

Introduction to Criminal Investigation

CJS 220
Spring, 2015

Three Rivers Community College
574 New London Turnpike
Norwich, Connecticut 06360

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Office Hours:

By Appointment Only

I. Course Title: Introduction to Criminal Investigations

II. Course Information:

A. CJS K220

B. Location: E 204

C. Day/Time: Thursday 6:30 pm – 9:15 pm

III. Course Description:

“Criminal investigation represents a timeless and dynamic field of scientific study.” (Lyman, 2014). This course is designed to make the student aware of the practical, forensic and technological innovations related to the field of criminal investigation. The student will learn the correct procedures and conduct at the crime scene, how to preserve evidence, and maintain the chain of custody. Emphasis is on the responsibility of the first responding officers. Additionally, students will review the documentation and preparation of investigative reports and courtroom demeanor.

IV. Course Goals:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the criminal investigation process.
 - A. Comprehend the importance of crime scene security and evidence preservation.
 - B. Demonstrate the relationship between criminal law, constitutional law, and the investigatory process.
 - C. Recognize the realistic expectations and limitations of the scientific process.
2. Articulate the process of preservation and the collection of evidence.
 - A. Define the various types of evidence and collection methods.
 - B. Understand the concept of chain of custody and its implications for the use of evidence.
 - C. Identify necessary documentation processes in the collection process.
 - D. Articulate the delivery methods from scene to lab.
3. Utilize critical thinking skills within the context of evidentiary process requirements in the criminal justice system.
 - A. To acquire and analyze information to determine its quality and utility.
 - B. To recognize parallels between and among disciplines and apply knowledge, skills, or abilities learned in one discipline to another.
 - C. To summarize, analyze, evaluate, and use argumentation and persuasion.
 - D. To utilize inductive and deductive thought processes.

4. To understand and convey ideas in diverse contexts using reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
 - A. To comprehend and evaluate written passages.
 - B. Utilize social science methodology to differentiate between fact, information, and opinion.
 - C. Produce a research paper that conforms to APA standards.
 - D. To speak clearly.
 - E. To understand lectures, arguments, and other speech.

V. Instructional Methods:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Practical Exercises

VI. Required Text:

Criminal Investigation: The Art and the Science, by Michael D. Lyman, Seventh Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall (2014) ISBN-10: 0135060575
ISBN-13: 9780133008517

VII. Disabilities Statement:

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Disabilities Counseling Services at 892-5751. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the counselor as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor. Your cooperation is appreciated.

VIII. Course Outline (2015):

Class #	Date	Chapters	Spring 2015 Assignment
1	1/22		Introduction to Course/Instructor
2	1/29	1 & 2	
	2/5		No Class Professional Day
3	2/12	3 & 4	Quiz #1 Distributed Chap. 1-4
4	2/19	5 & 6	Quiz #1 Due
5	2/26	7 & 8	Quiz #2 Distributed Chap. 5-8
6	3/5	9 & 10	Quiz #2 Due
7	3/12	11 & 12	
	3/19		No Class Spring Break
			Mid Term Exam Distributed Chap 1-13
8	3/26	13	Final day for instructor approval of research paper topic.
9	4/2		Fingerprinting Practical Exercise (In Class)
10	4/9	14 & 15	Mid Term Exam Due
11	4/16		Research Paper Presentation
12	4/23		Research Paper Presentation
			Quiz #3 Distributed Chap. 14-17 Research Paper Due
13	4/30	16 & 17	
14	5/7	18	Quiz #3 Due - Distribute Final Exam
15	5/14		Course Wrap Up Final Exam Due In Class

XI. Evaluation Procedures

Your final grade will be determined by a combination of exams, a research paper, and quizzes.

Exams (2)	50 % – 25% each
Class Participation	5 %
Research Paper	15 %
Research Paper Presentation	5 %
Fingerprinting Practical Exercise	10 %
Quizzes (3)	15 % - 5% each
	100%

Quizzes: Quizzes will be take-home multiple choice. Quizzes will be collected at the beginning of class. **Quizzes not submitted on due date will not be accepted.**

Exams: Exams will be take-home. Exams will be collected at the beginning of class. **Exams not submitted on due date will not be accepted.**

Research Paper: The paper will be on an approved topic of the student's choice. The topic must be related to this specific course and **must be approved by the instructor by March 26, 2015**. The paper will be at least eight, but no more than ten pages long. The paper must have at least five references; one reference must be from an academic journal the rest must be from academically acceptable sources.

The paper will be **typed** in APA style and will be written in Times New Roman 12 point type with standard margins. The paper will include a cover page that notes the title of the paper and all the relevant course and student information. **Failure to use the APA format will result in a 25% point reduction in the paper grade.**

Late research papers will be penalized 10 points per week or part thereof.

Late research paper presentations will be penalized 10 points per week or part thereof

Grades:

All grades will be posted on Blackboard/or in class. Each assessment is shown as a percentage (out of a total of 100). Each individual assessment is weighted as shown above in "Evaluation Procedures".

Course Materials: A copy of the text is on reserve in the library.

X. Final Grade Scale

A	=	94 - 100
A-	=	90 - 93
B+	=	87 - 89
B	=	83 - 86
B-	=	80 - 82
C+	=	77 - 79
C	=	73 - 76
C-	=	70 - 72
D+	=	67 - 69
D	=	63 - 66
D-	=	60 - 62
F	=	00 - 59
W	=	Withdrawal
I	=	Incomplete
P / F	=	Pass / Fail
AU	=	Audit

XI. College Withdrawal Policy

A verbal “drop or withdrawal” from course(s) will be accepted through the 10th week of classes in accordance with the designated withdrawal deadlines. Students will need to provide the following information: full name, address, date of birth, student identification number and social security number, course reference number (CRN), description/subject and instructor’s name, if VA / FA benefits, Verbal drops or verbal withdrawals are processed through the Registrar’s Office and Subase site ONLY.

XII. Instructor’s Attendance Policy

Class participation constitutes 5% of your final grade. Consistent attendance at class meetings is crucial to success in this course. You are expected to attend all classes in order to receive full benefit from instruction. Class attendance will be recorded for each class.

XIII. Academic Dishonesty

Conduct which as its intent or effect the false representation of a student’s academic performance and/or knowingly and intentionally assisting another student to do so in any way constitute academic dishonesty. In the event of academic dishonesty, the College’s policy will be enforced.

XIV. Cellular Phones etc.

Students are notified that cellular phones etc. are allowed in class or in the Learning Resource Center only if they are turned off or turned to a silent mode. **Under no circumstances are phones to be answered in class or used for texting.** When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone or beeper, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class so that together they can arrive at an agreement.

Digitation Statement

All students are required to maintain a learning portfolio in Digication that uses the (Three Rivers) College Template.