

# College of San Mateo

## Course Outline

- New Course  
 Update/No change  
 Course Revision (Minor)  
 Course Revision (Major)

Date: February, 2006

**Department:** Administration of Justice      **Number:** ADMJ-120

**Course Title:** Criminal Investigation      **Units:** 3

**Hours/Week:** Lecture: 3      **Lab:** 0      **By Arrangement:** 0

**Length of Course**

- Semester-long  
 Short course (Number of weeks \_\_\_)  
 Open entry/Open exit

**Grading**

- Letter  
 Credit/No Credit  
 Grade Option (letter or Credit/No Credit)

1. **Prerequisite** (Attach Enrollment Limitation Validation Form.)

2. **Corequisite** (Attach Enrollment Limitation Validation Form.)

3. **Recommended Preparation** (Attach Enrollment Validation Form.)

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 838 or ENGL 848 or equivalent; and ADMJ 102, and 104, and 106

4. **Catalog Description** (Include prerequisites/corequisites/recommended preparation.)

120 Criminal Investigation (3) Three lecture hours per week. Recommended Preparation: eligibility for ENGL838 or 848 or equivalent; and ADMJ 102, 104, and 106. Basic principles of criminal investigations. Includes human aspects of dealing with the public; specific knowledge necessary for handling crime scenes, interviews, evidence, surveillance, follow-up, technical resources, and case preparation. Includes POST Basic Learning Domains. (This course is part of the core curriculum.) (CSU/UC) (CAN AJ 8)

5. **Class Schedule Description** (Include prerequisites/corequisites/recommended preparation.)

ADMJ 120 Criminal Investigation

Basic principles of criminal investigation. Search, collection, preservation, and identification of physical evidence at crime scenes; technical resources. Recommended Preparation: eligibility for ENGL 838 or 848 or equivalent; and ADMJ 102, 104, and 106. Includes POST Basic Learning Domains. (CSU/UC) (CAN AJ 8)

6. **Student Learning Outcomes** (Identify 1-6 expected learner outcomes using active verbs.)

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

1. Recognize the value of and discuss the necessity for ethics, integrity and professionalism in the Criminal Justice System.\*
2. Compare, contrast, and employ techniques used when interviewing witnesses and interrogation suspects.
3. Demonstrate a working knowledge of crime scene investigation utilizing proper techniques of evidence collection and preservation and the value of types of forensic testing available.
4. Recognize the Constitutional protections, statutory laws, and case law against unreasonable searches and seizures, and identify the authority, responsibility, and potential for liability in the areas of search and seizure. \*
5. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the legal requirements for warrantless searches and distinguish between an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy versus the governments need to collect evidence.\*
6. Formulate the need for and organize pertinent information to obtain arrest warrants and search warrants.
7. Demonstrate a working knowledge of crime scene investigation utilizing proper techniques of evidence collection and preservation and the value of types of forensic testing available.

[\*Department SLO]

7. **Course Objectives** (Identify specific teaching objectives detailing course content and activities. *For some courses, the course objectives will be the same as the student learning outcomes. If this is the case, please simply indicate this in this section).*

The course is designed to:

1. Afford the student an understanding of the responsibilities of first responders to crime scenes.
2. Provide the student with an understanding of common legal terms, classification of crimes, and their punishments.
3. Develop a working knowledge of crime scene investigation, with collection and correct preservation of evidence.
4. Develop an understanding of what types of forensic testing is available and its relative value.
5. Develop an understanding of different techniques used in interviewing witnesses and interrogating suspects.
6. Develop an understanding of the rights afforded to citizens along with a police officer's responsibility to fulfill these rights, and the consequences of failing to do so.
7. Provide the student with the procedure for obtaining arrest warrants, the value of "Ramey Warrants", and the proper use of search warrants.
8. Acquaint the student with the POST Learning Domains relevant to these subjects.

8. **Course Content** (Brief but complete topical outline of the course that includes major subject areas [1-2 pages]. Should reflect all course objectives listed above. In addition, you may attach a sample course syllabus with a timeline.)

See Topical Outline

9. **Representative Instructional Methods** (Describe instructor-initiated teaching strategies that will assist students in meeting course objectives. Include examples of out-of-class assignments, required reading and writing assignments, and methods for teaching critical thinking skills.)

1. Required text readings on course material being covered in lecture.
2. Lecture on course material according to outline and supporting materials.
3. Handout material to support course content and provide extra study.
4. Overhead and other audio-visual presentations.
5. Assigned outside reading
6. Student demonstration and class critique

10. **Representative Methods of Evaluation** (Describe measurement of student progress toward course objectives. Courses with required writing component and/or problem-solving emphasis must reflect critical thinking component. If skills class, then applied skills.)

Objective 1: Recognize the value of and discuss the necessity for ethics, integrity and professionalism in the Criminal Justice System.\*

Evaluation Method: Study assignments, discussion

Objective 2: Compare, contrast, and employ techniques used when interviewing witnesses and interrogating suspects.

Evaluation Method: Study assignments, discussion, class demonstration, exam

Objective 3: Demonstrate a working knowledge of crime scene investigation utilizing proper techniques of evidence collection and preservation and the value of types of forensic testing available.

Evaluation Method: Study assignments, discussion, class demonstration, exam

Objective 4: Recognize the Constitutional protections, statutory law, and case law against unreasonable searches and seizures, as well as demonstrate a clear understanding of the authority, responsibility, and potential for liability in the areas of search and seizure. \*

Evaluation Method: Study assignments, discussion, exam

Objective 5: Demonstrate a clear understanding of the legal requirements for warrantless searches and distinguish between an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy versus the governments need to collect evidence.\*

Evaluation Method: role play and class room critique, study assignments, discussion, exam

Objective 6: Formulate the need for and organize pertinent information to obtain arrest warrants and search warrants.

Evaluation Method: Study assignments, discussion, exam

Objective 7: Demonstrate a working knowledge of crime scene investigation utilizing proper techniques of evidence collection and preservation, and the value of types of forensic testing available.

Evaluation Method: Study assignments, discussion, role play, exam

[\*Department SLO]

11. **Representative Text Materials** (With few exceptions, texts need to be current. Include publication dates.)

Text:

"Investigating a Homicide", by Timothy Sweetman and Adele Sweetman [Thompson/Wadsworth Publisher]

Basic Course Workbook Series [Student Materials]

"Search and Seizure" - Learning Domain 16/Current Version

"Laws of Evidence" - Learning Domain 17/Current Version

[California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)]

"Gould's Penal Code Handbook of California", Gould Publications, Longwood, FL (current year California Penal Code)

Prepared by:

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(Signature)

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Submission Date:

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