

Master Syllabus

CJS 2205 - Introduction to Criminal Investigation & Forensic Science

Division: Business and Public Services

Department: Criminal Justice Science

Credit Hour Total: 3.0

Lecture Hrs: 3.0

Prerequisite(s): DEV 0012 AND DEV 0032 OR DEV 0044

Date Revised: March 2013

Course Description:

Survey of legal, technical and ethical aspects of criminal investigation. Common principles and techniques of criminal investigation, including crime scene procedures, collection and preservation of evidence, development of leads and criminalistics (current terminology for forensics). Skills necessary to investigate crimes and obtain legally admissible evidence. Basic science of physical, chemical and biological evidence.

General Education Outcomes:

- ❑ Oral Communication
- ❑ Written Communication
- ❑ Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
- ❑ Values/Citizenship/Community
- ❑ Computer Literacy
- ❑ Information Literacy

Course Outcomes:

Legal, Technical and Ethical Aspects of Criminal Investigation

Apply the legal, ethical and scientific standards for criminal justice professionals working in criminal investigations.

Assessment Method: Locally developed exams

Performance Criteria:

Students will score a minimum of 70% on a department developed exam

Assessment Method: Oral examination

Performance Criteria:

Students will demonstrate a minimum of two points on a four point department developed rubric

Assessment Method: Written surveys and/or questionnaires

Performance Criteria:

Students will score a minimum of 70% on department developed surveys and questionnaires these questionnaires will be a written crime scenario and the student will in an essay format apply all legal, ethical and scientific standards that apply to the specific case

Recognition, Collection and Preservation of Admissible Evidence

Apply the principles and techniques for recognizing, lawfully collecting and preserving crime scene evidence.

Assessment Method: Locally developed exams

Performance Criteria:

Students will score a minimum of 70% on a department developed exam

Assessment Method: Oral examination

Performance Criteria:

Students will score a minimum of two points on a four point rubric to evaluate student preparation and analytical skills

Assessment Method: Written surveys and/or questionnaires

Performance Criteria:

Students will score a minimum of 70% on department developed surveys and questionnaires. These questionnaires will be a written crime scenario and the student will in an essay format apply all legal, ethical and scientific standards that apply to the specific case

Physical, Biological and Chemical Evidence and the Role of the Crime Lab

Explain the basic science of DNA, fingerprints, toolmark, firearms and ballistics, impressions and striations, and other physical, biological and chemical evidence and crime lab capabilities and limitations.

Assessment Method: Locally developed exams

Performance Criteria:

Students will score a minimum of 70% on department developed exams

Assessment Method: Oral examination

Performance Criteria:

Students will score a minimum of two points on a four point department developed rubric to evaluate student preparation and analytical skills

Assessment Method: Written surveys and/or questionnaires

Performance Criteria:

Students will score a minimum of 70% on department developed surveys and questionnaires. These questionnaires will be a written crime scenario and the student will in an essay format apply all legal, ethical and scientific standards that apply to the specific case

Outline:

Investigative process
General methods of investigation
Evidence recognition, collection and preservation including documentation
Basic science of physical, biological and chemical evidence
Witness interview and interrogation
Legal, ethical and scientific guidelines for collection and presentation of evidence
Crime lab capabilities and limitations