

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

1. Criminal Investigation by Wayne W. Bennett and Karen M. Hess (8th edition)
 - 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

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

Approved 11/2010

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- 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

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- 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

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:

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.

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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

Week of	Topic	Reference
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

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Week of	Topic	Reference
	Skeletal Remains	
Week 7	Chapter 7: Identifying and Arresting suspects Photo Line-ups Exercise	pp. 158-189
Week 8	Chapter 8: Death Investigations The Medical/Legal Examination Autopsy Series	pp. 190-227
Week 9	Autopsy Series Chapter 9: Assault, Domestic Violence Review Chapters 5,6,7,8	pp.232-267
Week 10	Chapter 9: Continued EXAM 2	pp.270-293
Week 11	Chapter 10: Sex Offenses Chapter 11: Crimes Against Children	pp. 294-315 pp. 316-351
Week 12	Chapter 12: Robbery Chapter 13: Burglary Chapter 14: Theft/Fraud Chapter 15: Motor Vehicle Theft Review Chapters 9,10,11,12	pp. 352-371 pp.374-390 pp. 392-424 pp.426-449
Week 13	Chapter 16: Arson, Bombs , and Explosives Chapter 17: Computer Crime EXAM 3	pp. 450-473 pp. 476-510
Week 14	Chapter 18: Drug Related Crime Chapter 19: Criminal Activities of Gangs Chapter 20: Terrorism	pp. 512-549 pp. 550-581 pp. 582-611
Week 15	Chapter 21: Presenting Cases in Court Final Exam Review: Chapters 13-21)	pp. 612-643
Week 16	Final Exam	