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.

Course Textbook


Course Learning Outcomes

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 Outcomes: Each unit contains learning outcomes that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
2. Unit Lessons: Each unit contains a Unit Lesson, 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. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Ask the Professor: This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.
10. Student Break Room: This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates.
CSU Online Library

There is a virtual library with resources, including both journals and ebooks, to support your program and your course at Columbia Southern University. eResources are accessible 24 hours a day/7 days a week from the CSU Online Library gateway page. To access the library, log into myCSU, and then click on CSU Online Library. Resources are organized in the library by title, but if you click on Research Guides, you will find eResources arranged by subject.

The Library Reference service is available 7 days a week; you can reach CSU’s virtual librarians by e-mailing thevirtuallibrarian@columbiasouthern.edu. These professional librarians will be glad to help you develop your research plan or to assist you in any way in finding relevant, appropriate, and timely information.

Librarian responses may occur within minutes or hours, but it will never take more than 24 hours for a librarian to send a response to the e-mail address you have provided. Replies to reference requests may include customized keyword search strategies, links to videos, research guides, screen captures, attachments, a phone call, live screen sharing, and meeting room appointments, as well as other forms of instruction.

Unit II Assignment

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 backyard. 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.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit IV Case Study

Serial, mass, sensational, and spree murders add to the complexity of murder investigations. In this Case Study, 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 or her name, a brief description of his or her background, crimes committed, his or her capture, and sentencing.

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

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit VI Case Study**

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 Case Study, 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 Case Study should include:

- An introduction to the terrorist, including a brief summary of his or her background
- How he or she came to be involved with the terrorist organization
- What statement he or 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 Case Study should be at least 2 pages in length and written in APA format. **Do not e-mail your paper directly to your professor.**

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**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.

[http://mycsu.columbiasouthern.edu](http://mycsu.columbiasouthern.edu)

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.
**Blackboard Grading Rubrics**

**Assignment Rubrics**

One or more assignments in this course utilizes a Blackboard Grading Rubric. A rubric is a tool that lists evaluation criteria and can help you organize your efforts to meet the requirements of an assignment. Your professor will use the Blackboard Grading Rubric to assign points and provide feedback for the assignment.

You are encouraged to view the assignment rubric before submitting your work. This will allow you to review the evaluation criteria as you prepare your assignments. You may access the rubric in “My Grades” through the “Tools” button in your course menu. Click the “View Rubric” link to see the evaluation criteria for the assignment. Upon receiving your assignment grade, you may view your grade breakdown and feedback in the rubric.

**CSU Grading Rubrics for Papers/Projects and Assessments**

The Learning Resource area of the myCSU Student Portal provides the rubrics, and information on how to use them, for written response questions in Unit Assessments, and Research Papers/Projects.

The course writing assignments will be graded based on the CSU Grading Rubric for all types of writing assignments, 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 rubrics, 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/unsubscribeing to these forums are provided below.

Once you have completed Unit VIII, you MUST unsubscribe from the forum; otherwise, you will continue to receive e-mail updates from the forum. You will not be able to unsubscribe after your course end date.

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

Unit Assessments (8 @ 3%) = 24%
Unit II Assignment = 20%
Unit IV Case Study = 13%
Unit VI Case Study = 13%
Final Exam = 30%
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](#)

**Submit:**
- Assessment

**Notes/Goals:**

### 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](#)

**Submit:**
- Assessment
- Assignment
- [Proctor Approval Form](#)

**Notes/Goals:**

### 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](#)

**Submit:**
- Assessment

**Notes/Goals:**
## Course Schedule

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

**Review:**
- [ ] Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- [ ] Chapter 9: Death Investigations
- [ ] Chapter 10: Robbery
- [ ] Chapter 11: Assault and Related Offenses

**Submit:**
- [ ] Assessment
- [ ] Case Study

**Notes/Goals:**

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

**Review:**
- [ ] Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- [ ] Chapter 12: Missing and Abducted Persons
- [ ] Chapter 13: Crimes Against Children: Child Abuse and Child Fatalities

**Submit:**
- [ ] Assessment

**Notes/Goals:**

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

**Review:**
- [ ] Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- [ ] Chapter 14: Theft-Related Offenses
- [ ] Chapter 15: Arson, Bombings, and Terrorism

**Submit:**
- [ ] Assessment
- [ ] Case Study

**Notes/Goals:**

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