

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SACRAMENTO
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

SYLLABUS

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES
CRIMINAL JUSTICE 4
COURSE DESCRIPTION

CHARLES LUSHBAUGH
Spring 2009

Techniques involved in the investigation of crimes; interview of victims and witnesses; questioning of suspects; organization and procedure in the investigation of crimes; crime scene searches; surveillance; use of scientific aids; and sources of information. 3 units.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of this course are:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of critical ethical issues relating to criminal investigation.
2. Identify the three conceptual stages in a criminal investigation (determining a crime was committed, identifying the responsible party, proving guilt) and identify associated activities for each stage.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate actions for first responders at crime scenes.
4. Identify the three distinct functions for crime scene investigation (coordination; crime scene processing and general area investigation) and specify the appropriate methods for performing these tasks.
5. Describe the three functional roles of evidence (corpus delicti, linking and tracing) and categorize evidence by primary function given appropriate background information.
6. Identify relevant tests and examinations for linking and associating physical evidence.
7. Identify criteria for prioritizing cases for investigation and alternative strategies to full follow-up investigation.
8. Identify the problems associated with witness memory and to select interviewing techniques and strategies for minimizing these problems.
9. Identify key information sources and data systems available to investigators, strategies for their use and the legal or administrative privacy restrictions imposed upon their use.
10. Define the investigator's role during the trial process and explain the relationship between investigative process and knowledge of law relating to both corpus delicti and rule of criminal procedure.
11. Describe appropriate investigative techniques related to covert investigation, including informant management, undercover operations, electronic surveillance and visual surveillance.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

The course plan seeks to blend textbook material with contemporary investigations and ongoing criminal trials. All lectures are conducted following the Socratic Method, which means that you should be prepared to answer questions that are asked of you in class. With the Socratic Method in mind, please complete all required readings prior to the start of class.

TEXT

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION, current edition, Swanson, & Chamelin, McGraw Hill.

EXAMINATIONS

There will be one midterm in approximately the 8th week of instruction and a final in accordance with University scheduling. There will be an in-class review of the midterm, after the test is given. The final examination will be non-cumulative. Both examinations will be objective, with short answer questions calling for the selection of one of the suggested answers as the best answer as well as some fill in questions. In addition, there will be five, ten question, quizzes given during the semester. These quizzes will be given randomly and may be given without warning. There will be no make-ups for quizzes that are missed due to a student's absence on the date the quiz is given. However, an exception will be considered for military commitments, or extended illness.

Note: There are no provisions for extra credit for this class.

PAPER

A report based upon the students assigned activities at the crime scene scenario. This is a group project, which will be graded based upon the group's participation in the crime scene search.

Grading Rubric: Written work will be graded on both substance and quality of writing. The following grading rubric is generally followed:

A grades are awarded by work that goes above and beyond the required assignment. This includes work that has been carefully edited and contains no grammatical errors, work that uses multiple sources outside of assigned course material, and that provides a solid analysis and synthesis of material in a well organized manner.

B grades are awarded to work of excellent quality. This includes work that is well organized, has few grammatical errors, and that provides a strong analysis of the material studied.

C grades are awarded to average work. This includes work that meets the requirements of the assignment, is organized in a cohesive and acceptable manner and that illustrates a command of the material studied.

D grades are awarded to below average work but work that indicates an attempt was made at a C

grade. This includes work in which minimal assignment requirements were almost, but not quite met. This work is completed on time but it appears there was no attempt to edit, leaving it difficult to read.

F grades are awarded for assignments that are not completed; that are not close to meeting the assignment requirements or are not coherent.

Incomplete grades will not be given unless there is a legitimate reason why the student cannot complete the required work during the semester. A failing grade is not considered a legitimate excuse.

SEMESTER GRADE

Letter credit will be given based upon; each examination having equal value of fifty points, the crime report based upon the crime scene scenario having a value of fifty points, and the quizzes having a value of fifty points for a total possible 200 points.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will taken at the start of each lecture for instructional purposes. The student will not be penalized for missing class. However, it is the students' responsibility to get the missed class notes from another student.

GRADING SCALE:

A = 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 76-79	D+ = 66-69
A- = 90-92	B = 83-86	C = 73-75	D = 63-65
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72*	D- = 60-62
F = below 60			

TENTATIVE TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE

Week 1 CHAPTER 1, THE EVOLUTION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

History of English investigative efforts
Metropolitan Police Act of 1829
History of American investigative efforts
Investigative Milestones
 Anthropometry, dactylography, criminalistics,

Week 2 CHAPTER 3, THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

Types of offenses
Qualities of the investigator
Organization of the investigation

Week 3 The crime scene
 Technical services - CSI
 Follow-up investigation/Crime scene safety issues

Week 4 CHAPTER 4, PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

	Classes of evidence Soil Imprints/impressions Paint, glass and fibers Fingerprints
Week 5	Dental evidence Hair Blood Firearms Questioned documents
Week 6	<u>CHAPTER 8 THE CRIME LABORATORY</u> Forensic science Instrument analysis Emission spectrograph Mass spectrometer Visible spectrophotometer
Week 7	Infrared spectrophotometer Atomic absorption spectrophotometer Gas chromatograph X-ray diffraction spectrophotometer Ceasefire and Drug fire programs
Week 8	<u>MIDTERM</u> Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 8 Test review, after the test is given
Week 9	<u>CHAPTER 5, INTERVIEWING AND INTERROGATION</u> Types of persons to be interviewed Motivations of witnesses Competency/credibility issues
Week 10	Conducting the interview Hypnosis Cognitive interview process
Week 11	Listening Neuro-linguistic programming
Week 12	Interrogation Escobedo v Illinois Miranda v Arizona

Documenting the interview or interrogation

Week 13 CHAPTER 6, FIELD NOTES AND REPORTING

You will be known for the reports you write
Writing effective reports

Week 14 CHAPTER 7, FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION

Locating witnesses/Neighborhood canvas
Informants
Surveillance
Polygraph
Lineups

Week 15 Intelligence
Crime analysis
NCIC/CLETS
NCAVC
CODIS

FINAL EXAMINATION

Chapters 5, 6, & 7

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, Alpine Hall room 234. Office telephone 278-7040, e-mail address, lushbaugh@csus.edu