



Spring 2021

CRIM 8
Criminal Science Investigation
Syllabus

Course Name: CRIM 8

Section Number: 59314

Units: 03

Total Contact hours: 54.00

Instructor: Barry Rambonga

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Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Class Meeting: 2:35-3:25 M-F

Course Materials:

Criminal Investigation, Bruce Berg, Fourth edition, McGraw-Hill

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.

Grading Policy/Scales/Evaluation Criteria

For maximum point consideration, all written assignments and term reports should be typed and double-spaced. Lecture assignments (homework) will be accepted late up to the test for that unit of the course or 2 weeks past the deadline, whichever is sooner; however, late assignments will be penalized 1/5 of the possible points. Late laboratory assignments turned in within one week of the required due date will be accepted with a penalty equal to 1/5 of the maximum points. Any lab assignment turned in after that time up to the last regular class meeting will be accepted with a 50% penalty.

Homework Policy:

To receive full credit for homework assignments must meet the following criteria:

1. Typed in 12 point font, double spaced (handwritten work will not be accepted), multiple pages must be stapled.
2. Formatted as follows: Name, Date, Course number, Homework number and no spacing in the heading. Sources will be cited in the footer of the document (even if the source is a personal opinion).
3. Turned in no later than the beginning of class on the date it is due. (HOMEWORK TURNED IN ANY LATER WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED)
4. Demonstrate critical analysis.

Responsibility to keep copies:

It is a good practice to keep copies of ALL assignments and tests. On rare occasions, work may be lost because of computer failure or other mishaps.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their performance on quizzes (announced and unannounced), written assignments, unit tests, lab projects and final examination according to the following scale. The instructor reserves the right to adjust scores as it may be required throughout the semester.

0-5% Case Studies

0-5% Project(s)

0-5% Quizzes

0-5% Research

15-20% Final Exam

0-5% Essays

10% Class Participation

40% Exams

0-5% Presentations

Your grade in this course will be based on the following scale:

A – 90 – 100%

B – 80 – 89%

C – 70 – 79%

D – 60 – 69%

F – 59% and below

Attendance

Lecture: Attendance is required and roll will be taken at each class meeting. There is no difference between an “excused” or “unexcused” absence. A “tardy” is considered an absence unless the student contacts the instructor at the end of class to change the status from absent to tardy. Two tardies will count as an absence. Any student who misses more than two weeks of class meetings within the first 9 weeks of class may be dropped from the class by the instructor (i.e., class meets two times per week, 4 absences; class meets 1 time per week, 2 absences).

Lab: Attendance in all labs is mandatory. Students must make prior arrangements with the instructor to be excused from lab. At that time, the instructor will determine, if any, make-up work will be appropriate.

Quizzes: There will be no make-ups for quizzes.

Tests: Make-up tests are limited to students who have made arrangements with the instructor prior to the required testing period or those students who have been excused by High School Attendance Office. Test material is constructed from class discussions, assigned readings, guest lectures, video presentations, and special assignments. Tests will consist of true/false and multiple choice questions. Unless the student receives prior approval from the instructor, no make-up tests will be allowed.

While attendance is not weighed in the final grade equation, it is an important component for those students who have an interest in learning. Being present in class enables the students to participate academically in class discussions, gain exposure to new found knowledge, and greatly improve the likelihood of performing more successfully on course assignments and examinations.

If you are late to any test, including the final exam, your score will be dropped one grade.

College Policies:

Cheating & Plagiarism

In keeping with the philosophy that students are entitled to the best education available, and in compliance with Board Policy 5410, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort toward attaining an education. Violations of this policy will result in disqualification for the course.

Cheating is:

- A. 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).
- B. Copying answers on a test or letting someone copy from your test (includes asking/telling orally).
- C. Using a cheat sheet or unauthorized notes.
- D. Turning in someone else's work as your own.
- E. 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

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 the instructor as soon as possible.

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 when 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”).

Language - English is expected to be spoken in class for the following reasons:

- All course content and materials are presented in English and class discussions all take place in English.
- All lab activities are conducted in groups and must have effective communication between all group members.
- Activities can be hazardous and it is vital that instructors receive feedback in English to ensure safe practices.
- This policy is designed so that instructors and all students may communicate in a common language.
- All individuals must have freedom of expression and are allowed and encouraged to communicate in the language of their choice outside of class times, including breaks.

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.

Important Dates Spring 2021

January 11 (M) Start of Spring 2021 semester

January 11 - March 12 (M-F) Short-term classes, first nine weeks

January 18 (M) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed (no classes held, campus closed)

January 22 (F) Last day to drop a Spring 2021 full-term class for full refund

January 29 (F) Last day to register for a Spring 2021 full-term class in person

January 29 (F) Last day to drop a Spring 2021 full-term class to avoid a “W” in person

January 31 (SU) Last day to drop a Spring 2021 full-term class to avoid a “W” on WebAdvisor

February 12 (F) Last day to change a Spring 2021 class to/from Pass/NoPass grading basis

February 12 (F) Lincoln Day observance (no classes held, campus closed)

February 15 (M) Washington Day observance (no classes held, campus closed)

March 12 (F) Last Day to drop a full-term class (letter grades assigned after this date)

March 15 - May 21 (M-F) Short-term classes, second nine weeks

March 29 - April 1 (M-Th) Spring recess (no classes held, campus open)

April 2 (F) Good Friday observance (no classes held, campus closed) (classes reconvene April 5)

May 17-21 (M-F) Spring 2021 final exams week
May 21 (F) End of Spring 2021 semester
May 31 (M) Memorial Day holiday (campus closed)

** 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.

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

FAQs:

1. *Do you accept late homework? When is the final exam? How many classes can I miss before I am dropped?*

I will not answer any questions that are answered in the syllabus.

2. *Can I use an old edition of the textbook?*

Although I understand the expense incurred for textbooks, I cannot allow old editions of the text to be used.

3. *I had to work all night, so I wasn't able to come to class. Can I have an excused absence?*

I do not recognize excused absences. You are allowed an allotted amount, so use them wisely.

4. *I cannot buy the textbook, so can I turn in my homework late and still get full credit?*

There is a copy on reserve in the library and I do not accept late homework in Crim 1.

5. *Can I email you?*

It is easier to reach me by email. However, you must include in the email **what course you are in**, or I will return the email unanswered.

6. *Can I email you my homework?*

With prior approval only! I teach several classes with nearly 40 students in each class. That much email will overload my account. If I do allow you to email your homework, **in cases of emergency only**, it must be written on a Word Document and sent as an attachment.

7. *I am taking the course with a friend or a relative; can we do the homework together and turn in the same answers?*

I encourage you to share ideas, but the answers have to be in your own words. By that I do not mean changing a few words and calling it your own. Review the definition of plagiarism.

8. *What if there is a dispute about a homework or test score? For example, I am sure I turned in a homework assignment, but I did not get credit for it.*

I cannot emphasize enough about the importance of saving your work. Please don't rely on me to be perfect. I will make every effort to be accurate.

9. *I have a plane ticket to fly home before the final. Can I arrange to take the final at a time other than when it is scheduled?*

No. The final date is written in stone. If there is an **extreme** case, then speak with me about it.

10. *The class I have before this one is across campus, I have to be late sometimes. Will they be excused?*

You must take issues like this into consideration before you register for classes. There are no excused absences, so the answer is no.

11. *It's near the end of the semester and you ask, "Can I do something for extra credit, I'm not doing well in the class?"*

I am here to help, but you have take responsibility. I offer extra credit so don't wait until the last minute. You are allowed no more than 20 points of extra credit for the class (**if you meet the minimum qualifications to do be allowed to turn any in**). Any extra credit project must first be approved by me. If you wait until the last minute, I will not approve any.

CRIMINOLOGY 8 TEST SCHEDULE			
TEST	CHAPTERS	DATE	POINTS
1	TBD	TBA	40
2	TBD	TBA	40
3	TBD	TBA	40
4	Term Paper	TBA	50
FINAL	Comprehensive	TBD	50
TOTAL TEST POINTS POSSIBLE:			220

CRIMINOLOGY 8 HOMEWORK SCHEDULE				
Note: If you copy/paste your answers from the internet you will not receive any credit				
HW	CH	End of Chapter Questions	DUE	PTS
1	1	(1) Name the three components of the Criminal Investigation and describe their functions. 1 PAGE MINIMUM.	TBA	10
2	1-2	(1) Review Questions 1-3 (2) Review Questions 2,4 & 5,	TBA	10
3	3-4	(3) Review Questions 1,3,5,7 (4) Review Questions 1,2 & 5, Crime Scene Scenario #1	TBA	10
4	5-6	(5) Review Questions 1,2,4 & 6 (6) Review Questions 2,3,6 & 7, Crime Scene Scenario #2	TBA	10
5	7-8	(7) Review Questions 1,3 & 5 (8) Review Questions 2,3 & 6	TBA	10
6	9-10	(9) Review Questions 1,3,4	TBA	10
7	11-12	(11) Review Questions 1,3,4 & 6, Scenario #3	TBA	10
		LETTER GRADE	PERCENTAGE RANGE	POINTS
		B	89-90	
		C	79-70	
		D	69-60	TOTAL HOMEWORK POINTS POSSIBLE: 70
		F	59 and below	Cumulative

TOTAL HOMEWORK POINTS POSSIBLE	70
TOTAL EXAMINATION POINTS POSSIBLE	220
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	310