CRJ222
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:
Mark A. Byington

February 2009

Arts & Science
Dr. Mindy Selsor, Dean
CRJ222  Criminal Investigation

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A. Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None

B. 3 semesters hours credit

C. Criminal Investigation studies the criminal act and its investigation including specific crimes against the person and against property. The process of fact-gathering, testing of hypotheses, and the problem of proof are also examined. (F,S, OL)

II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES/ASSESSMENT MEASURES

| The student will identify the basic principles of criminal investigation. | Class Discussion |
| The student will describe the current investigation procedures including report writing, interview and interrogation. | Practical/Lab Exercises |
| The student will compare and contrast the major theories related to criminal investigation as they relate to the apprehension of criminal and the prevention of criminal activity. | Written Examination |
| The student will identify and discuss the philosophies and concepts relating to prevention, apprehension of perpetrators and suppression of crime. | Written Examination |

III. COURSE OUTLINE WITH UNIT OBJECTIVES

A. Criminal Investigation Overview

The student will be able to:

1. Define a criminal investigation.
2. Explain the major goals of criminal investigation.
3. Recognize the basic functions that an investigator should perform.
4. Discuss what characteristics are important to investigators who arrive at a crime scene first.
5. Explain what should be done initially, what to do if a suspect is still at a crime scene, or has recently fled the scene.
6. Demonstrate how the crime scene and evidence should be protected.
7. Explain the responsibilities of an investigator in a preliminary investigation.
B. Documenting the Crime Scene
The student will be able to:
1. Explain why notes are important in an investigation.
2. Identify when the investigator should take notes.
3. Identify the characteristics of effective notes.
4. Discuss the importance of photography and what are the advantages and disadvantages of using photography and video at a crime scene.
5. Explain what the purpose of a crime scene sketch is: what materials are needed to make a rough sketch, and what should be sketched.

C. Writing Effective Reports
The student will be able to:
1. Explain the importance of reports to an investigation.
2. Identify the steps in preparing a report.
3. Explain the characteristics of effective investigative reports.

D. Searches
The student will be able to:
1. Identify the constitutional amendments that restrict investigative searches.
2. Explain the requirements for an effective search.
3. Explain the preconditions and limitations of a legal search.
4. Discuss the precedents established by the Carroll, Chambers, Chimel, Mapp, Terry, and Weeks decisions.
5. Explain the basic restrictions placed on all searches.
6. Discuss the exclusionary rule and how it affects investigators.
7. Identify a successful crime scene search.

E. Forensics and Physical Evidence
The student will be able to:
1. Explain the processing of physical evidence.
2. Explain the errors in collecting evidence.
3. Discuss what can and cannot be determined from fingerprints, DNA, blood stains, and hair.

F. Obtaining Information
The student will be able to:
1. Identify sources of information are available to investigators.
2. Explain the goal of interviewing and interrogation.
3. Discuss the characteristics of an effective interviewer or interrogator.
4. Explain the Miranda warning and when it is given.

G. Identifying and Arresting Suspects
The student will be able to:
1. Explain field identification and when used.
2. Discuss what rights does a suspect have during field identification and what case established these rights.
3. Identify when are mug shots are used.
4. Identify when a lineup is required and when it is used.
5. Identify when surveillance is used.
6. Discuss wiretapping and what is the precedent case.
7. Explain the objectives of a raid.
8. Explain a lawful arrest and what constitutes an arrest.

H. Death Investigation
The student will be able to:
1. Explain the basic requirement in a homicide investigation.
2. Explain the four categories of death.
3. Explain the difference between homicide, murder, and manslaughter.

I. Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Elder Abuse
The student will be able to:
1. Identify what constitutes assault and the various degrees.
2. Discuss the evidence that is likely to be found at the scene of an assault.

J. Sex Offenses
The student will be able to:
1. Identify sex offenses.
2. Identify the elements of sexual offenses.
3. Explain the evidence that is collected in sexual offenses.
4. Discuss the federal statutes that form the basis for sexual offender registries.

K. Crimes Against Children and Youths
The student will be able to:
1. Identify a crime against a child.
2. Explain the effects of child abuse.
3. Discuss when a child should be taken into protective custody.
4. Explain the AMBER Alert program.
5. Identify the NCAVC’s four-pronged approach to assessing the potential for a school shooting incident.

L. Robbery
The student will be able to:
1. Identify the elements of robbery.
2. Explain the factors to consider when responding to a robbery-in-progress.
3. Identify the physical evidence that links a suspect with a robbery.
IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A. Lecture

B. Field Trip / On site demonstrations

C. Guest Speakers

D. Practical Application/CD ROM

V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS

None

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

To be determined

VIII. METHOD OF EVALUATION

A. Tests 40%

B. Practical Lab Exercises 30%

C. Class Participation 10%

D. Final Exam 20%

IX. ADA STATEMENT

Any student requiring special accommodations should inform the instructor and the Coordinator of Disability Support Services (Library; phone 636-797-3000, ext. 169).

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All students are responsible for complying with campus policies as stated in the Student Handbook (see College Website).