

Saint Leo University

CRM 230

Introduction to Crime Scene Investigation

Course Description:

This course covers the various methods associated with investigating a crime scene. Special emphasis is placed on sequential processing of the crime scene to avoid the loss and/or the contamination of evidence. Students successfully completing this course will be aware of the critical concerns of crime scene processing and the methods that are employed to eliminate those concerns to include proper crime scene search patterns and the appropriate methods to plot the location of evidence when it is discovered.

Prerequisite:

None

Textbook(s):

- Fish, J. T., Miller, L. S., Braswell, M. C., and Wallace, E. W. (2014). Crime scene investigation (3rd ed.). Waltham, MA: Anderson Publishing. ISBN-13: 978-1-4557-7540-8.
- Erickson, E. (2014). Criminalistics laboratory manual: The basics of forensic investigation. Waltham, MA: Anderson Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-4557-3140-4.
- American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN-13: 978-1-4338-0561-5.

Learning Outcomes:

As a result of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the Saint Leo University core value of community as a component of crime scene investigation.
2. Discuss and analyze various methodologies used in crime scene processing.
3. Evaluate the basic principles of crime scene investigation.
4. Recognize the relationship between evidence and the crime scene.
5. Analyze data from old cases to determine appropriateness of investigative methods employed.

Core Value:

Personal Development: Saint Leo University stresses the development of every person's mind, spirit, and body for a balanced life. All members of the Saint Leo University community must demonstrate their commitment to personal development to help strengthen the character of our community.

Evaluation:

The following criteria will be used to determine a final grade in the course:

Methods of Assessment—

Assignment	Total Points	Weighting (%)
Opinion Paper	100	05.0
Lab Experiments w/Reports (4 @ 100 pts each)	400	20.0
Quizzes (3 @ 100 pts each)	300	20.0
Discussions (8 @ 100 points each)	800	20.0
BYOCS: Case Information	100	02.5
BYOCS: Case References	100	02.5
BYOCS: Case Report	100	10.0
BYOCS: Case Presentation	100	10.0
Final Exam	100	10.0
Total	1100	100.0%

Grade Score (%)

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	0-59

Quizzes

There will be three quizzes consisting of 25 short answer questions. The test-taking period will be 60 minutes for each quiz. **There will a final examination in the course.**

Opinion Paper

In Module 1, students will write an opinion paper based on an episode of *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*.

Physical Lab Experiments

It is important for a student interested in crime scene investigation to learn the skills necessary to complete certain evidentiary preservation techniques in the field. As such, students will complete lab assignments in the Modules relevant to the topics discussed in the course.

Exams

Final Exam is cumulative, consisting of short answer questions

BYOCS Project

Each student will create a “crime scene” scenario with their group that utilizes the principles learned throughout the course. Understanding the process of a case investigation from start to finish requires students to identify their ability to excel in the face of a challenge while maintaining their integrity. See the BYOCS Guidelines below for more information regarding the project deliverables.

Written Assignments and the APA Format:

The Department of Criminal Justice recognizes the value of excellence in writing for students in Criminal Justice. In part, each professor is expected to provide guidance on improving a student’s writing skills. Students are required to use only the APA (American Psychological Association) format to write and develop a scholarly paper for submission in the Social Sciences. APA has been adopted by the Department as its writing standard for all academic written assignments. No other writing style is acceptable.

APA is the American Psychological Association, and the style is one of many in the academic world used to regulate the language, citations, procedure, and formatting of manuscripts and other examples of writing in the social sciences. Please be consistent throughout each written paper. *Refer to APA Guide under Resources on the Course Menu for APA specifics.*

All projects, assignments, or papers submitted for grading will be required to include an abstract and reference page. All references are to be cited using the American Psychology Association (APA) format (6th edition). Other formats will not be accepted. For each scholarly paper and group assignment(s), the work will be assessed using an individual grading rubric for each assignment. This tool and process helps the students identify and professor measure the key points necessary to successfully complete written or group assignments. *Wikipedia is not an appropriate source for any scholarly writing and is not permitted for any assignment in this program.*

Assessment of the Learning Outcomes:

Course Learning Outcome	Assessment Method
1	BYOCS
2	Quiz, Final Exam, BYOCS
3	Quiz, Final Exam, BYOCS
4	Quiz, Final Exam, BYOCS
5	BYOCS

Course Schedule:

Module 1 Crime Scene Investigation: Personnel and Evidence

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Identify the major types (and subtypes) of evidence found at crime scenes.
- List the disciplines of specialized personnel who may work a crime scene.
- Explain the importance of the first officer's duties at a crime scene.

Readings CSI: Chapters 1, 2, 14 and Criminalistics 3, 10

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an introduction to the class	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post an initial response to Discussion Board 1	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit the Opinion Paper Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Idea and Begin working on the BYOCS	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 2 Crime Scene Processing: Identification and Individualization

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Distinguish between the primary and secondary responsibilities of the crime scene investigator in preserving evidence.
- Explain the steps and procedures required to conduct a thorough crime scene investigation.
- Prioritize the protocol for processing a crime scene, utilizing sketches, photographs, and collection of evidence.

Readings CSI: Chapters 3 and Criminalistics: Chapters 1, 2

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to Discussion Board 2	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 1	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Lab 1 - Photography	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Lab 2 - Sketching	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 3 CSI: Impression Evidence and Investigation of Sexual Battery and Assault Cases

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Compare and contrast the types of impression evidence found at crime scenes.
- Identify the requirements and equipment needed for processing a sexual battery/assault crime scene.
- Examine the importance of impression evidence at sexual battery/assault crime scenes.

Readings CSI: Chapters 5, and Criminalistics: Chapters 8, 13, 14

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to Discussion Board 3	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit BYOCS - Case Information	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Lab 3 – Casting Lab	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Lab 4 – Tool Marking Exercise	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 4 Investigation of Crime Scenes: Burglary and Motor Vehicle

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Formulate an outline of steps for processing a burglary crime scene.
- Identify the types of evidence found at motor vehicle accident investigations.
- Apply the evidence collection procedures previously learned to investigation of motor vehicle accidents, burglaries, and other property crimes.

Readings CSI: Chapters 4, 12, and Criminalistics: Chapters 5, 6

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to Discussion Board 4	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit BYOCS - References	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 2	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 5 CSI: Homicide and Other Bodily Assault Cases

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Prioritize the processing methodology for evidence at death investigation scenes to include various injury indications and blunt force traumas.

- Identify the various stages of the medico-legal post-mortem investigation to include the autopsy.
- Identify potential biohazards and biological evidence at a death investigation.

Readings CSI: Chapters 6, 7, 8, 13 and Criminalistics: Chapters 4, 11, 12, 15

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to Discussion Board 5	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 3	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 6 Putting It Together: Courtroom Presentation of Evidence

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Identify techniques used in testifying about physical evidence.
- Explain basic courtroom terminology as it applies to crime scene investigation.
- Interpret the value of good processing techniques as they apply to testifying the facts of a case.

Readings CSI: Chapters 15, and Criminalistics: Chapters 17

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to Discussion Board 6	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit BYOCS – Case Report	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 7 BYOCS Case Presentations

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Create a visual presentation of the crime scene case previously submitted for the course.
- Constructively critique a fellow learner's presentation, providing helpful feedback.
- Describe effective oral and written presentation skills for CSI investigators.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to Discussion Board 7	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit BYOCS – Case Presentation	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 8 CSI: Beyond the Classroom

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Compare lessons learned with fictional application of knowledge and skills.
- Explain why crime scene procedures are required to operate so that evidence in a case is accepted in court.
- Assess crime scene techniques (and key concepts learned) as they apply to real life criminal cases.
- Constructively critique a fellow learner's presentation, providing helpful feedback.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an initial response to Discussion Board 8	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete the Final Exam	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT