INDIANA TECH

Course Syllabus Cover Page – Spring 2021

Course Number: CJ 2500

Course Title: Basics of Criminal Investigation

Course Description:

A general theoretical framework for the practice of investigating criminal acts. The components of all investigations; crime scene protocol, collection and preservation of physical evidence, sources of information, and interview and interrogation will be among the topics explored. Investigative features of particular crimes (homicide, robbery, rape, larceny, motor vehicle theft, etc.) will also be a focus of this class. 3 credits. (3 plus 0)

Prerequisites: CJ 1100.

Credit hours: 3

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Explain the historical evolution of the investigative function in American law enforcement.
2. Describe the major legal constraints that guide law enforcement activities during criminal investigations.
3. Define crime scene, and the basic procedural activities that occur during the processing of such scenes; Distinguish between preliminary and follow-up investigative activities.
4. Explain the process of interview versus the process of interrogation and the techniques associated with those information gathering procedures.
5. List the six basic interrogatory investigative questions and detail the significance of writing effective investigative reports.
6. Summarize the decision-making process used to assign a case for follow-up; Elaborate on the follow-up investigative process.
7. Define and distinguish forensics and criminalistics; Describe the features of an effective crime laboratory and highlight various evidence gathering services found in such labs.
8. Distinguish the specific investigative procedures needed to effectively examine crimes related to: death, assault, sex crimes, robbery, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, computer crimes, and arson (crimes against children will be explored, time permitting..
9. Discuss the role of the investigator as a witness during a criminal trial.

01/05/2021

INDIANATECH

College of Professional Studies
CJ 2500 Basics of Criminal Investigation
Online Course Syllabus

Instructor Information
Please see Professor Profile at the Blackboard instructional site.

Course Schedule
Please see Course Schedule in the Course Syllabus area of the Blackboard instructional site.

Online Course Policies
All of the online courses taken by students are required to follow the policies posted online at http://online.indianatech.edu/tech-policies/policies/. Please review the posted policies carefully. If you are unable to abide by the policies listed, please contact the Warrior Information Network (WIN) at 888.832.4742 and request to withdraw from this course.

Textbook
Swanson, C., Chamelin, N., Territo, L., & Taylor, R. (2006). *Criminal investigation* (9th ed.). Boston MA: McGraw Hill.
Grading Events & Grading Criteria
Unless otherwise specified, all assignments must be submitted via Blackboard.

Assignment	Points
Course Preparation Quiz	10 points
Discussion Board 5 @ 10 pts each	50 points
Quizzes 5 @ 50 pts each	250 points
Final Paper	200 points
Total	**510 points**

Discussion Board - 50 points
A total of 10 points will be awarded for attention and participation in class. Participation will be determined by completing Discussion Board questions and posting comments on each student's response. Each student will be required to post a thread as well as post a comment on two (2) other student's thread to receive full point. Late or missing posts and/or responses will result in a deduction in points. Any post made after the end of the module will not be graded.
Final Paper - 200 points
A final paper a minimum of 1000 words will be required. The topic of the paper can be anything discussed during the course. **Examples of paper topics are: Discussing Miranda v. Arizona; Constitutionality of search and seizure; Forensic Evidence; etc.**

The text must be cited a minimum of four (4) times in your paper as well as at least one outside source. Wikipedia is **not** valid source for a scholarly paper due to a lack of verified information. Your topic must be approved prior to completion of paper. **Topics will be due for approval by week #2. You are to submit me your choice of topics by the end of week #2.**

Paper Requirements:
The assignments shall require that you conduct a more detailed analysis of a subject area than what is covered in our text. The assignments must be original work conducted by the student. Plagiarism or abuse of research will not be tolerated and shall result in reporting to the university and a failing grade. Guidelines for acceptable research methods are noted in the rules and regulations of Indiana Tech. Three topical papers will be assigned during the course and shall be graded in accordance with the guideline for the assignment. The topical paper is worth 200 points.

The class projects are designed to aid you in critically thinking about a variety of criminal justice topics and to get you engaged in the problem-solving process. They will be utilized in class to stimulate discussion and to prompt any questions you may have about the criminal justice system. *The class projects are to be word processed, size 12 font, double spaced with one-inch margins around the page (default), using the Times New Roman letter style.* Your responses should be thorough and scholarly. Avoid jargon and street language as you are completing each of the responses to these questions. For instance, "cop" is generally unacceptable, "police officer" is preferred. A person may be "mentally ill" or "legally insane," not "nuts."

Papers shall be written in the APA style and be 1000+ words in length. **They shall reference the text formally at least four times.** A word count shall be included at the end of the paper and a reference section will also be included by the student.   Remember this is not a book report. This is a written analysis and critical review of an assigned topic. Papers must be typed in paragraph form. Address topics in paragraph form and do not use a bulleted or numbered list.

Use the following link to The Owl at Purdue University for the proper use of the APA format:
   http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

Paper Requirements
Points breakdown: 200 points total per paper

- Grammar/spelling/references/completeness: 50 points
  - Correct grammar/spelling, proper format, and proper citing of sources throughout paper.

- Idea Development and Clarity of Information: 50 points
    - Information presented is clear and insightful
    - Ideas should be in-depth and complex
- Completeness of Information: 50 points
    - All required information is included
    - The information is developed in-depth
- Application of Course Principles: 50 points
    - There should be an in-depth integration of course principles

Quizzes - 250 points
The quizzes for this course will be multiple choice and true/false questions. They may cover information from discussion, the textbook reading for that week. Each quiz will consist of 25 questions and will account for 50 points of your final grade.

Grading Scale
The following grading scale will be used to assign a grade at the end of the course:

Percentage Achieved	Grade	Percentage Achieved	Grade	Percentage Achieved	Grade
93% or above	A	80% or above	B-	70% or above	C-
90% or above	A-	77% or above	C+	60% or above	D
87% or above	B+	73% or above	C	Below 60%	F
83% or above	B				

Late Assignments
All assignments and required online activities are due according to the deadline listed in the course schedule. Granting deadline extension is the course instructor's autonomy.

Incompletes
If you are unable to complete the requirements for this course due to extenuating circumstances, an Incomplete grade (I) may be granted if you meet the general guidelines stated below.

General Guidelines for submitting a course incomplete request:
- More than 50% of the course session has elapsed.
- The student has encountered an unexpected situation that is beyond his or her control.
- The student is:
    - in good academic standing -- up to date on all the course assignments and has at least an overall passing grade,
    - able to complete all the remaining coursework within a session (5 weeks for an undergraduate course and 6 weeks for a graduate course) that immediately follows the session the student is currently enrolled, and
    - able to provide support documentations to substantiate the need for extra time should a session is not enough to complete the course requirements.

If an Incomplete is granted, the instructor will set a deadline for all work to be completed. **The deadline cannot go past one (1) session.** All incomplete grades and deadlines are subject to approval by the designated University authority.

Course Related Communication

Online courses are conducted in an accelerated format. Timely communication is very important. When receiving emails from your classmates or instructor, please respond as soon as you can.

Students are REQUIRED to use their Indiana Tech email account for all course related communication. The most direct, and effective, way to email your course instructor and classmates, is by using the Send Email function within the Blackboard course site. When you use the Send Email function, you automatically receive a carbon copy of the email you sent. In the event when you need to substantiate your claim that you did email your classmates or instructor, you can show that carbon copy to the person(s) who requested it.

Please note that Blackboard only permits you to send email, it does not provide you with the check email function. All the emails your classmates and instructor send to you will be delivered to your Indiana Tech email account. You are strongly encouraged to check your Indiana Tech email account regularly, preferably several times a week, to minimize the likelihood of miscommunication.

The University policy requires each online course instructor to respond to a student's email within 24 hours. Unless there is an extraneous situation that prevents the instructor from following this rule, you can expect to hear from the instructor within 24 hours. If you don't receive a reply within 24 hours, please do not hesitate to follow up with another email or forward the carbon copy of the email you sent to OnlineSupport@IndianaTech.edu with a note "Please help. It's been 24 hours and I have not heard from my instructor" and the University support staff will act on your behalf to contact your course instructor.