

COURSE OUTLINE FALL 2008

<u>CRJ 207</u>	<u>Criminal Investigation</u>			<u>3</u>
Course Number	Course Title			Credits
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>15 weeks</u>
Class or Lecture Hours	Laboratory Work Hours	Clinical or Studio Hours	Practicum, Co-op, Internship	Course Length (15 week, 10 week, etc.)
<u>Not Applicable</u>			<u>None</u>	
Performance on an Examination/Demonstration			Alternate Delivery Methods	

Required Materials:

Reference Business and Technology Division Booklist

Catalog Description:

The strategies, techniques, and methods employed in Criminal investigation at the crime scene, follow-up investigation, *modus operandi*, sources of information, and interrogation.

Prerequisites:

None

Co-requisites:

None

Latest Review:

Fall 2006

Course Coordinator:

Peter Horne, hornep@mccc.edu, ext. 3853

Available Resources:

Reference Criminal Justice Library Materials List

Learning Center Resources:

No tutoring or study groups at this time.

General Course Objectives:

The student will be able to:

1. Be aware of the history and function of criminal investigation as it relates to police agencies, and investigators with respect to the preliminary and continuing investigation.
2. Identify and evaluate the significance of physical evidence.
3. Define, describe, and evaluate the importance of searching for, collecting and preserving, as well as recording physical evidence.
4. Identify the importance of developing basic investigative leads, and locating witnesses.
5. Understand and develop the techniques used to interview witnesses and interrogate suspects.
6. Identify, evaluate and describe when a search warrant is or is not required during a criminal investigation.
7. Teach how to properly prepare an investigation of specific types of crime.

Specific Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Describe the history of criminal investigation.
2. Define the Preliminary and Continuing investigation.
3. Delineate the legal significance of Evidence.
4. Identify how investigators search crime scenes and collect physical evidence.
5. Demonstrate the advantages of the various types of crime scene searches used by investigators.
6. Understand the importance of maintaining the "chain of custody" of physical evidence.
7. Describe the reasons for recording and photographing crime scenes.
8. Explain and evaluate the steps involved in the Preliminary Investigation, and the continuing investigation.
9. Criticize and defend the Doctrine of Reasonable Doubt.
10. Assess and criticize the qualifications and duties of an investigation.
11. Specify and support the known standards of criminal investigation techniques.

12. Explain the implications of maintaining the integrity of an item of evidence.
13. Describe a Modus Operandi File.
14. Identify and delineate the role of the crime lab in criminal investigation.
15. List the Techniques of Interviewing and Interrogation.
16. Assess the importance of interrogation.
17. Explain the principles involved in consensual searches.
18. Specify when search warrants are required.
19. Determine the validity of the criminal law in crime investigations.

Method of Evaluation and Grading:

Students should be given a variety of opportunities for course participation. This should include oral discussions and or presentations and examinations. The student will be given at least three (3) examinations during the course of the term with the dates and format to be decided by the instructor. Examinations should include an essay component. Students will be given adequate advance notice of the dates and the topics in each examination. The percentage of examinations and class participation in the computation of each student's grade will be as follows.

Quizzes/minor exams	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Comprehensive Exam	40%
Class Participation	10%

<u>Scale</u>	A = 93 – 100 %
	A- = 90 – 92 %
	B+ = 87 – 89 %
	B = 83 – 86 %
	B- = 80 – 82 %
	C+ = 77 – 79 %
	C = 70 – 76 %
	D = 60 – 69 %
	F = 0 – 59 %

Instructional Methods:

The book utilized for the course will be a relevant introductory text on criminal investigation.

Additional material in the form of handouts and published articles will be distributed during the course. Guest lecturers will be called upon when appropriate and if possible a field trip to the New Jersey State Police Divisional Headquarters Crime Laboratory will be arranged.

The teaching method employed will be a combination of lectures and discussions supplemented by available slides and films.

The Course in Detail:

Week

1. Crime and its Investigation
2. Rules of Criminal Evidence
3. Investigative Methods and Notebooks
4. Initial Investigative Steps
5. Processing the Crime Scene
6. Observation, Perception and Recollection
7. Interviews and Interrogations
8. Admissions, Confessions and Written Statements
9. Other Sources of Information
10. Fingerprints
11. Search Warrants
12. Report Writing
13. Investigative Operations
14. Crime Laboratory and Technical Services
15. The Investigator in Court

Academic Integrity:

Mercer County Community College is committed to Academic Integrity -- the honest, fair and continuing pursuit of knowledge, free from fraud or deception. This implies that students are expected to be responsible for their own work and that faculty and academic support services staff members will take reasonable precautions to prevent the opportunity for academic dishonesty.