

CJ 268
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
Spring 2008

Professor: James Fitch, B.S., M.S.
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Class Hours: Wednesday Night 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Classroom: CJC A-213
Office Hours: M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Always by appointment

TEXTBOOK

Swanson, Charles R.; Chamelin, Neil C.; Territo, Leonard; Taylor, Robert W. *Criminal Investigation* (9th Ed.), McGraw-Hill, 2006.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Description: A brief overview of scientific crime detection and more detailed discussion of techniques for case management and documentation; the concept of proof; the impact of emergent technology on the investigative process; interacting with victims and witnesses; and interviewing suspects.

Objectives:

1. Acquaint the student with the basic theories, principles, and practices of the criminal investigation process.
2. Introduce the student to some basic techniques and tools used in the criminal investigation process.
3. Examine the relevant issues pertaining to the criminal investigation process in the major crimes.
4. Improve student analytical and abstract thinking.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance will be recorded pursuant to University policy. Role will be taken twice each class session. **More than five absences will result in failure of the course.** This rule applies to **all** absences for whatever reason. No distinction is made between “excused” and “unexcused” absences.

GRADING POLICY

Exam 1	100 points	A	373 + points
Exam 2	100 points	B	332 to 372 points
Exam 3	100 points	C	290 to 331 points
Project	100 points	F	289 points or less
Attendance	15 points		
Total	415 points		

MAKE UP EXAM POLICY

No make-up examinations will be given unless arrangements have been made prior to the examination date.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled *Student Guidelines*, distributed by Division of Student Services" (available in the Office of Student Life or online at <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/studlife.html#conduct>) for a description of possible sanctions in cases involving academic dishonesty.

Any student in this class who is involved in any form of dishonesty (including the presentation of someone else's work as your own, etc.) will receive an "F" for this class. Depending upon the severity of the violation, further action may be taken to have the student dismissed from the University.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM

Any electronic telecommunications devices (cell phones, personal pagers, etc.) should be set to "silent" mode or turned off prior to the beginning of each class session. If you require the use of one of these devices, please leave the classroom prior to initiating use.

WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS

The weekly reading assignments for this course are listed in the “Annotated Outline” section of the syllabus. Each student is expected to have read the weekly reading assignment **before the class session** during which the topics will be covered. Students are expected to participate in scholarly debate of the issues pertinent to the course.

PROJECT

“Technology and Criminal Investigation.” You will be required to research a new method of investigation or new investigation technology. Students will then prepare a short synopsis of this new advance in investigation (2 to 3 pages). You will then present a short (10 to 15 min.) presentation to the class.

ANNOTATED OUTLINE

01/16/07	Introduction and Overview of the Class Chapter 1 – Introduction to Investigation
01/23/07	Chapter 1 (cont.) – Introduction to Investigation Chapter 2 - Legal Aspects of Investigation
01/30/07	Chapter 3 – Investigators, the Investigative Process, and the Crime Scene
02/06/07	Chapter 4 – Physical Evidence
02/13/07	Chapter 5 – Interviewing and Interrogation Chapter 6 – Field Notes and Reporting
02/20/07	Exam I
02/27/07	Chapter 7 – The Follow-Up Investigation and Investigative Resources Chapter 8 – The Crime Lab and Crime Scene Reconstruction
03/05/07	Chapter 9 – Injury and Death Investigations
03/12/06	Spring Break
03/19/07	Chapter 10 – Sex-Related Offenses
03/26/07	Chapter 11 – Crimes against Children
04/02/07	Chapter 12 - Robbery Chapter 13 - Burglary

04/09/07 Exam II

04/16/07 Chapter 15 – Vehicle Thefts and Related Offenses
Chapter 16 – Computer Crime

04/23/07 Chapter 19 – Recognition, Control, and Investigation of Drug Abuse

04/30/07 Chapter 21 – The Trial Process and the Investigator as a Witness
Mock Trial Exercise

05/07/07 Projects due – Oral presentations

05/14/07 Final Exam

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html

SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>