Course Description

Presents a study of the development of the investigative procedures and techniques from early practices to modern-day forensic science capabilities with an emphasis on leadership, investigation, and case preparations.

Prerequisites

BCJ 2000 and BCJ 3601

Course Textbook


Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Define terms related to criminal investigation.
2. Outline the history of criminal investigation.
3. Analyze the process of criminal investigation.
4. Examine types of criminal offenses.
5. Explain the relationship between criminal investigation and the courtroom process.

Credits

Upon completion of this course, the students will earn three (3) hours of college credit.

Course Structure

1. **Unit Learning Objectives:** Each unit contains learning objectives that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
2. **Written Lectures:** Each unit contains a Written Lecture, which discusses lesson material.
3. **Reading Assignments:** Each unit contains Reading Assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook. Supplemental Reading is provided in the Unit I study guide to aid students in their course of study.
4. **Key Terms:** Key Terms are intended to guide students in their course of study. Students should pay particular attention to Key Terms as they represent important concepts within the unit material and reading.
5. **Discussion Boards:** Discussion Boards are a part of all CSU term courses. Information and specifications regarding these assignments are provided in the Academic Policies listed in the Course Menu bar.
6. **Unit Assessments:** This course contains eight Unit Assessments, one to be completed at the end of each unit. Assessments are composed of multiple-choice questions and short essay questions.
7. **Project:** Students are required to submit for grading a Project in Units II, IV, and VI. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below.
8. **Article Critique:** Students are required to submit for grading an Article Critique in Unit VIII. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below.
9. **Final Exam (Proctored):** Students are to complete a Final Exam in Unit VIII. All Final Exams are proctored—see below for additional information. You are permitted four (4) hours to complete this exam, in the presence of your approved proctor. This is an open book exam. Only course textbooks and a calculator, if necessary, are allowed when taking proctored exams. The Final Exam is composed of multiple-choice and short essay questions.

10. **Ask the Professor:** This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.

11. **Student Break Room:** This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates.

### Unit II Project

**Search Warrant Affidavit:** You are assigned to the narcotics or VICE unit at your local police agency. On three separate occasions (01/01, 04/01, and 06/01) undercover officers have purchased felony amounts (100 grams on each occasion) of marijuana from John Doe. On 06/01, your undercover agent observed numerous marijuana plants growing in the inner bedroom of the residence and has reason to believe other areas of the residence are being used to grow marijuana. As you near the residence, there is a slight smell of marijuana emanating from the residence. The house has four bedrooms with a garage that faces south; it is brown in color and has a white fence around the back yard. After a lengthy investigation, your team has obtained the following reliable information:

- **Suspect:** John Doe (resident and owner)
- **Additional occupants:** None
- **Address:** 1111 NW 1st Ave., Your City, Your State, Your County

Using the resources in your textbook, prepare and write a search warrant affidavit based on your case. The search warrant affidavit must contain the following information:

- Reasons to request the search
- Name of the officer requesting the warrant
- Items to be seized
- Specific place to be searched
- Signature of the issuing Judge

Your project should be approximately 1-2 pages in length and written in APA format. **Do not e-mail your paper directly to your professor.**

### Unit IV Project

Serial, mass, sensational, and spree murders add to the complexity of murder investigations. In this project, you will choose one type of murder (listed below), and provide one example/name of a murderer that falls into this category.

- **Serial murder**
- **Mass murder**
- **Sensational murder**
- **Spree murder**

For example, you may choose serial murder and your example could be Ted Bundy. In this case, you would describe a serial murderer and detailed reasons why Ted Bundy is in this category.

Begin with an introduction detailing the type of murderer you have chosen. Explain in detail the definition/characteristics of this type.

In succeeding paragraphs, introduce the person you have chosen as an example. Give his/her name, a brief description of his/her background, crimes committed, their capture and sentencing.

Your project should be at least 2 pages in length and written in APA format. **Do not e-mail your paper directly to your professor.**
Unit VI Project

According to the FBI, between 1980 and 2000, 250 of the 335 incidents confirmed as or suspected to be terrorist acts in the United States were carried out by American citizens. In this project, you will choose one example of domestic terrorism in the United States, and describe the motivation behind the incident. You are encouraged to use your textbook, the Internet, and/or the CSU Online Library to conduct your research.

For example, you may choose to write about the Oklahoma City bombing. In this case, describe the incident and what motivated Timothy McVeigh to carry out this horrific act of violence.

Your project should include:

- An introduction to the terrorist, including a brief summary of his/her background
- How he/she came to be involved with the terrorist organization
- What statement he/she wished to make with the act
- How the act was carried out
- The effects of the terrorist act
- Capture/punishment of the offender

Your project should be at least 2 pages in length and written in APA format. Do not e-mail your paper directly to your professor.

Unit VIII Article Critique

There are several reasons why defense attorneys attack the credibility of witnesses. For example, defense attorneys may attempt to demonstrate the witness’s bias, or to suggest that they are lying. For this assignment, you will discuss a trial where the defense successfully attacked a witness’s credibility. You are required to find one article related to the example you have selected and use it in your response to support your arguments.

For instance, you might want to discuss the O.J. Simpson trial and how the defense successfully attacked Detective Mark Fuhrman’s credibility. In the Simpson trial, the defense team played audio tapes of Detective Fuhrman repeatedly using racist remarks. Fuhrman was indicted on one count of perjury due to his testimony. He pled no contest and was sentenced to three years of probation.

For your report, consider including the following:

- An introduction to the case you are discussing
- A brief overview of the people involved
- A short summary of the article
- A firm example of how a witness’s credibility was attacked

Your written article critique should be a minimum of one page and no more than two pages in length and should be written following APA style guidelines. Do not include the title page or reference page in your page count. You are allowed to use the Internet or CSU Online Library to locate your article.

Final Examination Guidelines

Final Exams are to be administered to students by an approved Proctor. CSU approves two, flexible proctoring options: a standard Proctor, who is chosen by the student and approved by the university, or Remote Proctor Now (RP Now), an on-demand, third-party testing service that proctors examinations for a small fee.

A standard Proctor is an unbiased, qualified individual who is selected by the student and agrees to supervise an examination. You are responsible for selecting a qualified Proctor, and the Proctor must be pre-approved by CSU.

Students choosing RP Now must have an operational webcam/video with audio, a high-speed internet connection, and the appropriate system rights required to download and install software.

To review the complete Examination Proctor Policy, including a list of acceptable Proctors, Proctor responsibilities, Proctor approval procedures, and the Proctor Agreement Form, go to the myCSU Student Portal from the link below.
You are permitted four (4) hours to complete this exam, in the presence of your approved Proctor. This is an open book exam. Only course textbooks, writing utensil, and a calculator, if necessary, are allowed when taking proctored exams.

**APA Guidelines**

CSU requires that students use the APA style for papers and projects. Therefore, the APA rules for formatting, quoting, paraphrasing, citing, and listing of sources are to be followed. A document titled “APA Guidelines Summary” is available for you to download from the APA Guide Link, found in the Learning Resources area of the myCSU Student Portal. It may also be accessed from the Student Resources link on the Course Menu. This document provides links to several internet sites that provide comprehensive information on APA formatting, including examples and sample papers.

**CSU Grading Rubric for Papers/Projects**

The course papers will be graded based on the CSU Grading Rubric for all types of papers, unless otherwise specified within assignment instructions. In addition, all papers will be submitted for electronic evaluation to rule out plagiarism. Course projects will contain project specific grading criteria defined in the project directions. To view the rubric, click the Academic Policies link on the Course Menu, or access it through the CSU Grading Rubric link found in the Learning Resources area of the myCSU Student Portal.

**Communication Forums**

These are non-graded discussion forums that allow you to communicate with your professor and other students. Participation in these discussion forums is encouraged, but not required. You can access these forums with the buttons in the Course Menu. Instructions for subscribing/unsubscribing to these forums are provided below.

[Click here for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and post to the Communication Forums.](#)

**Ask the Professor**

This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content questions. Questions may focus on Blackboard locations of online course components, textbook or course content elaboration, additional guidance on assessment requirements, or general advice from other students.

Questions that are specific in nature, such as inquiries regarding assessment/assignment grades or personal accommodation requests, are NOT to be posted on this forum. If you have questions, comments, or concerns of a non-public nature, please feel free to email your professor. Responses to your post will be addressed or emailed by the professor within 48 hours.

Before posting, please ensure that you have read all relevant course documentation, including the syllabus, assessment/assignment instructions, faculty feedback, and other important information.

**Student Break Room**

This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates. Communication on this forum should always maintain a standard of appropriateness and respect for your fellow classmates. This forum should NOT be used to share assessment answers.
Grading

Discussion Board (8 @ 1.25%) = 10%
Unit Assessments (8 @ 3.75%) = 30%
Project (3 @ 10%) = 30%
Article Critique - Unit VIII = 10%
Final Exam = 20%
Total = 100%

Course Schedule/Checklist (PLEASE PRINT)

The following pages contain a printable Course Schedule to assist you through this course. By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted.
By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted. Please keep this schedule for reference as you progress through your course.

### Unit I: Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation

| Review: | ✔ Unit Study Guide |
| Read: | ✔ Chapter 1: Foundations of Criminal Investigation  
| | ✔ Chapter 2: The Crime Scene: Field Notes, Documenting, and Reporting  
| | ✔ Chapter 3: Processing the Crime Scene  
| | ✔ Supplemental Reading: See Study Guide |
| Discuss: | ✔ Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time) |
| Submit: | ✔ Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time) |

### Unit II: Follow-Up Investigative Process

| Review: | ✔ Unit Study Guide |
| Read: | ✔ Chapter 4: Identification of Criminal Suspects: Field and Laboratory Processes  
| | ✔ Chapter 5: Legal Issues in Criminal Investigation |
| Discuss: | ✔ Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)  
| | ✔ Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time) |
| Submit: | ✔ Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)  
| | ✔ Project by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)  
| | ✔ Proctor Approval Form |

### Unit III: Obtaining Information

| Review: | ✔ Unit Study Guide |
| Read: | ✔ Chapter 6: Interviews and Interrogations  
| | ✔ Chapter 7: Criminal Intelligence and Surveillance Operations  
| | ✔ Chapter 8: Management of Informants and Undercover Operations |
| Discuss: | ✔ Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)  
| | ✔ Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time) |
| Submit: | ✔ Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time) |
# BCJ 3701, Criminal Investigation

## Unit IV
### Crimes Against Persons: Death Investigations, Robbery, and Assaults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review:</th>
<th>Unit Study Guide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Read: | Chapter 9: Death Investigations  
Chapter 10: Robbery  
Chapter 11: Assault and Related Offenses |
| Discuss: | Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)  
Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time) |
| Submit: | Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)  
Project by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time) |

### Notes/Goals:

## Unit V
### Crimes Against Persons: Missing Persons and Crimes Against Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review:</th>
<th>Unit Study Guide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Read: | Chapter 12: Missing and Abducted Persons  
Chapter 13: Crimes Against Children: Child Abuse and Child Fatalities |
| Discuss: | Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)  
Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time) |
| Submit: | Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time) |

### Notes/Goals:

## Unit VI
### Crimes Against Property: Theft-Related Offenses, Arson, Bombings, and Terrorism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review:</th>
<th>Unit Study Guide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Read: | Chapter 14: Theft-Related Offenses  
Chapter 15: Arson, Bombings, and Terrorism |
| Discuss: | Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)  
Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time) |
| Submit: | Assessment by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)  
Project by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time) |

### Notes/Goals:
## BCJ 3701, Criminal Investigation

### Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit VII</th>
<th>Vice and Profit-Related Crime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review:</strong></td>
<td>☐ Unit Study Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Read:</strong></td>
<td>☐ Chapter 16: Gangs, Organized Crime, and Drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Chapter 17: White-collar and Computer Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discuss:</strong></td>
<td>☐ <strong>Discussion Board Response:</strong> Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ <strong>Discussion Board Comment:</strong> Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Submit:</strong></td>
<td>☐ <strong>Assessment</strong> by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ <strong>Request to take Final Exam</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notes/Goals:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit VIII</th>
<th>Preparation for Court</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review:</strong></td>
<td>☐ Unit Study Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Read:</strong></td>
<td>☐ Chapter 18: Preparation for Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discuss:</strong></td>
<td>☐ <strong>Discussion Board Response:</strong> Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, Midnight (Central Time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ <strong>Discussion Board Comment:</strong> Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Submit:</strong></td>
<td>☐ <strong>Assessment</strong> by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ <strong>Article Critique</strong> by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ <strong>Final Exam</strong> by Tuesday, Midnight (Central Time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notes/Goals:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>