

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** ADMJ 120 **TITLE:** Criminal Investigation **C-ID:** AJ 140

Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours

Method of Grading: Letter Grade Only

Recommended Preparation:

Completion of or concurrent enrollment in ADMJ 100 and Eligibility for ENGL 100, or Eligibility for ENGL 105

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

Degree Credit

Transfer credit: CSU

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

Catalog Description:

This course addresses the techniques, procedures and ethical issues in the investigation of crime. Discussion points include organization of the investigative process, crime scene searches, interviewing and interrogating, surveillance, source of information, utility of evidence, scientific analysis of evidence and the role of the investigator in the trial process.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Recognize and discuss the criminal investigative process, including the related ethical issues.
2. Recognize and discuss the importance of evidence in the criminal investigative process.
3. Recognize and discuss the legalities and strategies of interview and interrogation.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

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

1. Recognize and discuss the criminal investigative process, including the related ethical issues.
2. Recognize and discuss the importance of evidence in the criminal investigative process.
3. Recognize and discuss the legalities and strategies of interview and interrogation.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

Lecture Content:

1. Introduction to preliminary investigation
 - A. Proceeding to the scene
 - B. Rendering aid to the injured
 - C. Arresting of the suspect
 - D. Locating and identifying witnesses
 - E. Interviewing witnesses
 - F. Securing the crime scene
 - G. Interrogating the suspect
 - H. Noting crime scene conditions and events
 - I. Arranging for the collection of evidence
 - J. Report writing
 - K. Yielding to follow-up investigations
2. Investigative aspects of search and seizure
 - A. Emergency searches of crime scenes
 - B. Crime scene search warrants
 - C. Administrative, probation and parole searches
 - D. Legal aspects in the physical seizure of evidence
3. Investigative aspects of admissions and confessions
 - A. Miranda Rule
 - B. Admonition and waiver of rights
 - C. Counsel issues
 - D. Questioning after assertion of rights
 - E. When Miranda does not apply
 - F. Miranda and minors

4. Investigative aspects of identification methods
 - A. Infield showup
 - B. Photographic lineup
 - C. Physical lineup
 - D. Other non-witness methods of identifications
5. Investigative aspects of corpus delicti - common crimes
 - A. Murder and manslaughter
 - B. Robbery
 - C. Rape and sex crimes
 - D. Aggravated assault
 - E. Cohabitation abuse
 - F. Burglary
 - G. Theft
 - H. Review of Evidence Code provisions relating to criminal investigations
6. Investigative resources
 - A. California Department of Justice
 - B. Criminalistics - Bureau of Forensic Services
 - C. Federal resources
 - D. Local resources - task force operations
 - E. Subject Matter Expert (SME)
7. Proper techniques for protecting a crime scene
 - A. Establish inner and outer perimeter
 - B. Assign personnel
 - C. Use of various types of physical barriers
 - D. Locating evidence and marking locations
8. Crime scene search
 - A. Initial survey
 - B. Search pattern
 - C. Contamination avoidance
 - D. Evidence identification
9. Proper techniques of identifying, collecting and preserving physical evidence in major felony investigations
 - A. Crime scene walkthrough
 - B. Document/Sketch location of all evidence
 - C. Photograph all evidence prior to collection
 - D. Nature and physical properties of various categories of evidence
 - a. Trace
 - b. Transfer
 - c. At-risk
 - E. Protect at-risk evidence
 - F. Collection, measuring, lighting equipment
 - a. Appropriate measures for packaging various types of evidence
 - i. Proper equipment
 - ii. Types of container and packaging material
 - iii. Specialty kits
10. Use of fingerprint, ballistics and DNA evidence
 - A. Identification of suspect's and victim's
 - B. Elimination of possible suspects
 - C. Identification of evidence
11. Incident/Crime report including a crime scene sketch and evidence reporting
 - A. Essential elements of a homicide investigative report
 - B. Importance and use of crime scene sketch
 - C. Evidence reporting
12. Proper procedures and responses for courtroom testimony
 - A. Preliminary considerations
 - B. Testimony preparation
 - C. Testifying
 - D. Cross-examination tactics
 - E. Expert witness
 - F. Rehabilitation of a witness
 - G. Impeachment

H. Follow-up investigations

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Activity
- C. Discussion

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Reports written on criminal investigation processing practiced in class

- pulling a print
- collecting evidence
- creating a Records Report
- entering evidence into record
- chain of custody

Resume preparation for presentation

Reading Assignments:

Reading assignments from the text

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Work
- B. Oral Presentation
- C. Written examination

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Dutelle, A. W.; Becker, R. F.. *Criminal Investigation*, 5th ed. Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2019

Origination Date: August 2021

Curriculum Committee Approval Date: September 2021

Effective Term: Fall 2022

Course Originator: Michelle Schneider