

# Criminal Investigation

CJS 220  
Fall 2008

Three Rivers Community College  
Thames Campus  
Norwich, Connecticut 06360

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Office Hours:

W 9:00 to 12:00

F 1:00 to 4:00

T/R 2:30 to 4:00 **By appointment only**

I. **Course Title:** Criminal Investigations

II. **Course Information:**

A. CJS K220

B. Location: Mohegan Campus Room 310

C. Day/Time: T/R 1:00 to 2:15

III. **Course Description:**

This course is designed to make the student aware of the fundamentals of the criminal investigation. The student will learn the correct procedures and conduct at the crime scene, how to preserve evidence, and the chain of custody. Emphasis is on the responsibility of the first responder.

Additionally, students will review documentation, preparation, and testimony in court.

IV. **Course Goals:**

The goal of this course is to give the student a basic understanding of the proper procedures involved in the criminal investigation process and the complexity of the investigative process. It is also a goal of this course to give the student a realistic expectation of the limits of scientific processes and an appreciation of the relationship between criminal/constitutional law and the investigatory process.

**V. Instructional Methods:**

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

**VI. Required Text:**

Criminal Investigation: The Art and the Science, by Michael D. Lyman, Fifth Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall (2008) ISBN 0-13-613306-1

**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:**

- Week #1 – Sept-2/4, Introduction to Course/Instructor, Chapter 1
- Week #2 – Sept-9/11, Chapters 2 & 3, **Quiz #1 (Chapters 2 & 3)**
- Week #3 – Sept-16/18, Chapters 4 & 5
- Week #4 – Sept-23/25, Chapters 6 & 7
- Week #5 – Sept-30 & Oct-02, Chapters 8 & 9, **Quiz #2 (Chapters 8 & 9)**
- Week #6 – Oct-7/9, Practical Fingerprinting and Tool Mark Exercises
- Week #7 – Oct-14/16, Chapters 10 & 11
- Week #8 – Oct-21/23, Chapters 12 & 13, **Mid-Term Exam Due**
- Week #9 – Oct-28/30, Chapters 14 & 15
- Week #10 – Nov-4/6, Chapters 16 & 17, **Quiz #3 (Chapters 16 & 17)**
- Week #11 – Nov-11/13, Chapter 18 & 19

Week #12 – Nov-18/20, **Paper Presentations**

Week #13 – No Class – Thanksgiving Recess

Week #14 – Dec-2/4 Chapters, 20 & 21, **Research Paper Due**

Week #15 – Dec-9/11 Chapter, 22 & 23, **Quiz #4 (Chapters 22 & 23)**

Week #16 – Dec-16/18, **Final Exam Due**

## **XI. Evaluation Procedures**

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

Exams (2)	50% - 25% each
Paper	20%
Practical Exercise	10%
<u>Quizzes (4)</u>	<u>20% - 5 % each</u>
	100%

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be take home multiple choice.

**Exams:** Exams will be take home essay.

**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 11-06-2008. 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 presentation of the paper will count for 10 points of the paper grade.

The paper will be 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 papers will be penalized 10 points per week or part thereof.

**Grades:** All grades will be posted on Vista. The grades will be expressed in a point value. For example: an exam is worth 25 points, a grade of between 0 and 25 points will be recorded. The total amount of points earned during the semester will correspond to the grade scale listed below.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> 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**

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.

## **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. 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.