

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for AJ 63

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Effective: Spring 2016

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

AJ 63 — CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION — 3.00 units

This course addresses the techniques, procedures, and ethical issues in the investigation of crime, including organization of the investigative process, crime scene searches, interviewing and interrogating, surveillance, source of information, utility of evidence, scientific analysis of evidence and the role of the investigator in the trial process.

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:

- A. Identify and explain the role of documentation in the criminal investigative process
- B. Recognize, identify and explain the implications of a given piece of evidence in a criminal process
- C. Identify critical ethical issues relating to criminal investigation
- D. Describe successive evolutionary stages of the criminal investigative process
- E. Identify procedures for first responders to crime scenes
- F. Describe the duties related to the basic functions of crime scene management (management control, evidence search and processing, general area investigation)
- G. Identify role of forensic examination in a criminal investigative process
- H. Compare and contrast the legalities and strategies of interview and interrogation
 - I. Identify key information sources and data systems available to investigators
 - J. Explain the role of the investigator in the judicial process

V. CONTENT:

- A. Crime scene management
- B. Utility of evidence
- C. Documentation of evidence
- D. Follow-up investigation
- E. Interviewing (witness identification)
- F. Interrogating techniques
- G. Physical evidence
- H. Laboratories
- I. Ethical challenges
- J. Surveillance
- K. Source of information
- L. Trial process

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Discussion** -
- B. **Simulations** -
- C. **Guest Lecturers** -
- D. Case Analysis
- E. **Lecture** -
- F. **Demonstration** -
- G. **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. Field Trips
- 5. Class Participation

B. **Frequency**

- 1. Daily grading of attendance and participation
- 2. Quizzes will be given approximately 4-5 times per semester
- 3. One Midterm and one Final Exam will be given during the semester
- 4. A Semester-long Research Project presented as a paper or oral report
- 5. Field Trip to County Crime Lab once per semester

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Lyman, Michael. *Criminal Investigations: The Art and the Science*. 7th ed., Prentice-Hall, 2013.
- 2. Orthmann, Christine, and Karen Hess. *Criminal Investigations*. 10th ed., Delmar Cengage Learning, 2012.
- 3. Fish, Jaqueline, Larry Miller, Michael Braswell, and Edward Wallace. *Crime Scene Investigations*. 3rd ed., Anderson Publishing/Routledge, 2014.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: