**CRIMINOLOGY-8-57349**

**Criminal Investigations (3 units)**

**Spring 2021**

**1/11/2021-5/21/21**

**DE-Online instruction**

**Instructor – Scot D. Cheney**

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**Office Hours: Posted in Canvas**

**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. This class will utilize the Canvas Learning Management System.

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

**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” 4th edition, Author-Steven G. Brandl, SAGE edge publishing, ISBN 978150391410. (available at campus bookstore)

**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 online etiquette during class.

**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.

**Student contact**: All class contact and corresponding announcements will be given through the Canvas in the form of an announcement. There may be a corresponding IMG/MOV file embedded in the announcement with Instructor Cheney covering the assignments for the week and other material. Instructor Cheney may also use Zoom conferencing on a periodic basis. If you can not reach Instructor Cheney through the Canvas system, I can be contacted at [scot.cheney@scccd.edu](mailto:scot.cheney@scccd.edu) Instructor Cheney checks the SCCCD email on a daily basis. Note\*\*Except for extreme circumstances and Instructor approval, do not submit assignments through the SCCCD email system.

**Weekly assignments**: All assignments will be given in the Canvas instructional system. Each assignment will be released on Sunday morning at 12AM and will be due on the following Saturday at 1159PM in text submission format. Each module will have assigned discussion board forum question, text book chapter to read, corresponding power point lecture to review and five essay questions to answer. Review the course outline of record (COR). **Email assignments are not excepted.**

**Attendance**: Attendance will be taken on each Sunday when the new assignment is released. You will be marked as “present” if your assigned work is submitted on or prior to the assigned due date from the previous module. Simply logging onto the Canvas system does not count as being present for online instruction. If you do not submit your assignments on or prior to the due date, you will be marked absent for the week.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be given in online in the Canvas system, multiple choice format. The exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. Please pay careful attention when taking the multiple choice exam. You can not “start/stop” once you start taking the exam.

**Course Requirements:**

All assignments are expected to be submitted on or prior to the day due. **Your grade will be based on successful completion of the following:**

1. ***Module essay assignments***. 16 assignments **400 points**. Please follow the provided rubric.
2. ***Discussion Board*** 16 discussion Boards. **160 points**. Please follow the instructions when assigned each week.
3. ***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 on March 26, 2021 at 1159 PM. 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. Your term paper shall comply with APA/MLA standards regarding research papers. The term paper is worth **50 points**. Your paper is to be submitted in Canvas as a file upload in **WORD format only.** Please follow the provided rubric with your research paper.

4. ***Test:*** There will be two test (mid-term/final) worth 50 points apiece. **Total 100 points**.

\* **Tests will not be made up unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.** \*\* A medical note may be required if the student is hospitalized during the test module.

**Grading Criteria/Scale**:

Module assignments. 400 points

Discussion Boards 160 points

Mid-term/Final exams 100 points

Term Paper 50 points

TOTAL 710 points

Grade Scale:

90 – 100% 710-639 = A

80 – 89% 638-568 = B

70 – 79% 567-497 = C

60 – 69% 496-426 = D

00 – 59% 425-0 = F

**Attendance:** Attendance is taken at the start of each module. On the first day of class, January 11, 2021 you will be required to take a one (1) point quiz by the end of the first day at 1159pm. Failure to complete the quiz may result in you being dropped form the class. For the following modules, attendance will be taken after the completion of each week’s module. Simply logging onto Canvas does not count as being present for the week. You must complete your Discussion Board Assignment and Textbook Chapter Assignment to be counted as present for the week. The also applies to the mid-term exam and final exam.

**Keys to successful course completion:**

1. Devote a set amount of time each week to complete the modules.

2. Do not submit your assigned work just before the module closes.

3. Utilize Canvas support with computer issues. They are very helpful.

4. Follow the provided rubric for each assignment.

5. Do not use “text jargon” or slang when completing an assignment.

6. Use proper grammar, sentence structure and spelling when submitting work.

7. Discussion Board. Use proper online etiquette. Respect your classmates.

8. Utilize Reedley College resources if needed.

9. Contact your instructor if you are struggling with the topic(s).

10. Follow the module system. Do not deviate.

11. READ THE SYLLABUS.

**Reedley College resources:**

Reedley College offers various student services such as counseling, College Relations and Outreach, DSP&S services, Veteran Services, Upward Bound, CalWorks, EOPS, Dream Center, Child Development Center, Testing Services, Transfer Services, Student Athlete Services, Health and Wellness, Tutoring Services and TRIO Services. Please use the Reedley College website to access these services. **Canvas Support (844) 887-2223.**

**Important Campus Dates**

January 22, 2021 -Last day to drop a class for a refund.

January 29, 2021-Last day to drop a full-term class to avoid a “W” for Spring 2021.

January 31, 2021-Last day to drop a class on WebAdvisor to avoid a “W”.

February 12, 2021-Last day to change a class to pass/fail grading.

March 12, 2021-Last day to drop a full-term class in person. Letter grades assigned after this date.

March 29 to April 2, 2021 Spring Break

*Any student enrolled after 3/12/21 must receive a letter grade of A, B, C, D, F, IP, or I*.

**Course Outline of Record:**

**Module #1 1/11/21-1/16/21**

**Module #2 1/17/21-1/23/21**

**Module #3 1/24/21-1/30/21**

**Module #4 1/31/21-2/6/21**

**Module #5 2/7/21-2/13/21**

**Module #6 2/14/21-2/20/21**

**Module #7 2/21/21-2/27/21**

**Module #8 2/23-3/6/21**

**Module #9 3/7/21-3/13/21 (Mid-term exam)**

**Module #10 3/14/21-3/20/21**

**Module #11 3/21/21-3/27/21**

**Module #12 4/4/21-4/10/21**

**Module #13 4/11/21-4/17/21**

**Module #14 4/18/21-4/24/21**

**Module #15 4/25/21-5/1/21**

**Module #16 5/2/21-5/8/21**

**Module #17 5/9/21-5/15/21**

**Module #18 5/16/21-5/21/21 (Final exam)**