

Criminal Investigations (CJSA 1342) Fall 25 SISD

CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the study of Criminal Investigative theory, the collection and preservation of evidence, the sources of information, interview and interrogation, uses of forensic sciences, case and trial preparation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Define the goals and objectives of criminal investigation.
2. Organize the criminal case including field notes, reports, and crime scene.
3. Define the responsibilities of law enforcement and constitutional restraints.
4. Analyze landmark supreme court cases that impacts law enforcement.
5. Demonstrate understanding of the daily functioning of the criminal justice system.
6. Assess how Law enforcement affects society.
7. Define probable cause, stop and frisk, Miranda Warning and search warrant requirements.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Robert L. Smith

Email: rlsmith5@lit.edu / robert.smith@silsbeeisd.org

Office Phone: 409-980-7877 Ext. 6240

Office Location: Silsbee High School #240

Office Hours: In Person available by Appointment only
M-F (flexible hours)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

None/ Open-Source Material

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend scheduled class or have evidence of a district approved absence.

Approved: TNS 8/21/25

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are 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.

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
8/25 – 8/29	Intro to Criminal Investigations Careers	8/29
9/2 – 9/5	4th Amendment & Searches: Case Law	9/5
9/8 – 9/12	4th Amendment & Searches: Physical Searches	9/12
9/15 – 9/19	Crime Scene Investigations: Death Scenes Investigations	9/19
9/22 – 9/26	Crime Scene Investigations: Search and Sketching	9/26
9/29 -10/3	Crime Scene Investigations: Video and Photographs	10/3
10/6 – 10/10	Crime Scene Investigations: Mock Crime Scene Project	10/10
10/13 – 10/17	Evidence Collection: Chain of Custody	10/17
10/20 – 10/24	Report Writing: Reports	10/24
10/27 – 11/31	Report Writing: Death Scene Reports	11/31
11/3 – 11/7	Lineups & Witnesses: Eyewitness Testimony & Issues	11/7
11/10 – 11/14	Lineups & Witnesses: Lineups	11/14
11/17 – 11/21	Interviews & Interrogations: Interrogations & Interviews	11/21
11/24 – 11/30 <i>Thanksgiving (Nov. 28-29)</i>	No Class	---
12/1 – 12/5	Interviews & Interrogations: False Confessions	12/5
12/4 – 12/10	Finals	12/9

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Assignments/ Discussions 40%
- Exams 60%

GRADE SCALE

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

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email specialpopulations@lit.edu. You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](https://www.lit.edu/specialpopulations).

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. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses

STARFISH

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION

All assignments are due as scheduled. Late or incomplete assignments will be discussed on a case-by-case basis (ex. medical situation such as hospitalization).