

AJ 118: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Proposer:

Name:

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Effective Term:

Fall 2023

Credit Status:

Credit - Degree Applicable

Subject:

AJ - Administration of Justice

Course Number:

118

Catalog Title

Criminal Investigation

Catalog Description

This course examines the basic principles of criminal investigation. Topics include lawful crime scene investigation & crime scene management strategies, physical evidence identification, collection and preservation guidelines. Current investigative techniques (crime scene search patterns) and concepts related to the prevention and suppression of crime, are also essential components of this course.

Method of Instruction:

Distance Education
Lecture and/or Discussion

Course Units/Hours:

Course Units Minimum:

3

Lecture Hours Minimum (week)

3

Lab Hours Minimum (week)

0

Activity Hours Minimum (week)

0

Total Contact Hours Minimum (semester)

52.5

Total Outside Hours Minimum (semester)

105

Total Student Learning Minimum Hours (semester)

157.5

Repeatability:

No

Open Entry/Exit:

No

Field Trips:

Not Required

Grade Mode:

Standard Letter

TOP Code:

210500 - * Administration of Justice

SAM Code:

C - Clearly Occupational

Course Content

Methods of Assessment:

Essay quizzes or exams
Multiple choice tests
Oral presentations
Project

Course Topics:

Course Topics	
1	History of Policing & Criminal Investigation: Evolution of Criminal Investigations from England to America
2	Ethical and legal requirements regarding investigations
3	Rules of Evidence and Arrest: The 4th Amendments Applicability in Search & Seizure; Evidence Inadmissibility (Exclusionary Rule)
4	The Crime Scene: Search Procedures, Evidence (Identification, Marking, Collecting, and Transporting); Identifying Physical Changes of Evidence at the Crime Scene; Chain of Custody.
5	Evidence: Type (Direct vs Indirect/Circumstantial); Forms of Evidence (Physical, Testimonial and/or Documents).
6	Laboratory and Technical Services: Forensic Science Databases (DNA & Fingerprinting)
7	Interview & Interrogation Essentials: The Miranda Warning and Constitutional Considerations
8	Investigation Strategies for Various Type of Crimes: Crimes Against Persons; Crimes Against Property; Vice Crimes & Sting Operations
9	Serology & Bodily Fluids: Blood Alcohol Content and Other Fluids (Saliva, Semen, Perspiration, etc.)
10	Drug Investigations: Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Drug Schedule; Natural vs Synthetic Drugs; Presumptive Drug Testing Kits in the Field (on the streets).

Course Objectives:

Course Objectives	
1	Identify and explain the role of documentation in the criminal investigative process.
2	Describe successive evolutionary stages of the criminal investigation.
3	Explain the role of the investigator in the judicial process.
4	Identify key information sources and data systems available to investigators.
5	Compare and contrast the legalities and strategies of interview and interrogation.
6	Identify the role of forensic examination in a criminal investigation.
7	Describe the duties related the basic functions of crime scene management (management control, evidence search and processing, and general area investigation).
8	Identify procedures for first responders to crime scenes.
9	Identify critical ethical issues relating to criminal investigation.
10	Recognize, identify and explain the implications of a given piece of evidence in a criminal process.

Course Outcomes:

Course Outcomes	
1	Students will identify and demonstrate the proper procedure for collecting, protecting, transporting, and booking evidence.
2	Students will recall the three criminal interrogation essentials, and give an example for each one.
3	Students will be able to describe the mechanics of completing a search warrant, and identify those steps necessary to secure a warrant.
4	Students will be able to identify a Modus Operandi (M.O.) crime, differentiate between a Modus Operandi crime, and crime of opportunity.

Assignments:

Assignment Type:	Details
Reading	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	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	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.

Textbooks or other support materials

Resource Type:	Details
Books	Criminal Investigation: Basic Perspectives Lushbaugh & Weston Prentice Hall 13th 2016 ISBN:978-0-13-351440-7
Web/Other	California Peace Officers' Resource Guide, Latest Edition, By California Attorney General's Office, State of California Publisher
Books	Criminal Investigation 3rd Edition (2022): Michael Lyman: Pearson

Equity Review:

Yes

Transferable to CSU

Yes - Approved

CSU General Education

Transferable to CSU



Other Degree Attributes

Degree Applicable
Not a Basic Skills Course

Distance Learning Addendum

COS Distant Learning Addendum AJ.pdf
DLA-Approved-May-13-2020 Used for 2022 Course Updates.pdf

Banner Title:

Criminal Investigation

Curriculum Committee Approval Date:

04/18/2023

Academic Senate Approval Date:

04/26/2023

District Governing Board Approval Date:

05/08/2023

Course Control Number:

CCC000134387

C-ID:

AJ140