

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

- A. Department Information:
Division: Criminal Justice
Department: Administration of Justice
Course ID: ADJUS 106
Course Title: Principles of Investigation
Units: 3
Lecture: 3 Hours
Prerequisite: none
- B. Catalog and schedule description:
Principles of various types of investigations utilized in the justice system, including concepts of investigation, and the analysis, evaluation, preservation and documentation of evidence. Includes dealing with the public, techniques for handling crime scenes, interviews, evidence, surveillance, follow-up, technical resources, and case preparation.

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Formulate the steps necessary to conduct a satisfactory investigation in criminal and non-criminal matters.
- B. Evaluate and gather facts, analyze the facts, and draw sound conclusions based on the facts revealed.
- C. Prioritize the complexities involved in dealing with evidence and its legal implications during an investigation.
- D. Debate the necessity of proficiency to conduct an investigation from its inception to its completion within the confines of constitutional precedents.
- E. Distinguish the different applications of investigations in pre trial, and trial versus sentencing.

IV. CONTENT:

- A. Scope
 1. Conceptualization of Investigation
 2. Definition and types
 3. Application
- B. Systems Approach to Investigation
 1. Internal department investigations
 2. Criminal investigations
 3. Victimless crimes
 4. Consumer fraud
 5. Environmental investigations
 6. Personnel investigations
 7. Pre-sentence investigations
 8. Prosecution and defense
- C. Analyze incident
 1. Protection of incident location
 2. Area search methods
 3. Principles of sketching
 4. Evidence preservation
- D. Interviews
 1. Legal ramifications
 2. Definitions
 3. Classifications of interview techniques
 4. Information recording methods and interview logs

- E. Philosophy of Modus Operandi
 - 1. Principle of modus operandi
 - 2. Modus operandi as an investigation tool
- F. Investigative Intelligence
 - 1. Objectives
 - 2. Surveillance
 - 3. Legal implications
- G. Criminalistic Resources
 - 1. Evidentiary laboratory examinations
 - 2. Chemical
 - 3. Physical
 - 4. Biological
 - 5. Documentary
 - 6. Ballistics
 - 7. Photography
 - 8. Neutron activation analysis
 - 9. Detection of deception
- H. Pre-Trial Preparation
 - 1. Legal aspects of review
 - 2. Pre-trial conferences
 - 3. Courtroom presentation of testimony
- I. Other Investigation Disposition
 - 1. Pre-sentence
 - 2. Personnel

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lecture and discussion
- B. Guest speakers
- C. Informational sheets
- C. Demonstrations
- D. Laboratory exercises
- E. Role playing
- F. Transparencies, slides, films, audiotapes and videotapes
- G. Field trips
- H. Exploratory work experience

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Write an essay on the importance of following a strict protocol when collecting DNA evidence preceding analysis.
- B. Write a report on the investigative value of utilizing microcomputers to perform crime mapping and to allocate proactive resources.
- C. Prepare a class presentation on the purpose of bugs, pen registers, and beepers as they pertain to surveillance.

VII. EVALUATION(S):

- A. Methods of evaluation:
 - 1. Class assignments and participation
 - 2. Outside writing assignments
 - 3. Special projects and reports
 - 4. Examinations
- B. Frequency of evaluation:
 - 1. Minimum of three objective and subjective or essay examinations
 - 2. Midterm exam
 - 3. Final exam

- C. Typical exam questions:
1. Explain the investigative techniques that may be used to determine if an individual fired a particular weapon within a finite period of time.
 2. Explain the process of preserving DNA evidence and the process of analysis used in determining whose DNA is preserved.
 3. Explain how DNA evidence may be used in eliminating suspects in any crime scene problem.

VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):

Bruce L. Berg and John J. Horgan. Criminal Investigation, 3rd Edition. Glencoe McGraw Hill, 1999.

Bennett and Hess. Criminal Investigation, 6th Edition. Wadsworth Publishing, 2001.

Dempsey. Introduction to Investigations, 2nd Edition. Wadsworth Publishing, 2002.

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: None