

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for AJ 63

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Effective: Fall 2014

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

AJ 63 — CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION — 3.00 units

Fundamentals of investigation, crime scene search and recording; collection and preservation of physical evidence; scientific aids; modus operandi; sources of information; interviews and interrogation; follow-up and case preparation of specific crimes

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. demonstrate the basic techniques of note taking;
2. analyze and compile data for use in formal reporting of investigations;
3. list the major investigative techniques involved in investigating a crime;
4. demonstrate basic investigative proficiencies by synthesizing a situation and reducing the crime to reportable elements;
5. list the basic steps in interviewing, including non-verbal observation and communication;
6. write an interview report;
7. describe and list other evidentiary items in a proper format;
8. perform a crime scene search.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Aspects of investigation
 1. Psychological aspects
 2. Investigative techniques
 3. The investigation process
 4. Reports used in crime scene investigation
 5. Investigative concepts for specialized investigations
- B. Managing the crime scene
 1. Search for, collection and preservation of evidence
 2. Photography and scene sketching
- C. Scientific analysis of evidence
 1. Traditional tools and procedures
 2. Emerging technologies
- D. Interviewing and interrogation of witnesses and suspects
- E. Case preparation

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Guest Lecturers** -
- B. **Demonstration** -
- C. **Lecture** -
- D. **Research** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Homework assignment in answering questions in assigned chapters B. Complete a crime scene report from a videotaped example. C. Role play a witness interview. D. Prepare a case for prosecution, including the crime scene investigation, interview and interrogation reports, and scientific analysis of relevant evidence.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Research Projects
4. Papers
5. Class Participation
6. Home Work

B. **Frequency**

- A. Daily attendance and participation
- B. Periodic quizzes
- C. Midterm and Final Exams
- D. Research Project

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Swanson, Chamelin, Territo and Leonard, *Criminal Investigation*, . 11th ed., McGraw-Hill Publishing Company., 2011.
2. Weston and Lushbaugh *Criminal Investigation: Basic Perspectives*. 12th ed., Pearson/Prentice Hall Publishing, 2011.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: