



Criminal Investigation Techniques
CJUS325
Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

This course surveys the principles, practices, concepts, and theories applicable to the investigation procedures of law enforcement agents and agencies. Learners assess techniques for collecting, preserving, and evaluating physical evidence. Learners will examine evidence collection relying on interviews and interrogation techniques with a focus on ethical standards and the admissibility of evidence. Learners will also review legal standards associated with criminal investigations and examine the range of evidence that can be collected and admitted in federal and state criminal courts. Finally, learners will examine the elements of crimes against persons and property and the techniques for effectively documenting evidence and information for presentation in court.

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Brandl, S. G. (2014). Criminal investigation (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA. Sage Publications

III. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each program of study that are in line with the institutional outcomes of critical thinking, ethical reasoning, leadership, communication, and career preparation. Course outcomes support program outcomes and are listed below.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Discuss the legal foundations (fundamentals and organization) of criminal justice and criminal law involving constitutional limitations on the prohibition of criminal conduct.
2. Critically analyze the impact of key Supreme Court decisions involving relevant amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
3. Outline criminal procedures and processes in the judicial system during pretrial, trial, conviction, and post-conviction phases.
4. Explain law enforcement and criminal procedure pertaining to search and seizure, arrest, interrogation, and identification processes.
5. Analyze the legal liabilities and other consequences of police, prosecutorial, and judicial misconduct.
6. Discuss the USA Patriot Act and newly adopted USA Freedom Act.
7. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate related material and critically reflect through written assignments and discussions with classmates.

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies located in the instructor-specific syllabus in the blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Introduction	1	50	5%
Discussions	6	300	30%
Essays	3	210	21%
Final Paper Preparation	2	100	10%
Quizzes	4	120	12%
Final Paper	1	100	10%
Final Test	1	120	12%
Total Points		1000	100%

VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Brandl’s Criminal Investigation, Chapters 1-2 • Read article “Police Detectives, Criminal Investigators, and Collective Moral Responsibility” by Seumas Miller found in Deets Library • Watch YouTube video by Calgary Police Service called “Anatomy of an Investigation.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1 Introductions • Unit 1 Discussion • Unit 1 Quiz • Unit 1 Essay
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Brandl’s Criminal Investigation, Chapters 3-4 • Read article “Trespass and Deception” by Laurent Sacharoff found in Deets Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 2 Discussion • Unit 2 Quiz • Unit 2 Final Paper Preparation
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Brandl’s Criminal Investigation, Chapter 5-7 • Watch YouTube video regarding “Eyewitness testimony accuracy experience.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 3 Discussion • Unit 3 Essay
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Brandl’s Criminal Investigation, Chapter 8-9 • Read article “Flaw and order, the science and mythology of criminal profiling...” by Laurence Miller found in Deets Library. • Review the White Bear Lake Police Department Crime Blog • Read article “Law-enforcement officials' views of sex offender registration and community notification” by Tewksbury and Ehrhardt found in Deets Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 4 Discussion • Unit 4 Quiz • Unit 4 Final Paper Preparation
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Brandl’s Criminal Investigation, Chapters 10-15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 5 Discussion • Unit 5 Essay • Unit 5 Quiz
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Brandl’s Criminal Investigation, Chapter 16 • Read article “Law Enforcement Organizations: Possibilities and Challenges for the Future” by Jay Fortenbery found in Deets Library. • Read article “To Catch a Bomb-Maker” by Clay Dillow found in Deets Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 6 Discussion • Unit 6 Final Paper • Unit 6 Final Test

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.