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Semester effective:

Administration of Justice (ADMJ) 1505 Criminal Investigation (3 Units) CSU

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: None

Advisory: Successful completion of English 1500 or 1501 and ADMJ 1501 strongly recommended.

Hours and Unit Calculations:

48 hours lecture. 96 Outside of class hours. (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units

Catalog Description: This course addresses the techniques, procedures, and ethical issues in the investigation of crime, including organization of the investigative process, crime scene searches, interviewing and interrogating, surveillance, source of information, utility of evidence, scientific analysis of evidence and the role of the investigator in the trial process. Using high-profile criminal cases, seminal research, and examining innovative forensic advancements, this course focuses on best-practices in the investigation of crime. This is an advanced course in the Administration of Justice degree and provides the student with an in-depth understanding a fundamental aspect of law enforcement – the investigation of crimes. This course contains subject matter that can be distressing or otherwise challenging to students. The course material is required to prepare students for the demands of criminal justice careers. Examinations of crimes, crime scenes, court legal opinions, case history and other relevant subject matter including the use of debate or other argumentation is necessary to advance the academic and legal education of this course. C-ID: AJ 140

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Textbook:

Swanson, Robert W. et al. (2019). *Criminal Investigation*, 12th ed., McGraw Hill, 2018.

Additional Required Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the role of documentation in the criminal investigative process,
2. Recognize, identify and explain the implications of a given piece of evidence in a criminal process,
3. Identify critical ethical issues relating to criminal investigation,
4. Describe successive evolutionary stages of the criminal investigative process,
5. Identify procedures for first responders to crime scenes,
6. Describe the duties related to the basic functions of crime scene management (management control, evidence search and processing, general area investigation),
7. Identify role of forensic examination in a criminal investigative process,
8. Compare and contrast the legalities and strategies of interview and interrogation,
9. Identify key information sources and data systems available to investigators, and

10. Explain the role of the investigator in the judicial process.

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I Criminal Investigation

- A. The history and structure of criminal investigation
- B. Stages in criminal investigation
- C. The criminal investigation as a function of policing
- D. The legal significance of evidence

Unit II Crime Scene Management

- A. Duties of the 1st officer
- B. Identifying and securing crime scene
 1. Methods, personnel, equipment
- C. Search methods

Unit III Search Warrants

- A. Process/steps for obtaining a search warrant
- B. Requirements for service of a search warrant
- C. Search warrant return
- D. Special warrants (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO), wiretapping, tracing, sneak and peak, other)

Unit IV Evidence

- A. Physical Evidence
 1. Role of physical evidence
 2. Identification and documentation of physical evidence
 3. Processing of physical evidence
 4. Preservation of physical evidence
 5. Chain of custody
- B. Sources of Evidence
 1. Crime scene sketching
 2. Types of physical evidence
 3. Types of forensic evidence
 4. Blood spatter and stain interpretation
 5. Victim(s)
 6. Witness(es)
- C. Utility of Evidence
 1. Uses of evidence
 2. Relevant evidence
 3. Direct and circumstantial evidence
 - i. weight of evidence
 - ii. circumstantial evidence
 - iii. character
 - iv. other acts of evidence
 - v. offers to plead guilty
 - vi. circumstantial evidence involving the victim
 4. Testimonial and real evidence
 5. Substitutes for evidence
- A. Documentation of Evidence
 - a. Evaluation and analysis of evidence

- b. Recording, collecting, and preserving evidence
 - i. Legal issues
- c. Photography and its role in the investigation
- d. Field notes
- e. Reports
 - i. accuracy
 - ii. organization
 - iii. grammar
 - iv.
- B. Laboratories and Forensic Evidence
 - a. The role of forensic evidence
 - i. The role of laboratories
 - ii. Identification
 - iii. Comparison
 - iv. Analysis
 - b. Identification and documentation of forensic evidence
 - c. Analysis of forensic evidence
 - d. Preservation of forensic evidence
 - e. Chain of custody

Unit V Interviews and Interrogations

- A. Interviewing
- B. Types of interviews
 - 1. Preparatory steps
 - 2. General strategies
- C. Setting the stage
 - 1. Empathy, validation and support
 - 2. Questioning techniques
- D. Interrogating Techniques
 - 1. Types of interrogations
 - 2. Preparatory steps
 - 3. General strategies
- E. Setting the stage
 - 1. Empathy, validation and support
 - 2. Questioning techniques

Unit VI Differences in Investigations

- A. Types of crime
 - a. Crimes against persons
 - b. Crimes against property
 - i. Complex crimes (narcotics, conspiracy cases, organized crime, hate crimes, terrorism, cybercrime, gangs, human trafficking, and other types)
- B. Modification of investigation by type of crime
- C. Follow-up Investigation
 - a. Purpose and types of follow-up investigation
- D. Surveillance methods
 - a. Undercover or covert activities

Unit VII Ethical Challenges

- A. Fourth, fifth, and sixth amendment rights
- B. Entrapment
- C. Privacy issues



Unit VIII Trial Process

- A. Introduction to the trial process
- B. Case preparation guidelines
- C. Courtroom demeanor and expert witnesses
- D. Witness testimony

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

- 1. Studying textbook(s) or other materials
- 2. Completing required reading including case studies
- 3. Completing required written exercises
- 4. Completing project assignments
- 5. Library research
- 6. Internet research

Methods of Instruction:

- 1. Lectures
- 2. Class discussions
- 3. Audio/Visual presentations
- 4. scenarios
- 5. discussions
- 6. Research and study of materials

Methods of Evaluation:

- 1. Substantial writing assignments including:
 - a. essay exams
 - b. research paper using APA format
 - c. Chronological, police style report writing and documentation
- 2. Objective and subjective examinations/quizzes
- 3. Case analysis
- 4. Projects
- 5. Homework assignments
- 6. In class exercises/presentations
- 7. Forum responses and interaction with other students based on assigned readings from criminal justice literature/or internet research

Supplemental Data:

T.O.P. Code:	210500- Administration of Justice
Sam Priority Code:	C: Clearly Occupational
Distance Education:	Online; Offline

Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Not Applicable
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not Applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Course is not a part of a cooperative education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	N: No
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	N: No
Discipline:	Administration of Justice