

Saint Leo University

CRM323

Criminal Investigation

Course Description:

This course covers the fundamental components of investigating criminal offenses for the purpose of apprehending suspects and preparing cases for adjudication. Special attention is paid to the scientific aspects of gathering and analyzing evidence, and the overall management of major cases is stressed. The course objective will be to provide the student with an in-depth examination of the science and art of criminal investigations. Class presentations and crime scene simulations will focus on the use of physical evidence, investigative techniques, due process considerations, and the role of the physical, biological, and social sciences in case development.

Prerequisites:

POL123, CRM220

Textbooks:

Swanson, C., Chamelin, N., Territo, L., & Taylor, R. (2019). *Criminal investigation* (12th ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education. ISBN-13: 978-0-07-802657-7

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN-13: 978-1-4338-0561-5; ISBN-10: 1-4338-0561-8

Course Objectives:

As a result of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the Saint Leo University core value of Integrity in criminal investigations.
- Define legal concepts and terms used in criminal investigations and their relationships to the law enforcement policy.
- Explain the field of criminalistics and the milestones of forensics as related to a criminal investigation.
- Relate the importance of processing a crime scene to identify potential evidence.
- Develop a working knowledge of the crime laboratory process in support of a criminal investigation.
- Describe types of crimes that are investigated.

Topics:

- The general principles and practices of criminal investigation
- Clear and concise information pertaining to preliminary and follow-up criminal investigations
- The rule of law as it applies to search and seizure, interview and interrogation and line-up and confrontation issues
- The do's and, more importantly, the don'ts necessary to efficiently process a crime scene
- The importance of teamwork in solving criminal cases
- The rules of evidence from collection to court presentation
- "Real world" case histories and knowledge as presented by respected professionals in the criminal investigations field
- The ideal time, place, and method for conducting and recording interviews and suspect interrogations
- The absolute necessity to insure Constitutional safeguards of all parties during the course of a criminal investigation
- The legal requirements reference search and arrest warrants
- The proper procedure for documenting and subsequently presenting the criminal investigation in court

- An understanding that not all cases can be solved and therefore the need for structured case management systems

Saint Leo University Core Value Focus:

Integrity: The commitment of Saint Leo University to excellence demands that its members live its mission and deliver on its promise. The faculty, staff, and students pledge to be honest, just, and consistent in word and deed.

Evaluation:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Total points</u>	<u>Total % of overall grade</u>
Exams (2 @ 100 points/25% each)	200	50
Research Paper	100	20
Assignments (8 @ 10 points/1.75% each)	80	14
Discussions (8 @ 15 points/2% each)	120	16
Total	500	100%

The course also includes eight ungraded self-assessments to help you prepare for the exams.

Grading Scale:

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

Research Paper:

Students are required to conduct research and prepare a five-page scholarly paper. By the conclusion of Module 3, each student will post a proposed topic to the Research Topic discussion board. The topic must be directly related to the field of criminal investigation. The research paper will be submitted to the Assignment box and Turnitin.com by the conclusion of Module 7. See the **Research Paper Guidelines** link in the Start Here menu for more information regarding this assignment.

Midterm/Final Exam:

There will be two comprehensive examinations. The first examination (Midterm Exam) will consist of 100 objective type questions (multiple-choice and true/false). The questions will be taken from a combination of reading assignments from Chapters 1-11. This exam will have a value of 100 points

The second examination (Final Exam) will consist of 100 objective type questions (multiple-choice and true/false). These questions will be based upon a combination of reading assignments from Chapters 12-22. This exam will have a value of 100 points.

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.*

Module 1

Objectives:

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

- Outline the historical development of the subject of criminal investigation. Identify the process for conducting a preliminary and follow-up investigation.
- Describe and explain the field of criminalistics and the milestones of forensics and how they relate in a criminal investigation.
- Define the legal concepts of arrest, due process, probable cause, the Bill of Rights, the Silver Platter Doctrine, search and seizure, Fruits of the Poisonous Tree Doctrine, stop and frisk, and law enforcement agency policies.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
View the Internet Activities sections found at the end of each assigned chapter	
Post introduction to the class	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete the Self-Assessment	

Module 2

Objectives:

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

- Outline the importance and significance of developing facts and evidence to support findings that will produce a logical and defensible conclusion to prove or disprove the elements of a crime.
- Define physical evidence, how is it identified and developed, and summarize the techniques and methods of collective physical evidence.
- Relate the importance of processing of a crime scene to identify potential evidence including documentary, dentistry and odontology, bloodstains, firearms, glass and paint, tire and footprints, and fiber evidence.

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
View the Internet Activities sections found at the end of each assigned chapter	
Post your initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Self-Assessment	

Assignments:

Module 3

Objectives:

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

- Outline the importance and significance of the initial and follow-up phases of an investigation to develop facts and evidence to support findings that will produce a logical and defensible conclusion to prove or disprove the elements of a crime.
- Develop a working knowledge of the crime laboratory process in support of the investigation and related challenges and the importance of the investigators responsibilities as the case officer responsible for the successful investigation of the crime.
- Describe the types of homicides and differences between weapons used to murder human beings.

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
View the Internet Activities sections found at the end of each assigned chapter	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete the Self-Assessment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post Research Paper topic	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Assignments:

Module 4

Objectives:

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

- List and describe the types of sex-related crimes committed by both males and females today.
- Determine how an investigator would build a criminal case to prove a pattern of sex-related crimes.
- Define the existing United States law as well as state laws on human trafficking and explain and illustrate the differences between forced labor, involuntary servitude, peonage, and debt bondage.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
View the Internet Activities sections found at the end of each assigned chapter	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete the Self-Assessment	
Complete Midterm Exam	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 5

Objectives:

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

- Analyze and list the various types of robbery crimes and explain the investigative process of collecting evidence required to prosecute a person for the crime of robbery.
- Explain and illustrate the differences between a crime of burglary and larceny and then compare and contrast to an economic crime.
- Describe and outline why economic crimes are not victimless crimes.
- Define some examples of organized theft schemes and how investigators approach those types of investigations.

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	

Assignments:

View the Internet Activities sections found at the end of each assigned chapter	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete the Self-Assessment	

Module 6**Objectives:**

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

- Compare and contrast the function of law enforcement to investigate and bring to justice suspects who engage organized schemes to defraud and the various resources available to the investigator.
- Identify the economic gain for engaging in agricultural and environmental crimes, as well as using arson and explosives to commit crimes.
- Explain the proactive investigative processes available to law enforcement to work by covert means to infiltrate and apprehend suspects who have designed complicated crimes.
- Define some examples of internet-based organized theft schemes and how investigators approach those types of investigations.

Assignments:

Assignments:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
View the Internet Activities sections found at the end of each assigned chapter	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete the Self-Assessment	

Module 7**Objectives:**

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

- Explain the differences of scheduled drugs as outlined in the Controlled Substances Act.
- Demonstrate the investigative strategies undertaken by law enforcement to investigate and prepare for prosecution investigations charging suspects with drug crimes.
- Identify the goals of Terrorism and then relate the current incidents of Terrorism with the long-range goals of the United States.

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
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Assignments:

Read the assigned materials	
View the Internet Activities sections found at the end of each assigned chapter	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete the Self-Assessment	
Submit the Research Paper	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 8**Objectives:**

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

- Identify the goals of Terrorism and then relate the current incidents of Terrorism with the long-range goals of the United States.
- Demonstrate by outlining the appropriate temperament of the investigator and his/her approach to the crime scene investigation process.
- Construct an investigative plan on how the investigation of a crime should be conducted and the follow-up process.
- Analyze the relevant evidence, prepare yourself as the investigator by reviewing the facts and present those findings to the prosecutor in support of filing criminal charges and the subsequent trial.

Assignments:

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
View the Internet Activities sections found at the end of each assigned chapter	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete the Self-Assessment	
Complete the Final Exam	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT