

Criminalistics II (CJSA 2323 1A1)

CREDIT

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Hybrid/Lab

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Theory and practice of crime scene investigation. Topics include report writing; blood and other body fluids; document examination; etchings, casts and molds, glass fractures; use of the microscope, and firearm identification.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Explain the various aspects of theory and practice related to crime scene investigation
- List the procedures used in various types of evidence discovery and examination

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: 12:00 pm - 5:30 pm

TUESDAY: 9:30 am - 10:30 am; 12:00 pm (noon) – 1:00 pm

WEDNESDAY: 9:30 am – 11:00 am

THURSDAY: 9:30 am - 10:30 am; 12:00 pm (noon) – 1:00 pm

FRIDAY: 9:00 am – 10:00 am



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Forensic Science Today by Dr. Henry C. Lee and George M. Taft (2nd Edition)

Lawyers & Judges Publishing Company, Inc. Tucson, Arizona

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

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is a face-to face attendance class. CLASS ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. 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 date as listed in the College Calendar on the Student Success web page. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

COURSE CALENDAR

Note: All Readings are from the course required text and designated pages, as well as course-included PowerPoints which are available on Blackboard.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1	Course introduction Syllabus and policies; An Introduction to Forensic Science Today Thinking about and Researching Criminalistics A Review of Current Forensics	Orientation Discussion The Forensic Scientist The Forensic Pathologist The Crime Scene Investigator The Criminal Investigator February 13, 2026	February 13, 2026
Week 2	Fire and Arson Evidence Fire Burn Patterns / The Fire and Arson Evidence The Arson Investigator	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 13 February 13, 2026	February 13, 2026

Week 3	Chemical Evidence Collecting and Packaging Evidence Chemical Testing in the Crime Lab	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 14 February 13, 2026	February 13, 2026
Week 4	Digital Evidence The Computer as a Weapon Internet Theft	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 15 February 13, 2026	February 13, 2026
Week 5	Forensic Art The Jane Doe Case The John List Case EXAM 1	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 16 March 20, 2026	March 20, 2026
Week 6	Forensic Pathology "The Body at Death" The Forensic Autopsy Estimating the Time of Death "The Jon Benet Ramsey Case: A Crime Profile The JFK Case and Forensic Profile	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 17 March 20, 2026	March 20, 2026
Week 7	Forensic Toxicology The DWI Case Investigation "Drugs and Bugs" Review the "Aunt Diane" real case scenario	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 18 March 20, 2026	March 20, 2026
Week 8	Forensic Anthropology Analyzing the Hidden Secrets in the Bones The Robert Pickton " The Pig-Farmer" Case Case Study of the Guilty Sausage Maker	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 19 March 20, 2026	March 20, 2026
Week 9	Forensic Entomology What Can Insects Tell Us About a Murder?	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 20 April 17, 2026	April 17, 2026
	Selected Cases of Dr. Neal H. Haskell, the bug and maggot doctor...Ref:		

	Entomology and Death EXAM 2		
Week 10	Forensic Dentistry Identifying Human Remains through teeth Case Studies of Dr. Henry Lee, Dr. Lowell Levine (Ted Bundy) Remains of Dr. Josef Mengele / The Last Russian Czar Nicholas and Family / The Donna Payant correctional Officer Murder Case by Dr. Michael Baden	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 21 April 17, 2026	April 17, 2026
Week 11	Forensic Engineering Reconstructing events such a building collapses, auto crashes, etc. The East Texas Challenger Space Shuttle Disaster Guest Speaker U.S. Attorney Brit Featherston	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 22 April 17, 2026	April 17, 2026
Week 12	The FBI – EVIDENCE RECOVERY TEAM (ERT – Cases “The James Byrd Case” Jasper, Texas. Forensic Psychology “The Case of the Sick Mind” EXAM 3	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 23 April 17, 2026	April 17, 2026
Week 13	The Andrea Yates Case The Robert Durst Case The Richard Speck Case The Ed Gein Case	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 23 May 5, 2026	May 5, 2026

	The Richard Speck Case The Ed Gein Case		
Week 14	The Crime Scene Reconstruction The Science and Logic of Reconstruction The Helle Crafts Case "The Woodchipper Case" The Amy Bradley Case The George Smith Case – Dr. Henry Lee COURSE PROJECT DUE	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 24 May 5, 2026	May 5, 2026
Week 15	Jurisprudence: Law and forensics CRIME SCENE SEARCH PRACTICAL PROBLEM(S)	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 25 May 5, 2026	May 5, 2026
Week 16	Crime Scene Research and Case Writings Reports and Courtroom Testimony	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 26 May 5, 2026	May 5, 2026

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Three Unit Tests 30 %
- Course Project 20 %
- Class Assignments 20 %
- Final Exam 15 %
- Lab/Online Exercise 5 %
- Participation 5 %
- Attendance 5 %

GRADE SCALE

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

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

For the latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc., review the Minimum Computer and Equipment Requirements on the [LIT Online Experience](#) page. 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.

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

1. **LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED. DUE DATES ARE NOT EXTENDED.** If a Student fails to complete the course work on the designated time/date(s) a **GRADE of ZERO (0)** will be recorded on line Blackboard. **NO MAKE UP WORK ACCEPTED.**
2. Students should log into Blackboard a minimum of three (3) times a week to view **ANNOUNCEMENTS**, and work on and complete required Assignments, Projects, Research work and reviews for Exams.
3. Students will learn to explain the various aspects of theory and practice related to crime scene investigation.
4. **Critical Thinking Analysis – Analyzation of current and or past criminal cases using the Scientific Theory or concept from the beginning crime scene to court room presentation will be a major part of the course from the learning objectives of Dr. Henry LEE and the Courses taught by the Texas Commission of Officer Education (TCOLE) – Crime Scene Investigation (2026)**
5. **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. Crime Scene mock exercise will be part of this course.**
6. **Exams – There will be three exams and a Final Exam. Each exam will cover 3-4 chapters of the text. Each Exam will cover specific Learning Objectives that the Crime Scene Investigator will utilize in their formal duties**
7. **All Assignments must be submitted on line blackboard during the designated time period(s).**

8. **PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE** – Participation is assessed through exercises completed in class. Activities may consist of class assignments, group activities, individual analysis of information from various sources such as scientific journal articles, crime scene documentaries, crime scene investigation projects. Sources of learning include the Dr. Henry Lee Text Book, Course power points, instruction lectures and re-investigating past criminal/crime scene real cases. However, six (6) unexcused absences will result in a 50% reduction in the Participation/Attendance grade column
9. **NOTE:** This is a Face to Face Course/Class with LABS. Attendance is required.
10. **LAB STUDY MANUAL EXERCISES (10)** are required to complete the course.
11. **The Course Calendar is subject to change without prior notice.**