

Criminal Investigation

CJS 220
Fall 2015

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

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Office: D 209-C

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Office Hours:

M/W 9:00 to 1:00

And By Appointment

I. Course Title: Criminal Investigations

II. Course Information:

- A. CJS K220
- B. Location: D 105
- 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:

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.
 - E. Apply ethical concepts to an ethical question and state the objective, assumptions, and implications of different ethical concepts
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, 7th Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, (2014), ISBN: 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 860-215-9289. 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. 1/3, Introduction to Course/Chapter 1

Week #2 – Sept. 8/10, Chapters 2 & 3,

Week #3 – Sept. 15/17, Chapter 4

Week #4 – Sept. 22/24, Chapter 5, Fingerprint Exercise

Week #5 – Sept. 29/ Oct. 1, Chapter 6,

Week #6 – Oct. 6/8, Chapter 7,

Week #7 – Oct. 13/15, Chapters 8

Week #8 – Oct. 20/22, Chapters 9& 10. **Midterm Due**

Week #9 – Oct. 27/29, Chapter 11,

Week #10 – Nov. 3/5, Chapter 12

Week #11 – Nov. 10/12, Chapter 13, **Paper Presentations**

Week #12 – Nov. 17/19, Chapter 14, **Paper Presentations**

Week #13 –Nov. 24, **No class on the 26th**, Chapter 15

Week #14 – Dec. 1/3, Chapter 16, **Research Paper Due**

Week #15 – Dec. 8/10, Chapter 17,

Week #16 – Dec. 15/17, Chapter 18, **Final Exam Due On 15th**

XI. Evaluation Procedures

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

Exams	500 points – 2 @ 250 points each
Paper	200 points
Paper Presentation	50 points
Practical Exercise	50 points
<u>Chapter Questions</u>	<u>200 points – 10 @ 20 points each</u>
	1000

Chapter Questions: You are required to complete the chapter questions for ten of the 18 chapters. Five chapters are from prior to the midterm exam and five after the midterm exam. The questions **must** be turned in the week prior to the chapter being covered in class.

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 11-05-2015. 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 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 percentage point reduction in the paper grade.

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

Grades: All grades will be posted on Blackboard. The grades will be expressed in a point value. For example: an exam is worth 250 points, a grade of between 0 and 250 points will be recorded. The total amount of points earned during the semester will correspond to the grade scale listed below.

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

Students may withdraw from a course by December 14th, by completing a withdrawal form. The form must be submitted to the Registrar's Office.

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.

XV. Digication Portfolio

All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digication that uses the college template. Through this electronic tool students will have the opportunity to monitor their own growth in college-wide learning. The student will keep his/her learning portfolio and may continue to use the Digication account after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. Student work reviewed for assessment purposes will not include names and all student work will remain private and anonymous for college improvement purposes. Students will have the ability to integrate learning from the classroom, college, and life in general, which will provide additional learning opportunities. If desired, students will have the option to create multiple portfolios.