2016 Spring Semester – 18 weeks – January 11, 2016 to June 3, 2016

# **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS – CRIM 8 – 3 Units**

# **Teacher: Barry Rambonga**

# Department: Criminology

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# School Phone: (559)646-3573

# Office Hours: By appointment only

Class Room: 36

Location: Parlier High School

Section Number: 72000

Class Meets: M, T, Th, F – 11:01 am – 11:54 am

W – 10:27 am – 11:23 am

# **Course Description**

This course examines the criminal investigative process. More specifically, the course addresses the techniques, procedures, and ethical issues involved in the investigation of crime. Additionally, the students will gain the understanding of preliminary and follow up investigations, as well as interview and interrogation techniques, case documentation, and Court preparation.

3 unit(s) 3 lecture hours/week

# **Student Learning Outcomes**

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

1. Identify the various historical and developmental concepts of the art and science of criminal investigation.
2. Distinguish the relevant techniques and protocol of evidence collection, preservation, and linking analysis.
3. Recognize ethical principles in an investigation and present an appropriate response.
4. Describe the duties of the first responder in regards to crime scene management.
5. Examine the concepts of probable cause, elements of a crime, and other appropriate basic criminal justice principles and their importance in the process of an investigation.

**Course Objectives**

*Upon completion of this course, the student will:*

* Describe patterns of organization and relationships among concepts of investigative technique and critical ethical issues which may arise
* Identify, define, use, and differentiate differing types of physical evidence and the methods for its proper preservation
* Demonstrate the ability to gather vital notes at a crime scene to be later used in the production of an appropriate police report
* Identify the role of the first responder at the crime scene and the coordination between them and the follow-up investigators
* Demonstrate the ability to apply legal standards to issues like 5th/6th concerns as well as appropriate interview/interrogation techniques

**Course OUTLINE:**

**Lecture Content:**

1. **The Investigation of Crime**
2. **Criminal Investigation and Evidence Defined**
3. **Types of Criminal Investigations**
4. **Information Theory and the Criminal Investigation**
5. **The Role of Chance, Accident, and Discovery in Criminal Investigations**
6. **The Role of Logic, Analysis and Inference in Criminal Investigations**
7. **Criminal Investigation in the Context of the Criminal Justice System**
8. **Levels of Investigation**
9. **The History of Criminal Investigation**
10. **The Importance if History in Understanding the Present and the Future**
11. **The Evolution of the Investigative Task: English Developments**
12. **The Evolution of the Investigative Tasks: American Developments**
13. **The Structure and Content of Criminal Investigations**
14. **Forms of Police Action**
15. **Stages of Reactive Criminal Investigation Process**
16. **Other Reactive Investigative Strategies**
17. **Outcomes of Reactive Investigations**
18. **Undercover Investigations**
    1. **Surveillance**
19. **Outcomes of Undercover Investigations**
20. **Other Proactive Police Strategies**
    1. **Ethical challenges for the investigator**
21. **The Role of Evidence in Criminal Investigations**
22. **The Meaning of Criminal Evidence**
23. **Standards of Proof**
24. **The Meaning and Nature of Probable Cause**
25. **Types of Evidence**
26. **The Functions of Evidence**
27. **The Law and Criminal Investigation**
28. **Basic Legal Terminology**
29. **The Rules and Admissibility of Evidence**
30. **Constitutional Constraints on the Collection of Evidence**
31. **Physical Evidence**
32. **The Role of Physical Evidence in the Criminal Investigative Process**
33. **The Role of Physical Evidence in the Criminal Justice Process**
34. **The Crime Scene and Associated Procedures**
35. **Types of Physical Evidence**
36. **DNA Analysis and Its Impact on the Usefulness of Physical Evidence**
37. **The Role of Crime Laboratories in Criminal Investigations**
38. **Interviews**
39. **Interviews Defined**
40. **Types of Witnesses**
41. **Types of Information Obtained from Witnesses**
42. **Methods of Eyewitness Identification**
43. **Value of Eyewitness Identifications in Establishing Proof**
44. **The Memory Process and the Identification Task**
45. **Why is Eyewitness Identification Evidence Often Inaccurate?**
46. **Guidelines for the Collection of Eyewitness Evidence**
47. **Investigative Tools in Interviewing**
48. **Interrogations**
49. **Interrogations Defined**
50. **The Psychology of Persuasion**
51. **The Role of Police Deception in Interrogations**
52. **The Ingredients of a Successful Interrogations**
53. **Steps in the Interrogation of Suspects**
54. **The Issues of False Confessions**
55. **Investigative Tools in Recognizing Deception**
56. **Behavioral Evidence**
57. **Psychological Profiling**
58. **Geographical Profiling**
59. **Psycholinguistics**
60. **Other Sources of Information**
61. **The Role of Public and media in Criminal Investigations**
62. **Crime Analysis and Mapping**
63. **Computer Databases and Information Networks**
64. **Psychics**
65. **Issues in the Investigation of Violent Crime**
66. **Homicide and Battery**
67. **Forcible Rape and other Sexual Assaults**
68. **Robbery**
69. **Issues in the Investigation of Property Crime**
70. **Burglary**
71. **Vehicle Theft**
72. **Arson**
73. **Larceny and Fraud**
74. **The Documentation and Presentation of Evidence**
75. **The Adversarial Process**
76. **Reasons for Errors in Justice Outcomes**
77. **The Role of Investigative Reports**
78. **The Role of testimony in Court**
79. **The Role of the Jury**
80. **The Future of Criminal Investigation**
81. **History as a Guide to the Future of Policing**
82. **The History of Policing**
83. **The Future of Policing**
84. **Technology and the Future of Crime Detection and Criminal Investigation**
85. **The Implications of Technology on Crime Detection and Criminal Investigation**

**Assignments and corresponding labs:**

**List assignments and corresponding points for each assign.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assignments:** | **Point Value:** |
| BASIC GROUNDING AND OVERVIEW | 25 |
| PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION | 25 |
| PRESERVING THE CRIME SCENE | 25 |
| PHYSICAL EVIDENCE | 25 |
| CRIMINAL PATTERS | 25 |
| INTERVIEWS AND INTERROGATIONS | 25 |
| FINGERPRINTS | 25 |
| SURVELLIANCE/RECORDS/FILES | 25 |
| WRITING REPORTS | 25 |
| MID-TERMS | 50 |
| ROBBERY/ASSAULT | 25 |
| SEXUAL ASSAULT AND RAPE | 25 |
| KIDNAPPING/EXTORTION | 25 |
| HOMICIDE | 25 |
| BURGLARY/THEFT | 25 |
| ORGANIZED/WHITE COLLAR CRIME | 25 |
| NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS | 25 |
| TERRORISM AND CYBER PREDATORS | 25 |
| FINALS | 100 |

**Grading**

The final semester grade will depend upon the accumulation of points during the semester. The points will be a result of credit received on assignments (written & practical), tests and final examination. The instructor reserves the right to adjust scores as it may be required throughout the semester.

90% and above = A

80% and above = B

70% and above = C

60% and above = D

50% and above = D-

49% and below = F

Test material is constructed from class discussions, assigned readings, guest lectures, video presentations, and special assignments. Tests may consist of true/false, multiple choice questions and short answer*. Unless the student receives prior approval from the instructor, no make-up tests will be allowed.*

# **Tentative Schedule**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Topic/Assignment** |
| Week1 | BASIC GROUNDING AND OVERVIEW |
| Week2 | PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION |
| Week3 | PRESERVING THE CRIME SCENE |
| Week4 | PHYSICAL EVIDENCE |
| Week5 | CRIMINAL PATTERS |
| Week6 | INTERVIEWS AND INTERROGATIONS |
| Week7 | FINGERPRINTS |
| Week8 | SURVELLIANCE/RECORDS/FILES |
| Week9 | WRITING REPORTS |
| Week10 | ROBBERY/ASSAULT |
| Week11 | SEXUAL ASSAULT AND RAPE |
| Week12 | KIDNAPPING/EXTORTION |
| Week13 | HOMICIDE |
| Week14 | BURGLARY/THEFT |
| Week15 | ORGANIZED/WHITE COLLAR CRIME |
| Week16 | NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS |
| Week 17 | TERRORISM AND CYBER PREDATORS |
| Week 18 | FINALS |

**Required or Recommended Textbooks and Materials:**

**“Criminal Investigation”, 4th edition. Berg, Bruce.**

**Materials Needed**

~ pen or pencil

~ Notebook or writing paper

~ Electronic Device (Laptop/Tablet/Etc.)  
 ~ 1 “ Binder

**Important Dates + Holidays and Breaks**

**January 11, 2016**  Spring classes begin - full-term (18 week)

**January 18, 2016** Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday – the campus is closed/No CLASS

**January 29, 2016** Last day to add a full-term class

**January 31, 2016** Last day to add a full-term class on WebAdvisor

**January 31, 2016**  Last day to drop a full-term class on WebAdvisor and not receive a "W"\*\*

**February 8, 2016** Presidents’ Day Holidays – the campus is closed/No CLASS

**February 15, 2016** Presidents’ Day Holidays – the campus is closed/No CLASS

**March 11, 2016** Last day to Drop with a "W"\*\* on transcripts.

**March 21-28, 2016** Spring Break - the campus is closed/No CLASS

**June 3, 2016**  End of Spring Semester - Grades are due

\*\* Withdrawal (W): A student will be assigned a grade of “W” for classes dropped on or after 20 percent of the duration of the class, up to and including 50 percent of the duration of the class. After the 50 percent point, the student must receive a letter grade other than a “W” (i.e., A, B, C, D, F, I, P, NP). Check with your instructor for the deadline applicable to your class.

**Cancellation Class Notification**

Check high school website for any notification, Foggy Day Schedule, etc.

**Attendance Policy make ups, Extra Credits etc.**

Attendance policies as documented in the Reedley High School Handbook will be followed. Make up work is accepted with a reduced score as determined by the instructor. Extra credit may be assigned as determined by the instructor.

**Class Rules and Behavior**

Please refer to your school handbook for complete details, however some of these policies include:

* Cheating and Plagiarism
* Drug/Alcohol free campus
* Sexual harassment
* Student conduct
* Bullying

**Cheating is:**

1. Copying someone else’s class work or letting someone copy you, when your teacher tells you that the work is to be done on your own (includes asking/telling orally).
2. Copying answers on a test or letting someone copy from your test (includes asking/telling orally).
3. Using a cheat sheet or unauthorized notes.
4. Turning in someone else’s work as your own.
5. Text messaging and multi-media messaging.

**Consequences, Per School Year:**

***1st Offense -*** *The teacher shall send a referral to office. Student shall receive an “F” or zero on the work or the test and a one (1) day suspension or Saturday School, parent contact required.*

***2nd Offense*** *- The teacher shall send a referral to the office. The student shall receive an “F” or zero on the work or the test and a one (1) day suspension with parent contact required. Student placed on honesty contract. A high school student shall be removed to a study hall/or alternative class with a “W/F” for the semester.*

***3rd Offense*** *- Recommendation for transfer.*

Instances of cheating need not be confined to one (1) class. Each of the three (3) offenses could happen in a different class. Any student who is transferred to a study hall/or alternative class and then required disciplinary removal from the study hall/or alternative class shall be transferred to an alternative school site/program.

*Each student is expected to assist in the overall environment of the classroom making it conducive to learning*.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities must include this sentence:**

“If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.”