



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	AJ
Course Number:	111
Descriptive Title:	Criminal Investigation
Division:	Health Sciences and Athletics
Department:	Administration of Justice
Course Disciplines:	Administration of Justice
Catalog Description:	This course covers the fundamentals of criminal investigation. Topics include the techniques of crime scene search and recording, collection and preservation of physical evidence, modus operandi processes, sources of information, interview and interrogation, and follow-up investigation.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Administration of Justice 109 AND Eligibility for English 1A
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	Fall 1995
Transfer UC:	No
Effective Date:	
General Education: ECC	
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	
Term:	

	Other:
	IGETC:
	Term:
	Other:
Student Learning Outcomes:	<p>SLO #1 Criminal Investigation</p> <p>Upon completion of a course in criminal investigations a student will be able to explain and apply the legal concepts of corpus delicti, modus operandi, and legal rules of evidence, including the provisions of the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution as they apply to criminal investigations.</p> <p>SLO #2 Crime Scene Procedures</p> <p>Upon completion of a course in criminal investigations a student will be able to identify the proper procedures for containing a crime scene, identify the evidentiary value of items at a crime scene, and explain current procedures for collecting and analyzing evidence.</p> <p>SLO #3 Investigation Elements & Facts</p> <p>Upon completion of a course in criminal investigations a student will be able to narrate the elements and facts of a criminal investigation in a written report in preparation for prosecution and courtroom testimony.</p>
Course Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate the role of an investigator at a crime scene. 2. List and discuss techniques used in investigating burglaries, robberies, and homicides. 3. Prepare homicide crime scene reports. 4. Collect and analyze data used in crime scene reports. 5. Describe search techniques used to gather evidence at a crime scene. 6. Assess the proper methods in the collection and preservation of evidence. 7. Describe the proper techniques for lifting latent fingerprints. 8. Contrast the proper techniques used in gathering evidence in crimes against the person versus crimes against property. 9. Explain the use of graphics and exhibits as applied to court testimony.
Major Topics:	<p>I. HISTORY AND FUNDAMENTALS (2 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. History of criminal investigation B. Fundamentals of investigation C. Ethics and legal requirements <p>II. THE INVESTIGATOR (1 hour, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Personal characteristics B. Legal and ethical considerations <p>III. THE LAW AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Reasonable suspicion B. Probable cause C. The 4th Amendment to the US Constitution

- D. Requirements to comply with the Miranda decision
- E. Due process
- F. Ethical considerations

IV. THE CRIME SCENE (3 hours, lecture)

- A. First responder responsibilities
- B. Preliminary investigation
- C. Methods, personnel requirements, and equipment for crime scene protection
- D. Methodological steps of a search
- E. Identification, collection, and preservation of evidence
- F. Methods of evidentiary analysis

V. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AT THE CRIME SCENE (3 hours, lecture)

- A. Biological evidence
 - 1. Blood
 - 2. Semen
 - 3. Saliva
 - 4. Hair
- B. DNA evidence
- C. Fingerprints
- D. Ballistic evidence
- E. Fiber, soil, & paint evidence
- F. Blood splatter pattern analysis
- G. Digital Evidence
- H. Video evidence
- I. Other physical evidence
- J. The role of CSI personnel

VI. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE (3 hours, lecture)

- A. Criminal justice records
 - 1. California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS)
 - 2. National Crime Information Center (NCIC)
 - 3. Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)
 - 4. Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)
 - 5. Automated records systems
- B. Local records sources
- C. News media
- D. Social media
- E. Evaluation and analysis of information
- F. Combining source to form intelligence

VII. DEVELOPING SUSPECTS (2 hours, lecture)

- A. Field show-up legal considerations
- B. Photo lineups
- C. Police sketch artists

VIII. INTERVIEWING AND INTERROGATION (7 hours, lecture)

- A. Distinctions between the two
- B. Types of witnesses
- C. Interview techniques
 - 1. Cognitive interview
 - 2. Hypnosis
- D. Interrogation procedures
- E. Planning the interrogation
 - 1. Location
 - 2. Number of interrogators
 - 3. Verbal and non-verbal questioning
 - 4. The use of deception
- F. False confessions
- G. Mock interrogation scenarios

IX. SURVEILLANCE AND UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATIONS (1 hour, lecture)

- A. Surveillance methods and procedures
- B. Undercover or covert activities
- C. Legal and ethical considerations
 - 1. Entrapment
 - 2. Illegal activity

X. FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION (1 hour, lecture)

- A. Use of additional resources: Informants and developed witnesses
- B. Information derived from law enforcement data bases
- C. Neighborhood canvass
- D. Mass media assistance

XI. INVESTIGATIVE CONCEPTS FOR SPECIALIZED INVESTIGATIONS (8 hours, lecture)

- A. Death Investigations
 - 1. Homicide
 - 2. Suicide
 - 3. Accidental
 - 4. Natural
- B. The role of the coroner
- C. The autopsy
- D. Media relations
- E. Cold case investigations

XII. SEARCH WARRANT PREPARATION (3 hours, lecture)

- A. Probable cause
- B. Types of search warrants
- C. Officer safety considerations
- D. Required elements
 - 1. The affidavit
 - 2. Description of location to be searched
 - 3. Description of items to be seized
- E. Return of warrant

	<p>F. Legal and ethical considerations</p> <p>XIII. COURTROOM TESTIMONY (3 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Prepare for testimony B. Burden of proof at a Evidence Code 1538.5 hearing C. Mock testimony at a Evidence Code 1538.5 hearing</p> <p>XIV. ARREST WARRANT PREPARATION (2 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Probable cause B. Establishing corpus delicti C. The affidavit D. Judges signature E. Times of service F. Officer safety considerations G. The use of a Grand Jury indictment</p> <p>XV. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SKILLS DEMONSTRATION (6 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Crime scene containment B. Preliminary investigation C. Crime scene sketches D. Crime scene search E. Collection and packaging of evidence F. Obtain witness statements</p> <p>XVI. RESEARCH IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (4 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Research project B. Student presentation of research projects</p> <p>XVII. COURTROOM TESTIMONY (2 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Presentation of evidence B. Motion to suppress evidence EC 1538.5 hearing C. Courtroom demeanor</p>
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
Primary Method of Evaluation:	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Prepare a case study research project concerning an investigatory technique, criminal investigation, or significant criminal court case. Write a 1100-1200 word essay. Prepare a presentation of your research and present to the class.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Given a mock crime scenario, prepare an arrest warrant and a search warrant.

Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Given a mock criminal investigation scenario, prepare for and testify at a mock Evidence Code 1538.5 motion to suppress evidence court hearing.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Class Performance, Completion, Embedded Questions, Essay Exams, Homework Problems, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Oral Exams, Other Exams, Performance Exams, Quizzes, Reading Reports, Term or Other Papers, True/False, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Demonstration, Discussion, Group Activities, Guest Speakers, Lecture, Multimedia presentations, Role play/simulation
If other:	Internet Presentation/Resources
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Problem solving activity, Required reading, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Steven Brandl. Criminal Investigation. 5th edition, 2022 by Sage ISBN: 9781544395654
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	Administration of Justice-109
Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	<p>Ability to establish and secure a crime scene.</p> <p>AJ 109 - Analyze the proper methods for establishing a crime scene perimeter when responding to a crime in-progress.</p> <p>Ability to prepare for and testify at a mock court hearing.</p> <p>AJ 109 - Demonstrate proper techniques used when testifying in court.</p> <p>Ability to interview and interrogate criminal suspects</p>

	AJ 109 - Identify legal principles needed to justify a "field interview" and/or interrogation.
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English 1A
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	<p>This course involves reading college level textbooks, developing written projects, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills.</p> <p>Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts.</p> <p>Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.</p>
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	John Hampton
Date:	02/01/1963
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Dina Mauger
Date:	09/20/2023
Last Board Approval Date:	01/17/2024
Effective Term:	FALL 2024