

CMJS 2053: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

1. Catalog Description
Survey of the techniques utilized in the location, preservation and presentation of evidence.
2. Prerequisites: CMJS 2003 or CMJS 2013
3. Credit, Contact, Local Hours: 3/3/3
4. Target Audience & Transfer
Designed for students majoring in criminal justice or who plan to seek employment in law enforcement. Successful completion of this course should prepare students for further study or employment in the criminal justice field.
5. General Course Outcomes
Students completing this course should be able to:
 - a. Knowledge. Obtain a foundation of facts, vocabulary and principles associated with the collection and examination of evidence in criminal cases. Preparation for employment in the criminal justice field.
 - b. Critical Thinking. Use the basic information obtained in this course to analyze issues relating to the collection of evidence and its relationship to the commission of a crime.
6. Required Texts: Swanson, Chamelin, Tempto, Criminal Investigations 6th Edition
New York, NY: Glencoe/McGraw Hill
7. Topics:
 - I. History of Criminal Investigations in the Law Enforcement Field
 - II. Investigation of Crime
 - A. The Crime Scene
 - B. Physical Evidence
 - C. Skills of an Investigator
 - III. Criminalistics
 - A. The Crime Laboratory
 - B. Behavior Analysis
 - IV. Specific Criminal Investigations
 - A. Injury and Death Investigations
 - B. Sex Related Offenses
 - C. Robbery/Burglary/Thefts
 - D. Computer Crime
 - E. Agriculture and Environmental Crimes
 - F. Arson
 - G. Drug Abuse
 - V. Understanding Criminal Procedure
 - A. Initiation of Criminal Process
 - B. Rules of Evidence
 - C. Court Testimony
 - VI. The Future of Criminal Investigation
8. Required Methods of Instruction
Three hours classroom lecture per week with additional outside assignments focusing on the collection, preservation and introduction of evidence in criminal cases.
9. Required Forms of Assessment
 - a. Students will be given a pre and post test written by individual faculty but which will include some questions from a Test Bank under development by the program Coordinator.

The information from these pre and post tests will be analyzed each semester so that the faculty can target areas of insufficient learning and accomplishment.

b. Students will be given periodic examinations covering selected topics of the course so that when the course has been completed, students will have been tested on all topics set out above. Each such test will contain a critical thinking element to measure the student's understanding of analytical matters and their competency in rational thinking.

10. Resources: Arkansas Rules of Criminal Procedure NWAAC Library
United States Supreme Court Reports Benton County Law Library or
Internet