CISA 1308 3A1
Criminalistics I

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dennis White
Email: dwhite@lit.edu
Office Phone: 409-247-5277
Office Location: Technology Center Building Room 214
Office Hours: By Appointment

MONDAY: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm; 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm
TUESDAY: 9:00 am – 9:30 am
WEDNESDAY: 9:00 am – 11:00 am
THURSDAY: 9:00 am – 9:30 am
FRIDAY: 9:00 am – 10:00 am

CREDIT

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION
Face to Face

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:
None

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Introduction to the field of Criminalistics. Topics include the appreciation of scientific and technical methods in the investigation of crime including location, identification, and handling of evidence for scientific analysis

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

- Describe the various roles of the Forensic Scientist from the crime scene technician, to the medical-legal forensic pathologist to the court room testimony of a criminal case.
- Explain and apply the scientific method to both research and to the actual crime scene.
- Explain and utilize the Locard’s Theory and different crime scene search patterns.
- Demonstrate understanding of the actual participation of a mock crime scene and complete the on-scene investigation to include a written report.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS


a. ISBN number is 13: 978 1 933264 87 5

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Participation is assessed through exercises completed in class. Activities may consist of class assignments, group activities and individual analysis of information from various sources including the text. However, six unexcused absences will result in a 50% grade reduction in the Participation/Attendance Grade

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the Academic Calendar. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an “F” in the course.

STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

COURSE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS (Due on this Date)</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Definitions, Scientific Method. Introduction to Forensic Science</td>
<td>Class Exercise</td>
<td>September 14, 2023</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Forensic Pathologist</td>
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<td>The Medical Legal Autopsy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Assignment 1 (Cause and Manner of Death)</td>
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<td>The Sexual Assault Nursing Expert</td>
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<td>Investigation I (The Basics)</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Chapter 2 Crime Scene Investigation I (The Basics) Chapter 2 Assignment 2</td>
<td>Handout Class/Online Documentary Presentation Guest Speaker Or Chapter Reference Power Point</td>
<td>September 14, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Crime Scene Investigation II (The Physical Evidence) Chapter 3 Assignment 3 Crime Scene Investigation Chapter 3 Assignment 3</td>
<td>Handout Discussion Real CSI Chapter Reference Power Point Crime Lab Power Point</td>
<td>September 14, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Chapter 4 Fingerprints Chapter 4 Assignment 4 Exam 1</td>
<td>Handout Discussion Real CSI Chapter Reference Power Point Crime Lab Power Point</td>
<td>September 14, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Chapter 5 Trace Evidence Chapter 5 Assignment 5</td>
<td>Discussion Documentary Definition and Discussion / Method of Discovery Glass, Soil, Hair, Fibers. Documenting and Collecting Trace Evidence</td>
<td>October 12, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Chapter 6 Drug Evidence Chapter 6 Assignment 6</td>
<td>Types, Collection of Samples: Drugs and Poisoning Readings. Discussion, Power Point, Narcotics Task Force</td>
<td>October 12, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Chapter 7 Forensic Serology Chapter 7 Assignment 7</td>
<td>Handouts Online Study Blood Spatter Cases References Power Point</td>
<td>October 12, 2023</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Chapter 8 Assignment 8</td>
<td>October 12, 2023</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Chapter 9 Assignment 9</td>
<td>November 14, 2023</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Chapter 10 Assignment 10</td>
<td>November 14, 2023</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Chapter 11 Assignment 11</td>
<td>November 14, 2023</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Chapter 12 Assignment 12</td>
<td>November 14, 2023</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Blood Impressions Assignment</td>
<td>November 30, 2023</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Firearms Evidence (Continued)</td>
<td>November 30, 2023</td>
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</tbody>
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**Chapter 8**
- DNA Evidence
- Handouts
- Online Study
- Blood Spatter Cases
- Exercise Power Point
- References
- Definitions
- CODIS
- DNA Today, The
- Innocence Project
- Sample Case Analysis – Dr. Henry Lee

**Chapter 9**
- Blood Spatter Cases
- Forensic Files
- Documentary

**Chapter 10**
- Questioned Documents
- Forensic Investigation

**Chapter 11**
- Imprints and Impression
- Lab Exercise
- Making Casts

**Chapter 12**
- Tool Marks and Firearms Evidence
- Definitions
- Class/Online Discussion
- Class Lab Exercise

**Blood Spatter Cases**
- Reference Power Point
- October 12, 2023

**Week 11**
- “In Cold Blood”
- “The State Trooper Case”

**Week 12**
- Blood Impressions
- “The State Trooper Case”
- November 30, 2023
- Firearms Evidence
- Firearms Impressions
- Blood Impressions
- Bullets and Spent Cartridge Cases
- Shooting Scenes
- December 1, 2023

**Week 13**
- November 30, 2023

**Week 14**
- Firearms Evidence
- November 30, 2023
- (Continued)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 15</th>
<th>Additional Documentaries</th>
<th>Documentary November 30, 2023</th>
<th>November 30, 2023</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Final EXAM Review Chapters 9 - 12</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>December 5, 2023</td>
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Note: The Course Calendar is subject to change without prior notice.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- 2 Unit Tests 35%
- Course Project 10%
- Class Assignments 20%
- Final Exam 15%
- Lab/Online Exercise 10%
- Participation 5%
- Attendance 5%

**GRADE SCALE**

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

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution’s Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at [http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty](http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty).

**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-](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).

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.

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

1. Proper classroom decorum must always be maintained.
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. No late assignments will be accepted. All assignments must be submitted on Blackboard.
9. 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. All exams will be taken on Blackboard.
10. 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.
11. Attendance is expected and required. Participation/Attendance – Participation is assessed through exercises completed in class. Activities may consist of class assignments, group activities and individual analysis of information from various sources including the text. However, six unexcused absences will result in a 50% grade reduction in the Participation/Attendance Grade.
12. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.
13. Students will learn to explain the various aspects of theory and practice related to crime scene investigation.
14. Critical Thinking Analysis – Analyze a current and/or past criminal case using the Scientific Theory or concept from the beginning call to court completion from a crime scene perspective.
15. Research and Practical Application Project – Students will research a past felony crime issue/topic of major significance and then complete a practical crime scene investigation to include search, photographing, sketching discovery and collection of evidence, written report and prepare for testifying in a mock court room case. The assignment will consist of a research report and presentation. The research report must be submitted on Blackboard.
16. The Course Calendar is subject to change without prior notice.