

# Course Syllabus

**Department** : Criminal Justice  
**Course Title** : Criminal Investigations  
**Section Name** : CRIJ 2314  
**Start Date** : 08-27-2012  
**End Date** : 12-14-2012  
**Modality** : On-Line Course  
**Credits** : 3

## Instructor Information

**Name** : Troy N. Thomas  
**OC Email** : [tthomas@odessa.edu](mailto:tthomas@odessa.edu) (I will only contact students using their OC email address. Be sure to check your OC accounts DAILY for announcements and updates)  
**OC Phone #** : 432- 335-6540  
**Office Location** : ET-158

### **Fall Office Hours:**

- *Monday: 1:30 - 4 PM*
- *Tuesday: 1:30 – 4 PM*
- *Wednesday: 1:30 – 4 PM*
- *Thursday: 1:30 – 4 PM*
- *Friday: By Appointment Only*

Help from the instructor is available **at your** request. Appointments can be set up or you may contact instructor during office hours. Tutoring is available through the LRC.

## Student Success Coaches

The Odessa College Student Success Coaches will help you stay focused and on track to complete your educational goals. If an instructor sees that you might need additional help or success coaching, he or she may submit a Retention Alert or a Starfish Alert. A Student Success Coach will contact you to work toward a solution.

## Course Description

This course examines investigative theory; collection and preservation of evidence; sources of information in reference to criminal investigation; interview and interrogation; uses of forensic sciences and case and trial preparation.

## **Prerequisites/Corequisites**

None

**ICOs:** 1,2,3,4,5,6

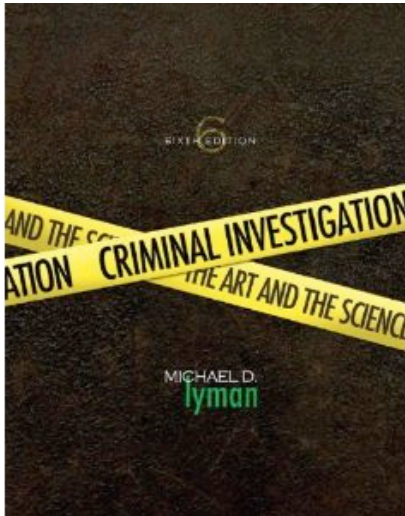
## **Course Objectives**

After taking this course, students will:

1. Be able to identify the goals and objectives of a criminal investigation;
2. Be able to conduct an effective and proper crime scene investigation;
3. Illustrate the use of forensic sciences in various criminal investigations;
4. Organize a criminal case investigation to include field notes, reports, crime scene activities and mandatory documentation of statutory warning;

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## **Required Readings/Materials**



Criminal Investigation: *The Art and the Science*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Prentice Hall

Michael D. Lyman

This book can be purchased at the OC bookstore or from various online sources.

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## **Course Requirements (Lectures, Assignments and Assessments)**

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## **Assignments**

This is a college level course and you will, therefore, be expected to uphold established college standards as outlined in the most recent Odessa College catalog.

### **Week 1: August 27- 31**

Please read Chapter 1: Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation

Answer Discussion Question-Due by 11:30 p.m. on 09-1-12

### **Week 2: September 3 - 7**

Please read Chapter 2: The Crime Scene: Field Notes, Documenting, and Reporting

Answer Discussion Question-Due by 11:30 p.m. on 09-8-12

### **Week 3: September 10-14**

Please read Chapter 3: Processing the Crime Scene

Answer Discussion Question-Due by 11:30 p.m. on 09-15-12

### **Week 4: September 17-21**

Please read Chapter 4: Identification of Criminal Suspects: Field and Laboratory Processes

Answer Discussion Question Due by 11:30 p.m. on 09-22-12

**\*\*First Exam** will include questions from Chapters 1 – 4. You will have 90 minutes to complete the exam and are only allowed one attempt. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Test will be open from 09-24-12 at 8 a.m. to 02-26-12 at 11:30 p.m.

### **Week 5: September 24-28**

Please read Chapter 5: Legal Issues in Criminal Investigation

Answer Discussion Question Due by 11:30 p.m. on 09-29-12

### **Week 6: October 1-5**

Please read Chapter 6: Interviews and Interrogations-pages 193 to 206

Please read Chapter 7: Criminal Intelligence and Surveillance Operations-pages 222 to 230 and 237 to 246

Answer Discussion Questions due by 11:30 p.m. on 10-6-12

### **Week 7: October 8-12**

Please read Chapter 8: Management of Informants and Undercover Operations

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 10-13-12

**\*\*Second Exam** will include questions from Chapters 5 – 8. You will have 90 minutes to complete the exam and are only allowed one attempt. NO EXCEPTIONS! Test will be open from 10-15-12 at 8 a.m. to 10-17-12 at 11:30 p.m.

**Week 8: October 15-19**

Please read Chapter 9: Death Investigations

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 10-20-12

**Week 9: October 22-26**

Please read Chapter 10: Robbery

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 10-27-12

**Week 10: October 29-November 2**

Please read Chapter 11: Assault and Related Offenses

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 11-3-12

**Week 11: November 5- 9**

Please read Chapter 12: Missing and Abducted Persons

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 11-10-12

**Week 12: November 12-16**

Please read Chapter 13: Crimes Against Children: Child Abuse and Child Fatalities

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 11-17-12

**\*\*Third Exam** will include questions from Chapters 9-13. You will have 90 minutes to complete the exam and are only allowed one attempt. NO EXCEPTIONS! Test will be open from 11-19-12 at 8 a.m. to 11-21-12 at 11:30 p.m.

**Week 13: November 19-23**

Please read Chapter 14: Theft Related Offenses

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 11-24-12

**Week 14: November 26-30**

Please read Chapter 15: Arson, Bombings and Terrorism

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 12-1-12

**Week 15: December 3-7**

Please read Chapter 16: Gangs, Organized Crime and Drugs-pages 543 to 561

Please read Chapter 17: White-collar and Computer Crime-pages 588-592 and 601-611

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 12-8-12

### **Week 16: December 10-13**

Please read Chapter 18: Preparation for Court

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 10-13-12

Final Exam Date: TBA

### **Evaluation/Grading Computation:**

Your final grade will be based upon a combination of the following course requirements:

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|-------------------------------|----------|
| • Three exams                 | 15% each |
| • Research Paper              | 10%      |
| • Weekly Discussion Questions | 10%      |
| • Final Exam                  | 20%      |
| • Power Point Presentation    | 15%      |

Your exams and final exam will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, short answer and essay questions.

Your research paper will be a **5 to 7** pages, typed double-spaced paper that will be due no later than November 12, 2012. Your paper can be written over any law enforcement topic or the topics I provide in a few weeks.

The paper must have at least three ancillary references, but you are encouraged to use more. Please use correct grammar, spelling and APA format for the research paper. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me for a meeting, as I will be happy to help you.

The weekly discussion questions will be taken from your chapter lesson assignments as we move through the course. These assignments will correspond with your required Discussion Board postings. Please respond to each Discussion Board question with a minimum **250 word** response to a question that I will post weekly. Then, post responses in the Discussion Board to two other student's postings on the same topic. Please be more specific and substantial than using the term 'good job,' as you will be required to post a minimum **100 word** response to two other students.

The power point presentation will cover one chapter in the book. I will assign each student a chapter. The student will then do a power point presentation for that one chapter. The power point presentation will be used as a study aid by you and the other students in the class, so doing a conscientious and thorough job of presenting the chapter is important. I will do the power point presentations for the first couple of weeks, so that you all can know what kind of presentation to do. This will be 15% of your grade.

### **Grading Policy**

90-100 – A

80-89 – B

70-79 – C

60-69 – D

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### Special Needs

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

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### Student Success

This course Criminal Investigations CRIJ 2314 – Fall 2012 has been identified as a course by Career, Technical, and Workforce Education as one in which teaching and learning strategies adopted by AVID will be implemented. As a student in the Criminal Justice program, you will be expected to develop an understanding of the strategies, to model the strategies, to maintain fidelity of implementation, and to examine how these strategies may impact your effectiveness as a professional in your chosen area of occupation, either through coursework or practicum experience as outlined by the course instructor.

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### Learning Resource Center (Library)

The Library, known as the [Learning Resources Center](#), provides research assistance via the [LRC's catalog \(print books, videos, e-books\)](#) and [databases \(journal and magazine articles\)](#). [Research guides](#) covering specific subject areas, [tutorials](#), and the "[Ask a Librarian](#)" service provide additional help.

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### Student E-mail

Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

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### Student Portal

Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

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### Technical Support

For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at [https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk\\_form.htm](https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm).

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### Important School Policies

Information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or students' and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the [Odessa College Student Handbook](#).

**DISCLAIMER: Each student is responsible for checking the syllabus frequently as it will be updated as often as needed.**