CMJ 251 - CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
Spring Syllabus 2017

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Associate Professor David Striegel
Guerrieri Hall, Room 202-D
Office Phone: 410-572-8755

Office Hours:

- Monday 10:45 -11:45 a.m.
- Tuesday 4:45 - 6:15 p.m.
- Wednesday 10:45 -11:45 a.m.
  4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday  4:45 - 5:45 p.m.
- Friday   By appointment

Email Address: dstriegel@worwic.edu

TEXTBOOK


COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the fundamental principles and procedures employed in the investigation of a crime. Emphasis is placed on the investigation of specific crimes, the identification of sources of information and the procedures necessary for the proper handling of evidence. This course is designed to develop a working knowledge of the steps of investigation beginning with the initial security of the crime scene and concluding with the presentation of evidence and proper testimony in court. Laboratory experiences are designed to reinforce the material covered in class lectures.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Describe the general process of criminal investigation.
   
   A. Define the term “criminal investigation.”
   B. Identify the goals and objectives of a criminal investigation.
   C. Describe the role of a criminal investigator and the skills or qualities required.
   D. Identify the different legal issues related to search and arrest warrants.
   E. Understand the ethical considerations encountered in criminal justice.
   F. Differentiate between preliminary and follow-up investigations.
   G. Describe activities conducted in preliminary and follow-up investigations.
   H. Explain the roles and functions of uniformed and plainclothes officers in the investigation of criminal offenses.
   I. Explain case screening and the use of solvability factors to determine whether a follow-up investigation is warranted.
   J. Understand the correct terminology used by professionals in the field of criminal investigation.

   Assessment Strategies: Class discussion, examinations.

2. Identify the procedures to conduct proper crime scene investigations (GEO 1, 2, 4, 7)
   
   A. Identify procedures to secure a crime scene.
   B. Explain the procedures to document a crime scene through the use of field notes, sketches, and photography.
   C. Differentiate between the different crime scene search patterns.
   D. Identify procedures to identify, collect, and preserve physical evidence.

   Assessment Strategy: Class discussion, examinations, class activities.

3. Describe different types of physical evidence. (GEO 2)
   
   A. Differentiate between the different classifications of physical evidence.
   B. Explain the role of the crime lab and forensic science in criminal investigation.
   C. Summarize the nature and types of physical evidence.
   D. Explain the evidentiary value of physical evidence in a criminal investigation.

   Assessment Strategies: Class discussion, examinations.
4. Explain the interview and interrogation process. (GEO 1, 2)

A. Describe the similarities and differences between interviews and interrogations.
B. Explain how to prepare for an interview and interrogation.
C. Explain the impact of *Miranda v. Arizona* and other landmark Supreme Court cases on police interrogation.
D. Identify the processes and techniques for conducting effective interviews and interrogations.
E. Explain the role of the polygraph and voice stress analyzer in criminal investigations.
F. Identify the methods and importance of documenting an interview and interrogation.

Assessment Strategies: Class discussion, examinations, class activities.

5. Examine specific investigative techniques. (GEO 2)

A. Identify sources of information available to investigators.
B. Explain how modus operandi and signature can assist in an investigation.
C. Summarize the procedures for conducting photo and live lineups.
D. Explain how to manage criminal informants.
E. Differentiate between the different types of surveillance.
F. Identify techniques and procedures for conducting physical surveillance.
G. Identify the use of criminal and geographic profiling.

Assessment Strategies: Class discussion, examinations, class activities.

6. Explain the investigative techniques and procedures involved with the investigation of violent crimes. (GEO 2)

A. Differentiate between the different violent crimes and their characteristics.
B. Summarize the procedures and techniques for investigating crimes against persons: death investigations, assault, domestic violence, elder abuse, sex-related offenses, crimes against children, and robbery.
C. Describe the role of forensic pathology in death investigations.
D. Identify the characteristics of different types of wounds and injuries.
E. Identify different types of evidence collected in specific violent crimes.

Assessment Strategies: Class discussion, examinations, class activities.

7. Explain the investigative techniques and processes involved with the investigation of property crimes
A. Differentiate between different property offenses and their characteristics.  
B. Explain the basic procedures to investigate property crimes.  

Assessment Strategies: Class discussion, examinations, class activities.  

8. Identify strategies to conduct specialized investigations. (GEO 2)  

A. Identify basic strategies to investigate drug-related crime, organized crime, white collar crime, and terrorism.  

Assessment Strategies: Class discussion, examinations.  

COURSE CONTENT  

- Overview of criminal investigation  
- Documenting the crime scene  
- Crime scene searches  
- Physical evidence  
- Obtaining information and intelligence  
- Identifying and arresting suspects  
- Death investigations  
- Assault, domestic violence, stalking and elder abuse  
- Sex offenses  
- Crimes against children  
- Robbery  
- Burglary  
- Larceny/theft, fraud and white collar crime  
- Motor vehicle theft  
- Drug-related crime and organized crime  

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE  

Week #1  
Course orientation, class activity – deductive reasoning; chapters 1, 2  

Week #2  
Chapter 2 lab #1  

Week #3  
Chapters 4, 5; lab #2  

Week #4  
Chapter 6; lab 3
LABORATORY OBJECTIVES

Upon completing lab exercises students will be able to demonstrate investigative skills that relate to the following areas:

1. Crime scene measurements and sketching
2. Crime scene searches
3. Collection and packaging of physical evidence
4. Forensic photography
5. Simulated crime scenes
6. Recording inked fingerprints
7. Latent fingerprint recovery with standard powders
8. Impression evidence (footwear impressions)

TENTATIVE LAB SCHEDULE

Lab 1 - Crime scene sketches
Lab 2 - Search patterns
Lab 3 - Evidence packaging
Lab 4 - Crime scene photography
Lab 5 - Mock crime scenes

Exam #1 (chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6)
Chapter 7; 8 lab #4
Chapters 8, lab #5
SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
Chapters 9, 10; lab #6
Chapter 10, 11
Research assignment day class due 3/22
Research assignment evening class due 3/23
Exam #2 (chapters 7-11)
Chapters 12, 13; lab #7
Chapters 14,15, 18; lab #8
Final exam
EVALUATION AND GRADING

Three examinations will be scheduled at appropriate intervals. Exams will cover lecture material as well as information in the textbook. Exams will be in multiple choice and short answer format. The final exam (test #3) is cumulative. Examinations are expected to be taken during their scheduled times. Students are responsible for the material presented in class, whether or not they are in attendance.

Make up exams will only be allowed if the instructor is notified prior to the exam. Exams must be made up within one week of the originally scheduled date. The instructor reserves the right to change the format of any make-up tests.

Laboratory Assessment

There are eight lab sessions scheduled throughout the semester. Each student is expected to actively participate in every scheduled lab. Labs are designed to reinforce important lesson material and allow students the opportunity to apply what they have learned. Students can earn up to ten points per lab session by attending and successfully completing each lab (total 80 points). There will be no make-up sessions for labs that are missed.

The final grade for this course will be based upon a scale of 455 points. Each of the three examinations is worth 100 points, lab exercises are a total of 80 points and the research project is 50 points. Students may earn up to 25 points for class participation. While there will necessarily be some subjectivity to awarding points, objective criteria such as attendance, punctuality and class participation will be considered.

Computation of Final Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 exams (100 points each)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab exercises</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research project</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total possible points</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluation of Letter Grade

A = 90%-100% (410-455 points)
B = 80%-89% (364-409 points)
C = 70%-79% (319-363 points)
D = 60%-69% (273-318 points)
F = 0%-59% (< 273 points)

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

Human trafficking, commonly known as “modern day slavery” is a global problem that involves obtaining or maintaining the labor of services of another through the use of force, coercion, or fraud in violation of an individual’s human rights. Generating billions of dollars each year, human trafficking is one of the world’s fastest growing crimes, operating on the same scale as the illegal drug and weapons trade. According to the U.S. State Department’s 2009 estimates, up to 900,000 individuals are trafficked each year internationally, with 17,000 of these victims trafficked into the United States.

This project will require students to view three videos on human trafficking that are available on Black Board. The videos consist of the following segments: (1) Defining the Crime; (2) Identifying and Responding; and (3) Investigating and Interviewing. After viewing each of the segments students are to answer a series of discussion questions. The assignment should be divided in individual segments, i.e., segment #1, #2, #3. Each question should be included and precede the answer to each discussion question. All responses should be in paragraph form.

The assignment is worth 50 points and will be graded on content, grammar, punctuation, style and organization. Papers should be word processed and include a cover sheet with the student’s name, date, assignment title, course number and semester. Text should be double-spaced with one-inch margins using 12 font.

Assignments for the day class are due Wednesday, March 22 and assignments for the evening class are due Thursday, March 23. Late assignments will result in a reduction of 10% for each calendar day late. No assignments will be accepted during the week of final exams.

Scoring Rubric: Research Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar, punctuation and style</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Electronic Assignment**

Throughout the semester students will be required to access the Electronic Library Database Collection for information on assigned topics. Students should be prepared to discuss that information with the class.

**Writing Center**

If you wish to have additional help on a writing assignment, you may schedule an appointment with a writing conference instructor by going to your MyWorWic portal, selecting the Student Resources tab and then selecting Academic Support. Click on Writing Conferences to schedule a conference. Limited time slots are available, so an appointment is required. If you cannot keep your appointment, it is your responsibility to cancel it by going back to the Writing Conferences link. Please note that writing conferences are conducted in AAB 216.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

Students must comply with the standards of conduct mandated by college policy as outlined in the Appendix of the college catalogue. Any student caught plagiarizing or cheating on an assignment in violation of that policy will not receive credit for that assignment. At the discretion of the instructor, the student may also be referred to the Student-Faculty Disciplinary Committee.

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

Please silence cell phones and other electronic devices. Text messaging is not permitted. Violations of the cell phone policy will result in the loss of class participation points.

Students are expected to attend all classes and be on time. Do not interrupt class by arriving late or leaving early. If late, please minimize disruption to the class. No side conversations or other distracting behaviors will be tolerated during class. Respect others by being polite and considerate.

**ONLINE END-OF-SEMESTER EVALUATIONS**

The College has selected SmartEvals as its vendor to conduct online end-of-course evaluations. **The evaluations will become available starting April 10 and ending April 24.** SmartEvals maintains the highest level of security with the evaluation information, and the information resides only on SmartEvals' computer servers. Faculty
are unable to identify individual evaluations, and any data which has the potential to reveal the identity of a student (i.e. the only male in a class) is blocked from viewing. You will receive automated emails from SmartEvals reminding you to complete your evaluations, and the timing of the emails is in compliance with anti-spam guidelines. The emails discontinue once all of your evaluations are completed. You will be able to access the evaluations through the link in the SmartEvals email or by clicking on “course evaluation” in the left menu of your Blackboard course website. The evaluations are only active during designated times at the end of the semester. Disable the pop-up blockers on your internet browser in order to access the evaluation. Your cooperation in completing the online evaluation at the designated time is greatly appreciated. The results from the course evaluation provide valuable feedback to your instructor in order to make changes as needed with curriculum and teaching. Please direct any questions about the online course evaluation system to Hope Ellis at hellis@worwic.edu

EMERGENCY INFORMATION STATEMENT

In the event of a flu epidemic or other emergency that results in the suspension of classes, faculty will be communicating with students about their courses and course requirements, such as assignments, quiz and exam dates, and class and grading policies, via faculty websites or Blackboard. Students will be responsible for completing all these assignments in accordance with class policies. Information about the resumption of classes will be communicated via the College’s website and email system.

BLACKBOARD STATEMENT

Blackboard is being used as a supplementary site in this course. To access course content in Blackboard you need to have access to a computer with an Internet connection, (other requirements may apply). Computers that meet these requirements are available on campus in MTC 200, AAB 217, HH 100, GH 204, WDC 305, and AHB 108.

Please follow these directions to access course syllabi and any other materials posted for this course:

Login Information

1. From Wor-Wic home page, point to “Quick Links” (top right) and click the “Blackboard Login” link.

2. Enter your Wor-Wic user ID and password (same as your Wor-Wic email user ID and password). If you do not know your Wor-Wic user ID or password, contact Student Services.
3. You should then see a list of courses for which you are currently enrolled. Click on the course link for CMJ 251.

4. Find and click on the folder for the course resource you are looking for, i.e. course syllabus, Power Point presentations, study guides, etc.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND COMPUTER USAGE POLICY

All students logging into Blackboard affirm that they understand and agree to follow Wor-Wic Community College policies regarding academic integrity and the use of College resources as described in the college catalog. Wor-Wic Community College considers the following as violations of the computer usage policy:

- Using the campus computing network and facilities to violate the privacy of other individuals
- Sharing of account passwords with friends, family members or any unauthorized individuals

Violators are subject to college disciplinary procedures.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Wor-Wic provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you are in need of accommodations, please contact the counseling office at (410) 334-2900. For more information, see Wor-Wic’s Services for Students with Disabilities web page.

MISCELLANEOUS

Class time will involve both lecture and class discussions covering subjects in the text and outside materials. Students are expected to complete all assigned reading prior to class, actively participate in class discussions, attend all classes, and be on time. Regular attendance and participation are the best ways to ensure success in this course. If a student experiences any course-related problems throughout the semester, feel free to contact the instructor at any time.