

Criminal Investigation (CRIJ 2314) Online

Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)



Prerequisite/Co-requisite: Complete the Online Orientation and answer yes to 7+ questions 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 Karen M. Hess and Christine Hess Orthmann (11TH edition)
 - a. ISBN number is 978 1 285 86261 3
 - b. Scan Tron Answer Sheets and #2 Pencils

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. Organize the criminal case including field notes, reports, and crime scene activities.

Course Outline

A. Syllabus

1. Introduction of Faculty and students
2. Instructor Resume
3. Comments

B. Chapter 1 Criminal Investigation: An Overview

1. Definitions
2. Basic Functions
3. Crime Scene Investigators

C. Chapter 2 Documenting the Crime Scene

1. Field Notes: The Basics
2. Basic Scene Photography
3. Sketching the Crime Scene

D. Chapter 3 Writing Effective Reports

1. The Importance of Reports
2. The Well Written Report
3. The Final Report

E. Chapter 4 Searches

1. Legal Searches
2. The Exclusionary Rule

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Course Syllabi

- 3. Search Patterns
- 4. Use of Dogs
- F. Chapter 5 Forensics/Physical Evidence
 - 1. Definitions
 - 2. Investigative Equipment
 - 3. Frequently Examined Evidence
- G. Chapter 6 Obtaining Information
 - 1. Sources of Information
 - 2. The Interview
 - 3. The Interrogation
- H. Chapter 7 Identifying and Arresting Suspects
 - 1. Identifying Suspects at the Scene
 - 2. Surveillance
 - 3. Undercover Assignments
 - 4. Legal Arrests
- I. Chapter 8 Death Investigations
 - 1. Classification of Deaths
 - 2. Elements of a Crime
 - 3. The Medical Examination
 - 4. Cold Cases
- J. Chapter 9 Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking and Elder Abuse
 - 1. Assault
 - 2. Special Investigations
- K. Chapter 10 Sex Offenses
 - 1. Rape/Sexual Assault
 - 2. Sex Offenders
 - 3. Police Response
 - 4. Interviewing the Victim and Witness(s)
- L. Chapter 11 Crimes Against Children
 - 1. Affects of Child Abuse
 - 2. Evidence
 - 3. The Suspect
 - 4. The Pedophile
- M. Chapter 12 Robbery
 - 1. Classifications
 - 2. Elements
 - 3. The Complete Investigation
- N. Chapter 13 Burglary
 - 1. Classification
 - 2. Elements
 - 3. Responding to a Burglary Call
 - 4. Recovering Stolen Property
- O. Chapter 14 Larceny/Theft/White Collar Crime
 - 1. Overview
 - 2. Classification
 - 3. Proving the Elements of the Crime
- P. Chapter 15 Motor Vehicle Theft
 - 1. Elements of the Crime'
 - 2. Investigation
- Q. Chapter 16 Arson, Bombs, Explosives
 - 1. The Arsonist
 - 2. Special Investigation
 - 3. Search Warrants
- R. Chapter 17 Computer Crime
 - 1. Terminology and Definitions
 - 2. Special Challenges in Investigation
 - 3. Legislation
- S. Chapter 18 A Dual Threat: Drug Related Crime & Organized Crime
 - 1. Identification of Drugs
 - 2. Clandestine Drug Laboratories
 - 3. Organized Crime : An Overview
 - 4. The Threat of Organized Crime
- T. Chapter 19 Criminal Activities of Gangs

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1. Gangs Defined
2. Extent of Gangs
3. Types of Gangs
4. Hate Groups
5. Ritualistic Crimes

U. Chapter 20 Terrorism and Homeland Security

1. Terrorism: An Overview
2. Classification of Terrorism Acts
3. Terrorist Groups

4. The Department of Homeland Security

V. Chapter 21 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. Unit Tests	70%
2. Final Exam	10%
3. Course Project	10%
4. Class/Study Assignments	10%

Course Requirements

1. Satisfactory exam grades.
2. Satisfactory attendance.
3. Satisfactory preparation and presentation of Course Project and completion of Class/Study Assignments

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

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 office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building. You may also visit the online resource at <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. 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.

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