**CRIMINOLOGY-8-53786**

**Criminal Investigations (3 units)**

**Spring 2024**

**1/9/24-5/17/24**

**Lecture Tuesday-Thursday**

**8:00AM – 9:15AM, CCI Building, Room 204**

**Instructor – Scot D. Cheney**

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**Office Hours: TBA**

**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 a crime. Additionally, the students will gain an understanding of preliminary and follow-up investigations, as well as interview and investigation techniques, case documentation and court preparation.

**ADVISORIES: Eligibility for English 125, 126, 128 & 130. (A, CSU)**  **Course Credits/Class Hours: 3/1.15**

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

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

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.

**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 amendment concerns as well as appropriate interview/interrogation techniques.

**Required Text and Materials**:

**Important Note**: Assignments are embedded in the required textbook. Students are encouraged to purchase or familiarize themselves with the campus resources available to them early on. Acquisition of the required materials will increase the likelihood of successfully completing the course. While your instructor understands the cost of textbooks can be significant, the text selected for this course will afford you a greater opportunity to develop an appropriate understanding of the course learning objectives and therefore strengthen your learning and retention of the material.

* “Criminal Investigation” 5th edition, Author-Steven G. Brandl, SAGE edge publishing, ISBN 9781544395654. (available at campus bookstore)
* A #2 pencil
* 882-E scantrons for all quizzes and exams

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** Reedley College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you would like to request any accommodation for this course, please contact the Coordinator of Disabilities at (559) 638-3641 (**DSP&S**: <http://www.reedleycollege.edu/index.aspx?page=260>). A copy of the appropriate form, Notification of Authorized Services, needs to be submitted to the instructor – preferably within the first two weeks of the semester.

**Zero tolerance policy for Disruptive conduct in the classroom**

* The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity.
* The instructor can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College.
* Disruptive behavior in the classroom that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment. This includes cell phone use during class.
* The use of cell phones and other electronic devices in the classroom will be at the instructor’s discretion. Minimizing the distraction to the instructor and students will factor into the instructor’s decision to allow the use of such devices.

**Academic Integrity Statement**

* Students guilty of academic dishonesty, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are responsible to the instructor of the class. Academic dishonesty is defined as, but not limited to, plagiarism and cheating.
* At the discretion of the instructor, students who cheat or steal work from another source will be subject to significant consequences.
  + Cheating - is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another's work, supplying one's work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without the instructor's permission.
  + Plagiarism - is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved.
  + See the Reedley College Catalog for further information regarding cheating and plagiarism.
* Additional disciplinary sanctions may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures as a result of academic misconduct.

**Sexual Harassment**

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment or education, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance or education, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or education environment.

**Disclaimer:**

Due to the nature and reality of work in the criminal justice system, real life examples, verbal and non-verbal expression and role-playing by the instructor may be used to demonstrate to students important learning points. These examples are not meant to demean or insult any group or individual, but simply to give students an understanding of the reality that exists in this profession and prepare them to deal with different types of people and situations in a professional manner.

**Help:**

If you are having trouble in this class due a change in life circumstances or something you do not understand please see the instructor immediately. There are a number of services available to assist you at Reedley College. **Your success in this class is very important to me** and I will work with you to assist you in succeeding in this course. However, you must remember that success in this course cannot happen without you doing everything you need to do to succeed. (See keys to successful course completion.)

**Course changes:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes on this syllabus, but will discuss these changes and their implications to the students before they are implemented. Please review this course in Canvas and check your e-mail daily as I regularly use these methods to communicate information to students.

**Course Requirements:**

All assignments are expected to be submitted on the day due. *If absent on the day completed/collected, the assignment and/or quiz will need to be submitted online via* **Canvas** by the time class starts for the date the item is due(see weekly task list for chapter DUE dates)**.** **Your grade will be based on successful completion of the following:**

1. ***Movie Assignments\****  The class will watch (2) movies/documentaries directly related to the Criminal Justice System. A assignment will be given out the prior to the start of the movie. A 1-2 page Canvas text box entry will be due the following class secession. Each paper is worth five (10) points. Format will be covered in class. (Each assignment worth 10 points each, 20 points total).
2. ***Discussion Board assignments\*:*** This is your class as well as mine. Student participation in discussion is critical to the assimilation of the material covered. If called upon by me to answer a question or offer a thought on the subject at hand, you are expected to give a coherent response.  Simply shrugging your shoulders and saying “I don’t know” is not acceptable.  Additionally, if you are not present you are unable to participate.All the students in the class are asked questions regularly to enable them to display understanding of topics discussed**.**You must be present and participate effectively when called upon. Discussion Board assignments 140 points.
3. ***Exams\*:*** Two exams will be given during the semester. (mid-term/final) Mid-term 50 points final exam 75 points. (125 total points).
4. ***Final:*** The final is worth 75 points.
5. ***Term Paper:*** The literature review/term paper. Topic will be a criminal case in which electronic investigative methods (cellular phone examination, computer forensic examination, wiretap investigation, etc. ) was used to apprehend and successfully convict a suspect in criminal court. The student will cite the case, describe in detail the electronic investigative methods used and the outcome in criminal court. The student will be required to use a minimum of three sources for the information in the term paper. Those sources may not be older than five years. Sources may include, but are not limited to books, or professional journals/magazines. *Wikipedia is not acceptable source for citation.* Literature Review/term papers will consist of the following: a cover page; a body of least six typed double spaced full pages and bibliography. **Lit review/term papers must be submitted in Canvas as a file upload. Research papers are to be submitted in Canvas as a file upload in WORD format only. No late papers will be accepted.** Additional information on how to complete this paper and the grading expectations will be provided to you well in advance of the due date. The term paper will be submitted in person. Your term paper shall comply with APA/MLA standards regarding research papers. The term paper is worth 50 points. Due April 4, 2024 at 1159p.

\* **Tests will not be made up unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.** In the event a student simply fails to show for a scheduled quiz or examination without notifying the instructor, the student will not be allowed to take that quiz or examination.

**Grading Criteria/Scale**:

Discussion Board 140 points

Movie Assignment 20 points

Mid-term exam 50 points

Final exam 75 points

Term Paper 50 points

TOTAL 335 points

Grade Scale:

90 – 100% = A 335-301 points

80 – 89% = B 300-268 points

70 – 79% = C 267-234 points

60 – 69% = D 233-201 points

00 – 59% = F 200 or below

**Attendance and Tardiness Policies:**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students who miss the first class of the semester will be dropped, unless the instructor is notified in advance and agrees to hold the student’s position in class. Ultimately, it is the student’s responsibility to officially drop a class in which he/she no longer wishes to be enrolled. Be mindful of the drop dates listed in the Catalog and the final drop date halfway through the semester. Being late to class is disruptive to the flow of learning for the students and instructor. Trying to track tardiness when class is already in session adds additional distractions and interruptions to the learning environment. Therefore, if you are not present when roll is taken, you will be counted as absent. You are encouraged to still attend the class, but enter the classroom as quietly as possible in order to minimize interruptions.

**Keys to successful course completion:**

This class is designed to provide the student with a positive learning experience and to give them valuable knowledge that will benefit them in a career in criminal justice. I see every student as exceptionally valuable and encourage them to do their best to succeed. I

will be there for you to help you achieve this success**. Late work is not accepted. Email assignments are not accepted.**

1. Attend class regularly and on time.
2. Ask questions when you are unsure of the material.
3. Carefully read all assigned chapters.
4. Take good notes during class and discussions.
5. Participate actively and thoughtfully in class sessions.
6. Get assignments done on time.
7. Study and prepare for quizzes and exams.
8. Take advantage of any extra credit opportunities given to the class.
9. Seek my assistance when you are struggling with learning a topic for added assistance.
10. Please refer to Reedley College academic calendar for important drop dates and grade modifications.

**Semester Outline:** (COR = Course Outline of Record)

Week #1 (1/9-11)

Tuesday - Introductions – Review of Syllabus, Chapter #1

Thursday- Discussion Board topic

Week #2 (1/16-1/18)

Tuesday- Chapter 2

Thursday- Discussion Board topic

Week #3 (1/23-1/25)

Tuesday - Chapter 3

Thursday- OJ Simpson documentary/assignment posted in Canvas

Week #4 (1/30-2/1)

Tuesday- Chapter 4

Thursday- Discussion Board topic

Week #5 (2/6-2/8)

Tuesday- Chapter 5

Thursday- Discussion Board topic

Week #6 (2/13-15)

Tuesday- Chapter 6

Thursday- Discussion Board topic

Week #7 (2/20-22)

Tuesday- Chapter 7

Thursday- Discussion Board topic

Week #8 (2/27-2/29)

Tuesday Chapter 8

Thursday Mid-term review

Week #9 (3/5-3/7)

Tuesday Mid-term exam

Thursday Gang Presentation/Investigations

Week #10 (3/12-14)

Tuesday Chapter 9

Thursday Discussion Board topic

Week #11 (3/19-21)

Tuesday Chapter 10

Thursday Discussion Board topic

Week #12 (4/2-4/4)

Tuesday Chapter 11

Thursday Discussion Board topic

Week #13 (4/9-11)

Tuesday Chapter 12

Thursday Discussion Board topic

Week #14 (4/16-18)

Tuesday Chapter 13

Thursday Documentary assignment

Week#15 (4/23-26)

Tuesday Chapter 14

Thursday Movie/assignment posted in Canvas

Week #16 (4/30-5/2)

Tuesday Chapter 15

Thursday Discussion Board topic

Week #17 (5/7-9)

Tuesday Chapter 16

Thursday Finals review

Week #18 (5/14)

Tuesday Final exam

**Important Campus Dates**

January 19, 2024 Last day to drop a Spring full-term class for full refund.

January 26, 2024 Last day to drop a Spring class to avoid a “W”.

January 28, 2024 last day to drop a Spring 2024 Full-term class to avoid a “W” on Web Advisor.

January 28, 2024 Last day to change a Spring 2024 class to/from pass/No-pass grading basis. Last day to add class with ad authorization on self-service.

March 8, 2024-Last day to drop a full-term class in person. Letter grades assigned after this date.

Spring recess March 25-29, 2024.

Final exams May 13-17, 2024.

*Any student enrolled after 3/8/24 must receive a letter grade of A, B, C, D, F, IP, or I*.