Course Syllabus

Course Policies

1. You must log onto Blackboard and access this course a minimum of three times per week.
2. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated.
3. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and dropping the course. If you stop logging-in to the course and do not complete the course drop process, then you will receive an “F” grade for the course
4. Internet Usage – Students are expected to use proper net etiquette while participating in course emails, assignment submissions, and online discussions.

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.