



*Spring 2021*

**CRIM 8**  
**Criminal Science Investigation**  
Syllabus

Course Name: CRIM 8

Section Number: 59309

Units: 03

Total Contact hours: 54.00

**Instructor:** Bryan Morgan

**E-mail:** bmorgan@kingsburghigh.com

**Office Hours:** By Appointment Only

**Class Meeting:** M/W/F 10:25-11:15

**Course Materials:**

Criminal Investigations 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, S. Brandl

**Course Description:**

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

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the semester it is expected that the student will:

CRIM-8 SLO1: Identify the various historical and developmental concepts of the art and science of criminal investigation.

CRIM-8 SLO2: Distinguish the relevant techniques and protocol of evidence collection, preservation, and linking analysis.

CRIM-8 SLO3: Recognize ethical principles in an investigation and present an appropriate response to dilemmas.

CRIM-8 SLO4: Describe the duties of the first responder in regards to crime scene management.

CRIM-8 SLO5: 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.

### **Learning Objectives:**

In the process of completing this course, students will:

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

### **Subject to Change:**

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on any changes made while you were absent.

**Reedley College is committed to creating accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. To obtain academic adjustments or auxiliary aids, students must be registered with the DSP&S office on campus. DSP&S can be reached at (559) 638-3332. If you are already registered with the DSP&S office, please provide your Notice of Accommodation form as soon as possible.**

**Work Ethic** - Most students are enrolled in college classes to obtain a quality job or to enhance their skills for advancement with their current employment situation. Employers look for a punctual, responsible individual who is prepared to go to work. Our goal is to replicate the workplace environment where a student can develop and demonstrate these desirable traits.

- Punctual: It is customary to arrive at least 5 minutes before work begins. Individuals will be terminated if they are not punctual.
- Responsible: It is expected that an employee works every scheduled work day. Individuals will be terminated if they are not responsible.
- Prepared: It is expected that an employee be prepared with he/she arrives for work. Students must have work shirts, safety glasses, and appropriate footwear to participate in the laboratory. If a student is not prepared, he/she cannot participate and will receive a zero (see “responsible”).

### **Behavioral Standards**

- Each student is responsible for his/her own work. Written assignments are not group assignments and no credit will be awarded for students who turn in the same work. Students

suspected of cheating on tests and quizzes will receive no credit for that particular assignment and may be removed from the class.

- It is considered polite to turn off cell phones when in the classroom or shop. Please do so.
- There is no smoking, chewing tobacco, alcohol, or drugs allowed in classrooms, shops, or school vehicles.
- This class is set for the semester. All doctor's appointments, interviews, meetings with counselor, and other types of appointments should be scheduled during your time outside of class.

## Course Outline

### A. The Investigation of Crime

1. Criminal Investigation and Evidence Defined
2. Types of Criminal Investigations
3. Information Theory and the Criminal Investigation Process
4. The Role of Chance, Accident and Discovery in Criminal Investigations
5. The Role of Logic, Analysis and Inference in Criminal Investigations
6. Criminal Investigation in the Context of the Criminal Justice System
7. Levels of Investigation

### B. The History of Criminal Investigation

1. The Importance of History in Understanding the Present and the Future
2. The Evolution of the Investigative Task: English Developments
3. The Evolution of the Investigative Task: American Developments

### C. The Structure and Content of Criminal Investigations

1. Forms of Police Action
2. Stages of the Reactive Criminal Investigation Process
3. Other Reactive Investigative Strategies
4. Outcomes of Reactive Investigations
5. Undercover Investigations
  - a. Surveillance
6. Outcomes of Undercover Investigations
7. Other Proactive Police Strategies
  - a. Ethical challenges for the investigator

### D. The Role of Evidence in Criminal Investigations

1. The Meaning of Criminal Evidence
2. Standards of Proof
3. The Meaning and Nature of Probable Cause
4. Types of Evidence
5. The Functions of Evidence

### E. The Law and Criminal Investigation

1. Basic Legal Terminology
2. The Rules and Admissibility of Evidence
3. Constitutional Constraints on the Collection of Evidence

### F. Physical Evidence

1. The Role of Physical Evidence in the Criminal Investigative Process
2. The Role of Physical Evidence in the Criminal Justice Process
3. The Crime Scene and Associated Procedures
4. Types of Physical Evidence
5. DNA Analysis and Its Impact on the Usefulness of Physical Evidence
6. The Role of Crime Laboratories in Criminal Investigations

### G. Interviews

1. Interviews Defined
2. Types of Witnesses
3. Types of Information Obtained from Witnesses
4. Methods of Eyewitness Identification
5. Value of Eyewitness Identifications in Establishing Proof

6. The Memory Process and the Identification Task
  7. Why is Eyewitness Identification Evidence Often Inaccurate?
  8. Guidelines for the Collection of Eyewitness Evidence
  9. Investigative Tools in Interviewing
- H. Interrogations
1. Interrogations Defined
  2. The Psychology of Persuasion
  3. The Role of Police Deception in Interrogations
  4. The Ingredients of a Successful Interrogation
  5. Steps in the Interrogation of Suspects
  6. The Issue of False Confessions
  7. Investigative Tools in Recognizing Deception
- I. Behavioral Evidence
1. Psychological Profiling
  2. Geographical Profiling
  3. Psycholinguistics
- J. Other Sources of Information
1. The Role of the Public and Media in Criminal Investigations
  2. Crime Analysis and Mapping
  3. Computer Databases and Information Networks
  4. Psychics
- K. Issues in the Investigation of Violent Crime
1. Homicide and Battery
  2. Forcible Rape and Other Sexual Assaults
  3. Robbery
- L. Issues in the Investigation of Property Crime
1. Burglary
  2. Vehicle Theft
  3. Arson
  4. Larceny and Fraud
- M. The Documentation and Presentation of Evidence
1. The Adversarial Process
  2. Reasons for Errors in Justice Outcomes
  3. The Role of Investigative Reports
  4. The Role of Testimony in Court
  5. The Role of the Jury
- N. The Future of Criminal Investigation
1. History as a Guide to the Future of Policing
  2. The History of Policing
  3. The Future of Policing
  4. Technology and the Future of Crime Detection and Criminal Investigation
  5. The Implications of Technology on Crime Detection and Criminal Investigation
