Criminal Investigation (CJSA 1342)

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
   a. ISBN number is 13: 978 0 495 09340 4

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
1. Define the goals and objectives of criminal investigation. (SCANS: C5, C6, C7).
2. Demonstrate ability to conduct proper crime scene investigations. (SCANS: C6, C9, F9)
3. Organize the criminal case including field notes, reports, and crime scene activities. (SCANS C5, C6, C7, C8, F1, F2, F9, F10, F12)

SCANS Skills and Competencies
Beginning in the late 1980’s, the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary’s Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS) conducted extensive research and interviews with business owners, union leaders, supervisors, and laborers in a wide variety of work settings to determine what knowledge workers needed in order to perform well on a job. In 1991 the Commission announced its findings in What Work Requires in Schools. In its research, the Commission determined that “workplace know-how” consists of two elements: foundation skills and workplace competencies.

Course Outline
I. Syllabus
   A. Introduction of Faculty and students
II. Chapter 1 Criminal Investigation: An Overview
   A. Definitions
   B. Basic Functions
   C. Crime Scene Investigators
III. Chapter 2 Documenting the Crime Scene
   A. Field Notes: The Basics
IV. Chapter 3 Writing Effective Reports
   A. The Importance of Reports
   B. The Well Written Report
   C. The Final Report
V. Chapter 4 Searches
   A. Legal Searches
   B. The Exclusionary Rule

Approved 11/2010
C. Search Patterns
D. Use of Dogs

VI. Chapter 5 Forensics / Physical Evidence
A. Definitions
B. Investigative Equipment
C. Frequently Examined Evidence

VII. Chapter 6 Obtaining Evidence
A. Sources of Information
B. The Interview
C. The Interrogation

VIII. Chapter 7 Identifying and Arresting Suspects
A. Identifying Suspects at the Scene
B. Surveillance
C. Undercover Assignments
D. Legal Arrests

IX. Chapter 8 Death Investigations
A. Classification of Deaths
B. Elements of a Crime
C. The Medical Examination
D. Cold Cases

X. Chapter 9 Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking and Elder Abuse
A. Assault
B. Special Investigations

XI. Chapter 10 Sex Offenses
A. Rape/Sexual Assault
B. Sex Offenders
C. Police Response
D. Interviewing the Victim and Witness(s)

XII. Chapter 11 Crimes Against Children
A. Effects of Child Abuse
B. Evidence
C. The Suspect
D. The Pedophile

XIII. Chapter 12 Robbery
A. Classifications
B. Elements
C. The Complete Investigation

XIV. Chapter 13 Burglary
A. Classification
B. Elements
C. Responding to a Burglary Call
D. Recovering Stolen Property

XV. Chapter 14 Larceny / Theft / White Collar Crime
A. Overview
B. Classification
C. Proving the Elements of the Crime

XVI. Chapter 15 Motor Vehicle Theft
A. Elements of the Crime
B. Investigation

XVII. Chapter 16 Arson, Bombs, Explosives
A. The Arsonist
B. Special Investigation
C. Search Warrants

XVIII. Chapter 17 Computer Crime
A. Terminology and Definitions
B. Special Challenges in Investigation
C. Legislation

XIX. Chapter 18 Drug and Organized Related Crime
A. Identification of Drugs
B. Clandestine Drug Laboratories
C. Organized Crime: An Overview
D. The Threat of Organized Crime

XX. Chapter 19 Criminal Activities of Gangs
A. Gangs Defined
B. Extent of Gangs
C. Types of Gangs
D. Hate Groups
E. Ritualistic Crimes

XXI. Chapter 20 Terrorism and Homeland Security
A. Terrorism: An Overview
Course Syllabi

B. Classification of Terrorism Acts
C. Terrorist Groups
D. The Department of Homeland Security

XXII. Chapter 21 Preparing for and Presenting Cases in Court
A. The Final Report
B. The Role of the Prosecutor
C. Testifying in Court

Grade Scale

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Course Evaluation
Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- 3 Unit Tests 75%
- Comprehensive Final Exam 15%
- Course Project 10%

Course Requirements

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. Proper classroom decorum must be maintained at all times.
2. No DISRUPTIONS will be tolerated and in this classroom, we will respect one another’s right to learn.
3. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
4. Cell phones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class.
5. Do not bring children to class.
6. Do not walk out of class early without talking to me before the class begins.
7. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL BE DEALT WITH MOST STRICTLY! - An automatic F for the semester, plus a report will be filed.
8. On exam day, all desks MUST be clear except for exam materials. All purses, backpacks, notebooks, etc. should be stored under the desks - including CELL PHONES.

9. No late assignments will be accepted.

10. 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.

11. Exams (including the final) will begin on time. If you are more than 5 minutes late for the exam, you will not be allowed to take it.

12. 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.

13. Attendance is expected and required.

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

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.

Course Schedule

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<th>Week of</th>
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| Week 1  | Course Introduction and policies  
Discussion of Syllabus  
Chapter 1: Criminal Investigation: An Overview | pp.4-31 |
| Week 2  | Chapter 1: continued  
Chapter 2: Basic Investigative Responsibilities | pp. 4-31  
pp. 34-63 |
| Week 3  | Chapter 3: Writing Reports  
Discussion  
Writing a Report | pp. 66-87 |
| Week 4  | Chapter 4: Searches  
Discussion  
Practical Application Exercise  
Review Chapter Study 1,2,3,4. | pp. 88-110 |
| Week 5  | Chapter 5: Forensics/Physical Evidence  
EXAM I | pp.112-157 |
| Week 6  | Practical Application Exercises  
Fingerprinting, Impressions, | pp.112-157 |
## CJSA 1342
Course Syllabi

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<td>Skeletal Remains</td>
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<td><strong>Week 8</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 8: Death Investigations</td>
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<td>Chapter 21: Presenting Cases in Court</td>
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<td><strong>Week 23</strong></td>
<td>Final Exam Review: Chapters 13-21)</td>
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