

Crime Scene Investigative Techniques

Criminal Justice 3820

Spring Semester 2010

Location: Udvar-Hazy 203

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

Instructor: Brian G. Filter, Esq.

Phone: 435-986-2603

Email: bgfilter@gmail.com

SYLLABUS*

TEXTBOOK

· Crime Scene Investigation and Reconstruction (2nd Edition), Robert Ogle, Prentice Hall, 2006

OTHER READINGS

Other handouts and assignments as provided

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES

Crime Scene Investigative Techniques 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. Areas covered will be documentation of the crime scene as well as handling and chain of custody of evidence. The class will also cover the understanding of report writing and photography at the crime scene. A variety of teaching methods, including lecture, videos, guest lecturers and assigned text study may be employed. This course prepares students for the Criminal Justice associate degree and for bachelors work.

Prerequisite: CJ 1010.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Discuss the history of forensic science and crime scene investigation.
- Have knowledge of safe crime scene procedures
- Describe the necessary procedures at a crime scene.
- Determine crime scene boundaries and initial observation/evaluation.
- Understand and implement good note taking, photography, sketching and other documentation of a crime scene.
- Describe various methods for searching a crime scene for evidence, and understand the advantages and disadvantages of particular search methods.
- Recognize potential sources of physical evidence at a crime scene, and discuss best practices for collection of physical evidence.

- Describe steps necessary to conduct a final assessment of the crime scene, and conduct a final walk-through.
- Compile a thorough overall crime scene report.

EXPECTATIONS

In addition to respecting the instructor and fellow students, college students in Criminal Justice 3820 are expected to:

1. Attend all classes;
2. Arrive on time, remain for the entire class and be attentive in class;
3. Be prepared – including but not limited to having read the assigned materials, participating intelligently in class discussion, and submitting assignments on time;
4. Bring appropriate textbooks, assignments, and other materials;
5. Maintain politeness and civility toward 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:

Midterm examination – 25% of final grade;
 Final examination – 25% of final grade;
 Research Paper – 25% of final grade;
 Class participation – 25% of final grade.

MIDTERM EXAM

The Midterm Examination will be given in class on **February 24th**. It will consist of multiple choice, true/false and possibly essay questions. You will need scantron and a blue book, please bring your own scantron sheet and blue book.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will be held in class on **May 5th**. It will consist of multiple choice, true/false and Possibly essay questions. You will need scantron and a blue book, please bring your own scantron sheet and blue book. 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 and/or placed on reserve, 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.

RESEARCH PAPER

Each student will select an area or topic within the scope of this class upon which to research and write a paper. Students will be given wide latitude into the subject matter but the topic must be approved by

the instructor. The research underlying the paper shall be at least in part academic in nature - meaning credible academic resources used as a source. The student's paper must cite at least 5 different sources at least 3 of which must be academic in nature. Direct sources such as interviews of professionals with knowledge of the topic area of the paper may be used. The paper shall be no less than 10, no more than 15 pages in length. 12 pt Times New Roman font shall be used with margins no larger than 1 inch all around applied, single spaced. A topic shall be selected and approved no later than February 10th.

The paper is due in class on April 7th.

Papers turned in after that date but before April 14th shall be accepted but penalized one full grade level. No papers will be accepted after April 14th and the student will receive no credit if not turned in by that time.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to attend classes, be prepared (have read the assigned materials), and participate in class discussions.

Practical application of subjects studied will be conducted in class. Students will be expected to be present and participate in said practicals.

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.

SCHEDULE (This is a tentative schedule and may be adjusted throughout the semester)

<u>Class Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
January 13	First class - Introductory to material/class discussion/pre test & Chapter 1
January 20	Chapter 2
January 27	Chapter 3
February 3	Chapter 4 & 5
February 10	Chapter 6 - Paper Topics Due!
February 17	Chapter 7 & Exam Review
February 24	Mid Term Examination!
March 3	Chapter 8
March 10	Chapter 9
March 17	Spring Break!
March 24	Chapter 10
March 31	Chapter 11
April 7	Chapter 12 & Research Paper Due!
April 14	Chapter 13 & Last date for Research Paper will be accepted (with penalty)
April 21	Chapter 14
April 28	Last Class! Chapter 15 & Exam Review
May 5	Final Examination – In Class

Guest lecturers may be visiting class during the semester. Video and other presentations may also be made. Therefore, class discussions will not necessarily cover all materials in the book, however you are responsible for all assigned readings 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.

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 materials included within the research paper or other submitted works must be properly attributed. Any academic dishonesty will result in the student receiving a failing grade for the course.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1.** A person missing a Examination or Quiz will receive an “F” on that Quiz or Examination. Only under the most extraordinary of circumstances will a make-up examination or quiz be given for a student who was absent. Should such an extraordinary circumstance arise, contact the instructor as soon as possible to explain the reason for you absence. Proof of the underlying cause may be required. It will be at the instructor’s sole discretion as to whether to allow a make-up exam.
- 2.** This class involves the study of crime, often crimes committed against persons. The subject matter and or materials presented may be graphic on occasion and disturbing to some. If at any time you are so affected and wish to leave class for that reason please feel free to do so.
- 3.** 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.

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES:

All students shall be aware of and comply with all Dixie State College of Utah Policies. The policies are available online at <http://new.dixie.edu/reg/syllabus/>

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.