Course Information

Division: Social Sciences
Course Number: AJS 103
Title: Criminal Investigation
Credits: 3
Developed by: Kris Matthews
Lecture/Lab Ratio: 3 Lecture/0 Lab

Transfer Status:

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<th>ASU</th>
<th>NAU</th>
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<td>Elective Credit</td>
<td>CCJ Departmental Elective</td>
<td>Non Transferable</td>
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Activity Course: No
CIP Code: 43.0107
Assessment Mode: Pre/Post Test (50 Questions/50 Points)
Semester Taught: Fall and Spring
GE Category: None
Separate Lab: No
Awareness Course: No
Intensive Writing Course: No

Prerequisites
None

Educational Value
An excellent freshmen level course for persons interested in learning more about police criminal investigations including preliminary investigations, processing the crime scene and conducting interviews and interrogations. Half of the textbook is covered in AJS 103 Criminal Investigation and the second half is covered in AJS 203 Advanced Criminal Investigations.

Description
This course covers the fundamentals of criminal investigations. The theory of criminal investigations, crime scene procedures, case preparation, interviewing and basic investigative techniques are examined.

Supplies
Access to a personal computer and the Internet.
Competencies and Performance Standards

1. Analyze the methods of conducting a thorough preliminary investigation.

   **Learning objectives**
   
   *What you will learn as you master the competency:*
   
   a. Describe how certain behaviors are categorized as crimes.
   b. Provide an overview of how political authority defines offensive behavior as crime.
   c. Explain the sources of criminal law.
   d. Describe the classification of crimes by their severity.
   e. Explain the objectives of a criminal investigation.
   f. Discuss the steps of conducting a preliminary investigation.
   g. Explain why preserving the crime scene is important.
   h. Describe the importance of physical evidence at the crime scene.
   i. Explain how criminal patterns are identified to solve crimes.
   j. Complete an indoor crime scene investigation.

   **Performance Standards**
   
   *Competence will be demonstrated:*
   
   o by completion of online quizzes and examinations
   o through Internet Web based computer assignments
   o through an objective cumulative final exam
   o by practical application of skills learned

   *Performance will be satisfactory when:*
   
   o learner describes the development of criminal law
   o learner analyzes the sources of criminal law in the United States
   o learner identifies the elements of a successful criminal investigation
   o learner describes how criminal investigations are both an art and a science
   o learner analyzes how a criminal investigator uses both inductive and deductive reasoning
   o learner lists the steps taken to conduct a successful investigation
   o learner describes what types of evidence are present at a crime scene and how they are discovered
   o learner properly measures, sketches, and photographs a mock indoor crime scene
   o learner describes how to collect and mark evidence
   o learner describes the use of the crime laboratory and results that can be obtained
   o learner identifies common crime patterns and their related human behavior

2. Examine how information is gathered and organized.

   **Learning objectives**
   
   *What you will learn as you master the competency:*
   
   a. Identify sources of information.
   b. Describe the types of witnesses commonly encountered in a criminal investigation.
   c. Identify the key elements of conducting an interrogation.
   d. Discuss guidelines for taking confessions and admissions.
e. Describe the nature of fingerprints and their identification.

f. Identify the key elements of conducting surveillance.

g. Describe proper report writing guidelines used in criminal investigations.

**Performance Standards**

*Competence will be demonstrated:*

- by completion of online quizzes and examinations
- through Internet Web based computer assignments
- through an objective cumulative final exam
- by practical application of skills learned

*Performance will be satisfactory when:*

- learner lists common sources of information used in a criminal investigation
- learner describes the cognitive interview
- learner identifies the types of witnesses commonly encountered in a criminal investigation
- learner describes methods of conducting an interrogation
- learner conducts a proper interrogation through proper approaches to suspect behavior
- learner identifies legal issues with interviewing juveniles
- learner identifies types of surveillances used in criminal investigations
- learner describes types and sources of recorded information
- learner identifies ways of communicating through reports
- learner completes a proper criminal investigation report

3. Characterize how crimes against property are investigated.

**Learning objectives**

*What you will learn as you master the competency:*

a. Describe the nature of burglary.

b. Identify common methods of investigating burglaries.

c. Describe the nature of larceny/theft.

d. Identify common methods of investigating larceny/theft.

e. Describe the nature of motor vehicle theft.

f. Identify common methods of investigating motor vehicle theft.

g. Describe the nature of arson.

h. Identify the common methods of investigating arson.

**Performance Standards**

*Competence will be demonstrated:*

- by completion of online quizzes and examinations
- through Internet Web based computer assignments
- through an objective cumulative final exam

*Performance will be satisfactory when:*

- learner describes the legal aspects of burglary
- learner identifies the types of burglaries and their characteristics
- learner discusses how to properly investigate a burglary
4. Describe search & seizure issues as they relate to conducting criminal investigations.

Learning objectives
What you will learn as you master the competency:

a. Discuss search & seizure issues related to conducting a criminal investigation.

b. Explain the importance of ethics in law enforcement as it relates to criminal investigations.

Performance Standards
Competence will be demonstrated:

- by completion of online quizzes and examinations
- through Internet Web based computer assignments
- through an objective cumulative final exam

Performance will be satisfactory when:

- learner identifies landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases that affect police in criminal investigations
- learner explains the importance of ethics in criminal investigations
- learner discusses how criminal investigations and human civil rights are related
- learner analyzes the evolution of search & seizure laws and their possible future as they relate to criminal investigations

5. Examine how information is gathered through the use of interviews and interrogations.

Learning objectives
What you will learn as you master the competency:

a. Identify sources of information available through the use of interviews.

b. Describe the types of witnesses, investigative leads and victims commonly encountered in a criminal investigation.

c. Discuss the procedural guidelines for interviews and confessions.

d. Describe the proper report writing procedures used in recording interviews and interrogations.

e. Identify the guidelines for using the "Reid Technique" of interviewing and interrogations.

f. Identify the legal aspects of interviews and interrogations.

g. Discuss the technology for seeking the truth.
Performance Standards

Competence will be demonstrated:
- by completion of online quizzes and examinations
- through Internet web based computer assignments
- through an objective cumulative final exam
- by practical application of skills learned

Criteria - Performance will be satisfactory when:
- learner describes the cognitive interview
- learner describes methods of conducting an interview
- learner describes methods of conducting an interrogation
- learner identifies the legal aspects of interviews and interrogations
- learner identifies the "Reid Technique" 9 steps of interrogation
- learner describes technologies for determining the truth, such as the polygraph, voice stress analyzer, truth serum and hypnosis

6. Characterize how crimes against persons are investigated.

Learning objectives

What you will learn as you master the competency:

a. Identify the legal elements of robbery.
b. Identify the procedures for investigating a robbery.
c. Identify the legal elements of an assault.
d. Identify the procedures for investigating an assault.
e. Identify the legal elements of a sexual assault.
f. Identify the procedures for investigating a sexual assault.
g. Identify the legal elements of a kidnapping.
h. Identify the procedures for investigating a kidnapping.
i. Identify the legal elements of a homicide.
j. Identify the procedures for investigating a homicide.

Performance Standards

Competence will be demonstrated:
- by completion of online quizzes and examinations
- through Internet web based computer assignments
- through an objective cumulative final exam
- by practical application of skills learned

Criteria - Performance will be satisfactory when:
- learner describes the legal aspects of robbery
- learner describes the legal aspects of assault
- learner describes the legal aspects of sexual assault
- learner describes the legal aspects of homicide
- learner identifies the investigative procedures of robbery
- learner identifies the investigative procedures of assault
- learner identifies the investigative procedures of sexual assault
learner identifies the investigative procedures of homicide
learner identifies examples of robbery, assault, sexual assault, kidnapping and homicide
learner demonstrates an ability to properly investigate a mock crime scene involving one of the above crimes

7. **Explain proper methods of fingerprint identification and gathering.**

**Learning objectives**

*What you will learn as you master the competency:*

a. Explain the importance of fingerprint identification in criminal investigations.
b. Distinguish among the basic fingerprint patterns.
c. Identify the types of fingerprints that may be found at a crime scene.
d. Describe various methods for developing invisible fingerprints.
e. Tell how computer technology aids in fingerprint identification.
f. Describe the development of the admissibility of fingerprint identification as evidence in court cases.

**Performance Standards**

*Competence will be demonstrated:*

- by completion of online quizzes and examinations
- through Internet web based computer assignments
- through an objective cumulative final exam
- by practical application of skills learned

*Criteria - Performance will be satisfactory when:*

- learner summarizes the nature of fingerprints
- learner identifies the 5 types of fingerprint impressions
- learner describes the 5 methods of developing invisible prints
- learner describes how to utilize fingerprint files and searches in criminal investigations
- learner identifies the admissibility of fingerprint evidence

**Types of Instruction**

Classroom Lecture/ Discussion Presentation
Multimedia

**Grading Information**

**Grading Rationale**

Each instructor has the flexibility to develop evaluative procedures within the following parameters:

1. A Pre Test MUST be administered to EACH student. It will NOT count toward the student's grade.
2. The Final Examination/Post Test will be the same test. It will represent 20% of the final course grade.
3. Exams/Quizzes represent 20% of the final course grade.
4. The midterm exam represents 30% of the final course grade.
5. Other activities will represent 30% of the final course grade.
6. Extra credit points up to 3% can be awarded to students for completing the end-of-semester student course survey and providing evidence of doing so to their instructor.
Grading Scale
A  90%-100%
B  80% - 89%
C  70% - 79%
D  60% - 69%
F  Below 60%