Criminalistics II (CJSA 2323)

Credit: 3 semester credit hours (2 hours lecture, 2 hours 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.

Required Textbook and Materials

1. 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

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
1. Explain the various aspects of theory and practice related to crime scene investigation
2. List the procedures used in various types of evidence discovery and examination

Course Outline

1) Syllabus
   a) Introduction of Faculty and students
   b) Instructor Resume
   c) Comments
2) Chapter 13: Fire and Arson Evidence
   a) Fire Burn Patterns
   b) Crime Scene Evidence
   c) The Crime Scene Search and Preserving Evidence
3) Chapter 14: Chemical Evidence
   a) Types of Chemical Evidence Found at Crime Scenes
   b) Collecting and Packaging Evidence
   c) Conducting Chemical Tests in the Lab
4) Chapter 15: Digital Evidence
   a) How Digital Evidence is Stored
   b) The Computer as a Weapon
   c) The Computer as a Victim
   d) Internet Identity Theft
5) Chapter 16: Forensic Art
   a) Types of Forensic Art
   b) Real Life Forensic Art
   c) Case Profile: The Chicago Jane Doe Case
   d) The John List Case
6) Chapter 17: forensic Pathology
   a) What Happens to the body at Death?
   b) Physical Evidence on the Human Body
   c) Review of What Happens During an Autopsy
   d) Stages in Postmortem Interval
   e) Estimating the Time of Death
   f) Case Profile: Who Killed Jon Benet Ramsey?

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g) JFK: From Crime Scene to Autopsy
7) Chapter 18: Forensic Toxicology
   a) The Toxicology of Alcohol
   b) The DWI Case
      i) Drinking
      ii) Testing for Alcohol
      iii) The Legal Limit
   c) A Real Case Scenario
   d) Review of the "Aunt Diane" Case
8) Chapter 19: Forensic Anthropology
   a) Analyzing Hidden Secrets in the Bones
   b) Animal or Human Remains?
   c) Case Study of the Guilty Sausage Maker
   d) Case Study of Robert Pickton "The Pig Farmer"
9) Chapter 20: Forensic Entomology
   a) What can Insects tell us about a murder?
   b) Types of Carrion Insects
   c) The Blow Fly and its Development
10) Stages of Decomposition
   a) Selected Cases of Dr. Neal H. Haskell "the bug and maggot doctor"; Ref. "Entomology and Death"
11) Chapter 21: Forensic Dentistry
   a) The Forensic Odontologist
   b) Identify Unknown Human Remains
   c) Analyzing Bite Marks
   d) Case Studies of Dr. Lee and Dr. Lowell Levine (Ted Bundy/ Remains of Dr. Josef Mengele/Russian Czar Nicholas and Family)

e) Case Profiles "How a Murderer's Teeth Gave Him Away" and the Donna Payant Correctional Officer Murder Case – Dr. Michael Baden
12) Chapter: 22   Forensic Engineering
   a) Reconstructing events such a building collapses, auto accidents and plane crashes
   b) The Forensic Engineering Investigations
   c) The Challenger Space Shuttle Disaster in East Texas
13) Challenge to Forensic Psychology
   a) What do Forensic Psychologists and Psychiatrists do?
   b) Case Profile: Portrait the Document Field
14) Case Profile:
   a) TWA Flight 800
15) Chapter: 23
   a) of a Sick Mind
   b) The Case of Andrea Yates
16) Chapter 24:   Crime Scene Reconstruction
   a) The Science/Logic of Reconstruction
   b) Reconstruction: A Hypothetical Case Study
   c) Stages in Reconstruction
   d) The Sherman Murder Case
   e) Types of Reconstruction
17) Chapter 25: Jurisprudence: Law and Forensics
   a) Serial Offenders
   b) Linking Cases/Signature Scenes
   c) Current Law Standards/Issues
   d) Search Warrants

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   40%
2. Course Project   20%
3. Class Assignments   20%
4. Final Exam   20%

Course Policies

1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Computers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class or used only with permission of the instructor.
3. Do not bring children to class.
4. 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.
5. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

Technical Requirements (for courses using Blackboard)

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at:
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.