

Criminal Investigative Procedures

Criminal Justice, Spring Semester 2010

Location: Main Campus – Hazy 230

Day/Time: Wednesday 5:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Instructor: M. Rick Erickson, Esq.

Phone: 435-634-5723 ext. 2613

Email: ericksonr@dixie.edu



SYLLABUS

TEXTBOOK

Chamelin, Neil C., Territo, Leonard, and Swanson, Charles R., Criminal Investigation, New York: McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages; 10th edition (2008)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Criminal Investigative Procedures is intended for students interested in a career in law enforcement, adult or juvenile corrections, law, private or industrial security, counseling or criminology and persons interested in the functioning of the criminal justice system of the United States. This course covers duties and problems of investigating officers, use of records, report writing, investigative techniques including scientific/forensic investigative techniques, and psychological profiling, preparation for trial, testifying in court and the tactics of defendants and their attorneys. Special emphasis is on the application of these skills in the investigation of serious felony offenses. A variety of teaching methods, including lecture, videos, guest lecturers and assigned text study will be employed. This course prepares students for the Criminal Justice associate degree and for bachelors work.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Gain a greater appreciation for the complex nature of evidence gathering in building a criminal case.
- Develop an understanding of the critical role of the criminal investigator in all aspects of the criminal process.
- Understand the essential concept of due process and an individual's Constitutional rights when accused of a crime.
- Learn the various forms of evidence, forensic, testimonial, etc and the respective roles they play in a criminal prosecution.
- Acquire a basic knowledge of the skills and abilities needed to be an effective criminal investigator and how to apply them in real world situations.

EXPECTATIONS

College students in Criminal Justice 1340 are expected to:

1. Attend all classes;
2. Arrive on time, remain for the entire class and be attentive in class;
3. Be prepared – having read the assigned materials, participate in class discussion, submit assignments on time;
4. Bring appropriate textbooks, assignments, and other materials;
5. Maintain respect and civility toward the instructor and fellow students;
6. Refrain from receiving cellular telephone calls or similar electronic interruptions during class;

GRADING

The following items will comprise a final grade:

- Exam 1 – 15% of final grade;
- Exam 2 – 15% of final grade;
- Final Examination – 30% of final grade;
- Research Paper – 25% of final grade;

Class participation – 15% of final grade.

EXAMS 1 and 2

Exam 1 will be given in class on **February 10, 2010** and will cover materials covered up to that date. Exam 2 will be given in class on **March 31, 2010** and will cover materials covered between February 10th's class and the examination date. Each will be a multiple-choice and true/false examination to be answered on scantron, please bring your own scantron sheet and pencil.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will be held in class on **May 5, 2010**. It will be a multiple-choice and true/false examination to be answered on scantron, please bring your own scantron sheet. The final examination will be **comprehensive** covering materials throughout the term.

SCOPE OF EXAMINATIONS:

The student will be responsible for all materials assigned in the book through the date of the examination, lectures, guest lecturer's presentations, any materials distributed in class, as well as the content of any video or other multi-media presentation in class. If you fail to attend a class session please contact a fellow student or the instructor to ascertain what material may have been missed.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS:

A student may be allowed to make-up a missed examination **but only under the most extreme of circumstances**. The student **MUST contact the instructor PRIOR to the exam** to inform him of the reason the examination is to be missed and make arrangements for a make up exam. The decisions as to whether to allow a make-up examination shall be at the sole discretion of the instructor.

RESEARCH PAPER

Each student must complete a research paper. The paper must be no less than 5 pages, typewritten, double spaced, type face no larger than 11 point, margins all around no larger than one inch.

The subject of the paper may be anything within the realm of "Criminal Investigative Procedures" of the student's choosing, however, **the subject MUST have prior approval from the instructor**. A minimum of **5** references must be used. At least 3 sources must be from of an academic nature – **not** a website with general information rather from books, case law, statutory law, periodicals, etc. Papers will be graded on content and the clear and effective communication of information and ideas. Although not the primary concern, grammar, organization and spelling will count to the degree that they affect the clear communication of the content noted above. Please avail yourself of the **DSC Writing Center** if you have concerns in this regard – they have many resources to assist you.

The research paper is **due**, at the **beginning of class**, on **April 28, 2010**. Topics must be approved at, or prior to class on February 24, 2010. Papers turned in after the beginning of class on the due date will be penalized one full grade Papers not turned in by the beginning of class on April 21th, 2010 will receive an "F" – **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Therefore, if you may be late, ill, have car trouble, computer trouble or your dog may eat your paper - do yourself a favor and turn in your paper at the previous week's class.

SCHEDULE

| <u>Class Date</u> | <u>Reading</u> (to be completed prior to that class) |
|-------------------|--|
| January 13 | First class (Discussion of syllabus, introduction to class). |
| January 20 | Chapters 1 and 2 |
| January 27 | Chapter 3 |
| February 3 | Chapters 4 and 5 |
| February 10 | Chapters 6 and 7 |
| February 17 | EXAM 1 |
| February 24 | Chapters 8 and 9 – Term Paper <u>Topics</u> Due |
| March 3 | Chapters 10 and 11 |

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|----------|--|
| March 10 | Semester Break –No Class |
| March 17 | Chapters 12 and 13 |
| March 24 | Chapters 14 |
| March 31 | EXAM 2 |
| April 7 | Chapters 15 and 16 |
| April 14 | Chapters 17 and 18 |
| April 21 | Chapter 19 and 20 |
| April 28 | Chapter 21 and <u>Term Paper Due</u> at BEGINNING of Class |
| May 5 | FINAL EXAMINATION |

NOTE: Guest lecturers will be visiting class during the semester. Video and other presentations will also be made. Therefore, class discussions will not necessarily cover all materials in the book, however you are responsible for all assigned materials in the book whether covered in class or not. Regardless of guest speakers or multi-media presentations, you are required to have completed all the readings according to the above schedule and be prepared to discuss the materials required through that date in class. You will note that the reading schedule is intensive at times; I suggest that you read ahead during breaks etcetera. Quizzes may be given at any time on the readings and other materials up through the date of the quiz.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to attend classes, be prepared (have read the assigned materials), and participate in class discussions. Student participation grades will be based not only on attendance and quantity of participation but on quality of participation. Quizzes may be given at any time and will be included within your class participation grade. Practical's ("real world" scenarios presented for your consideration/solution) will also count towards class participation grades.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. On examinations no "cheating" will be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying another student's answers, consulting "crib sheets", consulting with another student or any other act or attempted act seeking to gain unfair advantage. All work submitted must be the student's own work. Plagiarism (the unattributed inclusion of another's work as the student's own), in whole or in part, will likewise not be tolerated. Any academic dishonesty will result in the student receiving a failing grade for the course.

NOTES:

1. This class involves the study of criminal activities. The subject matter and or materials presented will be graphic on occasion and disturbing to some. Images and descriptions contained in the text are sometimes graphic and disturbing. Please review the materials at the beginning of the semester to determine if this is the right class for you. If at any time you are disturbed by a topic or course content and wish to leave class for that reason please feel free to do so.
2. I will on occasion refer to actual cases in which I have been involved. If you, a family member, or friend were also involved in a case discussed, be it as a victim, defendant, or otherwise, please let me know. Certainly no offense or desire to embarrass is intended.

DISABILITIES

If you are a student with a medical, psychological, or learning disability and would like accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in the Student Services Center. The Disability Resource Center will determine the eligibility of a student requesting special services and determine the appropriate accommodations related to their disability.

*The instructor specifically reserves to right to amend this syllabus at any time if he deems it necessary or appropriate to do so.