

Course Syllabus

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change during the semester. Please check this syllabus on a regular basis for any updates.

Department : Law Enforcement /Criminal Justice Department

Course Title : Criminal Investigation

Section Name : CRIJ_2314_WB

Start Date : 01/18/2011

End Date : 05/13/2011

Modality : ONLINE

Credits : 3

Instructor Information

Name : Geoffrey Schwende

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Course Description

Investigative theory; collection and preservation of evidence; sources of information; interview and interrogation; uses of forensic sciences; case and trial preparation.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

[Scans](#)

2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 11

Course Objectives

The student will define the goals and objectives of criminal investigation; demonstrate ability to conduct proper crime scene investigations; illustrate the use of forensic science for various statutory offenses; and organize the criminal case including field notes, reports, crime scene activities and mandatory documentation of statutory warning.

PLEASE PUT YOUR DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC INFORMATION IN THIS AREA

Required Readings/Materials

Criminal Investigation, 6ed.

Pearson

Michael D. Lyman

ISBN: 13: 978-0-13-506057-5

Course Requirements (Lectures, Assignments and Assessments)

Week 1



Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 1	Discuss	Introduction	TBA
		Chapter 1: Foundations of Criminal Investigation	
		<p>Understand the myths and processes of criminal investigation</p> <p>Explain the English roots influencing current methods</p> <p>Understand modern development in crime detection</p> <p>Consider recent research</p> <p>Compare and contrast deductive and inductive reasoning</p> <p>Understand various types of investigations, investigators, and modes of investigation</p> <p>Explain the role of the patrol officer</p>	
	Outside	Read Chapter 2 and 3	

Week 2

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 2	Discuss	Chapter 2: The Crime Scene: Field Notes, Documenting, and Reporting	TBA
		<p>Explain field notes to assist investigator</p> <p>Learn proper structures of the report</p> <p>Explain proper methods of photography and preservation</p> <p>Understand how to properly capture the scene on digital video</p> <p>Understand the usefulness of the rough sketch and the final sketch</p>	
	Discuss	Chapter 3: Processing the Crime Scene	
		<p>Understand the preliminary investigation and the first officer's roll</p> <p>Understand various methods of special situations</p> <p>Explain importance of interviewing the witness and conducting neighborhood canvassing</p> <p>Describe how to properly prepare a crime scene report</p> <p>Explain how to properly perform a follow-up investigation</p>	
	Outside	Read Chapter 4 and 5	

Week 3

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 3	Discuss	Chapter 4: Identification of Criminal Suspects: Field and Laboratory Processes	TBA
		<p>Understand the fundamentals of fingerprint science</p> <p>Identify the different types of fingerprint patterns</p> <p>Comprehend the various techniques of developing prints</p> <p>Understand significance of DNA analysis</p> <p>Understand importance of handwriting analysis in suspect development</p> <p>Learn the legalities of lineups in suspect identification</p>	
	Discuss	Chapter 5: Legal Issues in Criminal Investigation	
		<p>Discuss relevant U.S. Supreme Court precedents relating to searches</p> <p>Understand the requirements of the warrantless search</p> <p>Explain proper structure of a search warrant</p> <p>Describe various methods of executing a search warrant</p> <p>Explain importance of marking and preserving physical evidence</p> <p>Understand the process of reasonable force in an arrest</p> <p>Define the term arrest and how it differs from an investigative detention</p> <p>Understand the reasonable application of use of force</p>	
	Outside	Read Chapter 6 and 7	

Week 4

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 4	Exam	Written exam over chapters 1 - 5	TBA
		See grading policy	
	Discuss	Chapter 6: Interviews and Interrogations	
		<p>Explain the distinctions between the interview and interrogation</p> <p>Understand the significance of the Miranda decision</p> <p>Appreciate the value of admissions and confessions</p> <p>Explain the different techniques used in interviews and interrogations</p> <p>Understand the process for taking a written statement</p> <p>Realize the investigative utility of the polygraph exam</p>	
	Discuss	Chapter 7: Criminal Intelligence and Surveillance Operations	
		<p>Understand roles and types of criminal intelligence</p> <p>Identify the procedures of collection</p> <p>Explain the types of flowcharts in gathering intelligence operations</p> <p>Understand the usefulness of undercover investigations</p> <p>Describe steps and resources required to implement undercover investigation</p> <p>Explain the types of surveillance and benefits of a properly conducted operation</p>	
	Outside	Read Chapter 8 and 9	

Week 5

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 5	Discuss	Chapter 8: Management of Informants and Undercover Operations	TBA
		<p>Describe the types of people used as informants</p> <p>Identify various areas of concern in use of informants</p> <p>Understand their motivations</p> <p>Document and process informant properly</p> <p>Maintaining control during investigation</p> <p>Protect their identity</p> <p>Understand problems associated with using them</p> <p>Understand usefulness undercover operations</p>	
	Discuss	Chapter 9: Death Investigations	
		<p>Identify modes of death</p> <p>Understand duties of responding officers</p> <p>Learn fundamentals of protecting the crime scene</p> <p>Learn techniques in identifying victims</p> <p>Understand methods used in estimating time of death</p> <p>Understand significance of defense wounds</p> <p>Interpret entrance and exit wounds</p> <p>Identify the characteristics of an autoerotic death</p>	
	Outside	Read Chapters 10 and 11	

Week 6

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 6	Discuss	Chapter 10: Robbery	TBA
		<p>Understand the motivations behind the robbery</p> <p>Identify legal elements of the robbery</p> <p>List the steps in the preliminary investigation of robbery offenses</p> <p>Identify types of physical evidence found</p> <p>Appreciate the role of the witness(es)</p> <p>Explain the function of a neighborhood canvass in preliminary investigations</p>	
	Discuss	Chapter 11: Assault and Related Offenses	
		<p>Describe the legal definition of assault</p> <p>Identify types of assaults</p> <p>Understand problems of domestic violence and recent assault legislation</p> <p>Explain methods of investigating stalking cases</p> <p>Identify symptoms of possible child abuse</p> <p>List and discuss steps in investigating child abuse</p> <p>Understand techniques of rape victim interviews</p> <p>Identify evidence in rape cases</p>	
	Outside	Read Chapter 12 and 13	

Week 7

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 7	Exam	Written exam covering chapters 6 - 11	TBA
		See grading policy	
	Discuss	Chapter 12: Missing and Abducted Persons	
		<p>Understand complexity of nation's missing person problem</p> <p>Discuss the first responder's role</p> <p>Identify steps in investigation process</p> <p>List and discuss different categories</p> <p>Explain police supervisor responsibilities</p> <p>Identify guidelines for interviewing suspects</p> <p>Understand investigator's role</p>	
	Discuss	Chapter 13: Crimes Against Children: Child Abuse and Child Fatalities	
		<p>Describe the roles and distinctions between pedophile and molester</p> <p>Understand problem of abuse and investigator's response</p>	

Week 8

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 8	Discuss	Continue with Chapter 13	
		<p>Identify various techniques of child molestation investigations</p> <p>Discuss the medical profession's role in sexual misconduct with children cases</p> <p>Identify interviewing techniques for child victims of sexual misconduct</p> <p>Understand problems with placing children on the witness stand</p>	
	Outside	Read Chapter 14	

Week 9

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 9	Discuss	Chapter 14: Theft Related Offenses	TBA
		<p>Discuss the steps in the preliminary investigation of burglaries</p> <p>Consider various types of evidence required</p> <p>Describe how to trace stolen property</p> <p>Understand the problem of forgery and fraud</p>	
	Outside	Read Chapter 15	

Week 10

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 10	Discuss	Continue with Chapter 14	
		Define the various types of embezzlement Understand the problem of shoplifting Understand the extent of motor vehicle theft problems	
	Discuss	Chapter 15: Arson, Bombings, and Terrorism	TBA
		Understand the scope of arson Learn the legal definitions and elements in the crime of arson Explain the techniques of arson investigation Learn how to investigate bombs and bombers Understand the distinction between domestic and international terrorism	
	Outside	Read Chapter 16	

Week 11

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 11	Exam	Written exam over chapters 12 - 15	TBA
		See grading policy	
	Outside	Read Chapter 16	

Week 12

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 12	Discuss	Chapter 16: Gangs, Organized Crime, and Drugs	
		<p>Understand the extent to which gangs exist in the U.S.</p> <p>Explain the businesses of gangs and organized crime</p> <p>Describe how criminal groups involve themselves in illicit drug trades</p> <p>List the categories of drug dependence</p> <p>Describe the most common drugs of abuse</p> <p>Learn the provisions of the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA)</p> <p>Learn how drug and gang investigations are initiated</p>	
	Outside	Read Chapter 17 & 18	



Week 13

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 13	Discuss	Chapter 17: White-collar and Computer Crime	TBA
		<p>Understand various types of while-colar crimes</p> <p>Understand the problem of money-laundering investigations</p> <p>List the various techniques used by organize crime to hid or "launder" financial proceeds</p> <p>Learn the different types of confidence games and how they work</p> <p>Describe the nature of computer crimes and the various types of computer offenses known today</p> <p>Know what evidence to look for in the investigation of computer crimes</p> <p>Understand the profile of the computer crime suspect</p>	
	Discuss	Chapter 18: Preparation for Court	
		<p>Learn the role of pre-trial procedures in prosecution of the defendant</p> <p>Understand how the criminal trial process operates</p> <p>Evaluate the differences between direct and corss-examination</p> <p>Learn how investigators prepare for court</p> <p>Understand the techniques most commonly used by defense attorneys to discredit an investigator's testimony</p> <p>Learn the importance of good courtroom demeanor when testifying</p>	

Week 14

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 14	Review	Review chapters 1 - 9 for final exam	TBA

Week 15



Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 15	Review	Review chapters 10 - 18 for final exam	TBA

Week 16

Topic/Overview: This week focuses on

Summary of Week 1 Assignments & Activities

Item(Name)	Type	Description	Due
Week 16	Exam	Final Exam	TBA
		See grading policy	

Grading Policy

Each week, I will provide grades or scores and comments on assignments within 6 days of when they were submitted. After I send feedback each week, I will post a notification in the **Main** forum.

Late assignments receive a 10% deduction for each day they are late if assignments are not posted by 11:59 p.m. central on the day they are due. Assignments more than 5 days late will not be accepted. Technological issues will not be considered as valid grounds for late assignment submission. In the event of a server outage, students should submit assignments to the instructor.

Percentage %	Grade
Instructors: please enter grade percentage.	Instructors: enter letter grade.

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.

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.

Student E-mail

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

Student Portal

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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.

Important School Policies

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