



CC APPROVAL: 12/11/2017  
ACADEMIC SENATE APPROVAL: 02/28/2018  
BOT APPROVAL: 03/12/2018  
STATE ID: CCC000134387  
EFFECTIVE TERM: Fall 2018

## College of the Sequoias Course Outline of Record

**SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER:** AJ 118

**COURSE TITLE:** CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

**UNITS/HOURS**

**Units:** 3

**Hours:**

**Lecture Hours Per Week:** 3

**Lab Hours Per Week:**

**Total Lecture Hours Per Semester:** 52.5

**Total Lab Hours Per Semester:**

**Activity Hours Per Week:**

**Total Activity Hours Per Semester:**

**Total Hours Per Week:** 3

**Total Contact Hours Per Semester:** 52.5

**TOP CODE:** 2105.00 - Administration of Justice\*

**SAM CODE:** Clearly Occupational

**Cross-Listed Courses:**

**CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines the basic principles of criminal investigation. Topics include the crime scene, physical evidence identification, collection and preservation. It will also cover investigative techniques, patterns, modus operandi, the management of the investigation and concepts related to the prevention and suppression of crime.

**REQUISITES:**

NONE

**FIELD TRIP REQUIREMENTS:** Not Required

**GRADING:** S - Standard Grading A-F

**REPEATABLE:**

**TRANSFERABLE:**

\*Approved\* CSU BA Transferable (1-199 level)

YES

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Methods of instruction may include, but are not limited to, the following:

\* Lecture and/or Discussion

## METHODS OF EVALUATION:

A student's grade will be based on multiple measures of performance unless the course requires no grade. Multiple measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Essay quizzes or exams  
Multiple choice tests  
Oral presentations  
Other (Describe)  
Project

- Student will prepare and present a topic from the "Course Topics: Outline of Topics" utilizing two instructional modalities, present expanded presentation outline, interview an expert/specialist related to topic, and use a minimum of two resources other than course text. - Working collaboratively in a small group setting, students will review an assigned criminal case, and present their findings and observations to the class. - Students will investigate a mock crime scene utilizing contemporary investigatory methodologies.

## COURSE TOPICS:

1. Ethical and legal requirements regarding investigations

2. History of criminal investigation:

- Outside the U.S.
- Inside the U.S.

3. Investigations and new technology:

- Introduction to the terminology and goals of the investigator
- The qualifications of the investigator
- Overview of preliminary and follow-up investigations
- Systematic review of cases with computer assistance
- Techniques and principles of report
- Developing the techniques for investigations
- New approaches and technology

4. Interviewing and Interrogation:

- The legal and ethical processing of interviews
- Assessing the subject, planning the interview
- The interview, written statements and confessions
- Miranda admonitions

5. The crime scene:

- Preliminary investigation – the first responder
- Methods, manpower and equipment for isolation and protection
- Search methods and pre-search processes
- Methodological steps of a search
- Collection, identification and preservation of evidence
- Methods of evidentiary collection and analysis

6. Scientific analysis of evidence:

- Fingerprints – computerized methods
- Firearms
- Trace analysis of hairs, fibers, etc.
- Serology section, including BAC and other fluids
- Drug analysis, except alcohol
- Photography, polygraph, voice identification and other lab activities

7. Sources of Information:

- Criminal justice records
- Automated records systems
- Miscellaneous records systems
- Methods of acquiring information
- Evaluation and analysis of information
- Other recorded sources

8. Surveillance and undercover:

- Surveillance problems and procedures
- Undercover or covert activities
- Special ethical considerations and legal concerns
- Current technology and techniques

9. Investigative concepts for specialized investigations:

- Crimes against persons
- Property crimes
- Specialized crimes: such as arson, sex crimes
- Narcotics and dangerous drugs
- Alcohol related crimes
- Special problem investigations (i.e. infectious diseases)

10. Organized crime, terrorism, hostage incidents:

- Terrorist profiling
- Types of weapons used
- Hostage incidents, negotiations
- Profiling

11. Case preparation:

- Case preparation guidelines
- State mandated reporting system
- Courtroom demeanor and expert witness
- Special problems

## OUTCOMES:

### Course Objectives

The main concepts for this course will ask students to...

1. Identify and explain the role of documentation in the criminal investigative process.
2. Recognize, identify and explain the implications of a given piece of evidence in a criminal process.
3. Identify critical ethical issues relating to criminal investigation.
4. Describe successive evolutionary stages of the criminal investigation.
5. Identify procedures for first responders to crime scenes.
6. Describe the duties related the basic functions of crime scene management (management control, evidence search and processing, and general area investigation).

7. Identify the role of forensic examination in a criminal investigation.
8. Compare and contrast the legalities and strategies of interview and interrogation.
9. Identify key information sources and data systems available to investigators.
10. Explain the role of the investigator in the judicial process.

## Assignments

### Reading:

#### READING

**Reading assignments typically associated with this particular course of instruction may include but are not limited to:**

- Students are required to read the assigned chapter and answer at least two of the chapter review questions.
- Students are required to read the assigned chapter and complete a short chapter quiz each week.
- Students are expected to read the assigned chapter(s) each week in preparation for classroom discussion.

### Writing:

#### WRITING

**Writing assignments typically associated with this particular course of instruction may include but are not limited to:**

- Students are required to identify at least one current course specific criminal justice issue that is in the news (print or electronic), and write a one to two page observation paper, relating course content to their response.
- Students are required to maintain a journal as it relates to the topic instructed in class (reflection) and to make entries during the week that relate to events in the news that are related to criminal investigation.
- Students are required to prepare written documents (outline, test questions, resources and expert interview information) in support of their chosen presentation assignment.
- Students are required to choose a particular topic that is related to the course of study (prior approval required) and then write a five-page paper regarding the chosen topic.

### Homework:

#### HOMEWORK

**Homework assignments typically associated with this particular course of instruction may include but are not limited to:**

- Students are expected to read the assigned chapter(s) each week in preparation for classroom participation.
- Students are required to read the assigned chapter(s) and define key terms associated with the content of each chapter.
- Students are expected to do research work and otherwise prepare for their respective presentations as required for this course.
- Students are assigned a research project that directly relates to the topic of criminal investigation.

## TEXTS AND SUPPLIES:

Textbooks may include, but are not limited to:

### TEXTBOOKS:

1. Lushbaugh & Weston. Criminal Investigation: Basic Perspectives. 13th ed. Pearson, 2016, ISBN: 9780133514506

### MANUALS:

### PERIODICALS:

### MATERIALS FEE: NO

### OTHER:

1. California Peace Officers' Resource Guide, Latest Edition, By California Attorney General's Office, State of California Publisher

## Distance Ed

**SLO:** <http://cos.edu/CO318>

[AJ outcomes](#)

**ORIGINATOR:** David Wheeler

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