

Syllabus
CRIJ 2314
Criminal Investigation

Instructor: Jennifer Myers

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Phone: 432-335-6505

Office Location: ET 148B

Office Hours: Monday: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday: By appointment

Should these times not fit into a student's schedule, I can be available at times outside of the listed office hours by appointment.

Course Description:

This course examines investigative theory; collection and preservation of evidence; sources of information in reference to criminal investigation; interview and interrogation; uses of forensic sciences and case and trial preparation.

SCANS:

2,3,6,9,10,11

Course Objectives:

After taking this course, students will:

1. Be able to identify the goals and objectives of a criminal investigation; (2,3,6,9,10,11)
2. Be able to conduct an effective and proper crime scene investigation; (2,3,6,9,10,11)
3. Illustrate the use of forensic sciences in various criminal investigations; (2,3,6,9,10,11)
4. Organize a criminal case investigation to include field notes, reports, crime scene activities and mandatory documentation of statutory warning; (2,3,6,9,10,11)
5. Work in a team setting to successfully conduct an investigation. (2,3,6,9,10,11)

Course Materials:



Criminal Investigation: The Art and the Science, 6th Edition, Prentice Hall

Michael D. Lyman

This book can be purchased at the OC bookstore or from various online sources.

Course Requirements (Assignments):

This is a college level course and you will, therefore, be expected to uphold established college standards as outlined in the most recent Odessa College catalog.

Week 1: January 17 – 20

Please read Chapter 1: Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation

Answer Discussion Question-Due by 11:30 p.m. on 01-22-12

Week 2: January 23 – 27

Please read Chapter 2: The Crime Scene: Field Notes, Documenting, and Reporting

Answer Discussion Question-Due by 11:30 p.m. on 01-29-12

Week 3: January 30 – February 3

Please read Chapter 3: Processing the Crime Scene

Answer Discussion Question-Due by 11:30 p.m. on 02-05-12

Week 4: February 6 – 10

Please read Chapter 4: Identification of Criminal Suspects: Field and Laboratory Processes

Answer Discussion Question Due by 11:30 p.m. on 02-12-12

First Exam will include questions from Chapters 1 – 4. You will have 90 minutes to complete the exam and are only allowed one attempt. NO EXCEPTIONS! Test will be open from 02-12-12 at 8 a.m. to 02-15-12 at 11:30 p.m.

Week 5: February 13 – 17

Please read Chapter 5: Legal Issues in Criminal Investigation

Answer Discussion Question Due by 11:30 p.m. on 02-19-12

Week 6: February 20 – 24

Please read Chapter 6: Interviews and Interrogations-pages 193 to 206

Please read Chapter 7: Criminal Intelligence and Surveillance Operations-pages 222 to 230 and 237 to 246

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 02-26-12

Week 7: February 27 – March 2

Please read Chapter 8: Management of Informants and Undercover Operations

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 03-04-12

Second Exam will include questions from Chapters 5 – 8. You will have 90 minutes to complete the exam and are only allowed one attempt. NO EXCEPTIONS! Test will be open from 03-04-12 at 8 a.m. to 03-07-12 at 11:30 p.m.

Week 8: March 5 – 9

Please read Chapter 9: Death Investigations

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 03-11-12

Week 9: March 12 – 16 Spring Break

No Classes

Week 10: March 19 – 23

Please read Chapter 10: Robbery

Please read Chapter 11: Assault and Related Offenses

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 03-25-12

Week 11: March 26 – 30

Please read Chapter 12: Missing and Abducted Persons

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 04-01-12

Week 12: April 2 -6

Please read Chapter 13: Crimes Against Children: Child Abuse and Child Fatalities

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 04-08-12

Third Exam will include questions from Chapters 9-13. You will have 90 minutes to complete the exam and are only allowed one attempt. NO EXCEPTIONS! Test will be open from 04-08-12 at 8 a.m. to 04-11-12 at 11:30 p.m.

Week 13: April 9 – 13

Please read Chapter 14: Theft Related Offenses

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 04-15-12

Week 14: April 16 – 20

Please read Chapter 15: Arson, Bombings and Terrorism

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 04-22-12

Week 15: April 23 – 27

Please read Chapter 16: Gangs, Organized Crime and Drugs-pages 543 to 561

Please read Chapter 17: White-collar and Computer Crime-pages 588-592 and 601-611

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 04-29-12

Week 16: April 30 – May 4

Please read Chapter 18: Preparation for Court

Answer Discussion Question due by 11:30 p.m. on 05-06-12

Final Exam Date: TBA

Evaluation/Grading Computation:

Your final grade will be based upon a combination of the following course requirements:

- Three exams 15% each
- Research Paper 10%
- Weekly Discussion Questions 10%
- Final Exam 20%
- Power Point Presentation 15%

Your exams and final exam will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, short answer and essay questions.

Your research paper will be a 5 to 7 page, typed double-spaced paper that will be due no later than April 9, 2012. Your paper can be written over any law enforcement topic. It must have at least three references, but you are encouraged to use more. Please use correct grammar, spelling and format for a research paper. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me for a meeting, as I will be happy to help you.

The weekly discussion questions will be taken from your chapter lesson assignments as we move through the course. These assignments will correspond with your required Discussion Board postings. Please respond to each Discussion Board question with a minimum 250 word response to a question that I will post weekly. Then, post responses in the Discussion Board to two other student's postings on the same topic. Please be more specific and substantial than using the term 'good job,' as you will be required to post a minimum 100 word response to two other students.

The power point presentation will cover one chapter in the book. I will assign each student a chapter. The student will then do a power point presentation for that one chapter. The power point presentation will be used as a study aid by you and the other students in the class, so doing a conscientious and thorough job of presenting the chapter is important. I will do the power point presentations for the first couple of weeks, so that you all can know what kind of presentation to do. This will be 15% of your grade.

Letter Grade Explanation:

90 to 100 = A
80 - 89 = B
70 - 79 = C
60 - 69 = D
59 and below = F

Student Resources:

The Odessa College Student Success Center is located on the first floor of the LRC Building. The purpose of the Odessa College Student Success Center is to provide assistance to students with meeting their academic and career goals at Odessa College and beyond. The services provided in the Student Success Center are free to every student enrolled at Odessa College.

Hours during the spring semester:

Monday—Thursday	7:45 am — 9:30 pm
Friday	7:45 am — 1 pm
Saturday & Sunday	1— 5 pm

The Learning Resources Center also has many resources available to aid students in their educational pursuits. Please go to www.odessa.edu for a full listing of available services.

Important Dates:

February 29, 2012: Deadline for spring degree applications

March 12 – 17, 2012: Spring Break – Campus Closed

April 6, 2012: Good Friday Holiday Observed – Campus Closed

April 13, 2012: Last day to drop or withdraw from a class with a ‘W’

May 7 – 10, 2012: Spring Final Exams

May 11, 2012: Spring Graduation

Academic Integrity:

Scholastic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed by board policies. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism and collusion. Please see your Odessa College Student Handbook for more information regarding academic dishonesty.

Please note that academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class and will result in a failing grade for all parties involved.

Changes to Syllabus:

DISCLAIMER: Each student is responsible for checking the syllabus frequently as it will be updated as often as needed.

Student Assistance:

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa Collage, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability Services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.