Administrative Unit: Criminal Justice Administration & Human Services Department

Course Prefix and Number: CJAD 201

Course Title: Criminal Investigation

Number of: 
Credit Hours: 3  
Lecture Hours: 3  
Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Provides the student with a working knowledge of criminal investigation principles, techniques, law, and procedure. The investigation process is studied from basic theoretical concepts to the application of the basic elements for prosecution of criminal cases. Included is a study of crime scene investigation, interrogation, burglary, assault, sex crimes, death cases, homicide and murder, organized crime and terrorism. Offered Fall.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): CJAD 101.

Text(s): Many suitable textbooks are available from various publishers and the following list is not comprehensive. Other textbooks may be judged by individual instructors to be more suitable in meeting Course objectives. Many current textbooks have companion websites, and the instructor is encouraged to enhance the course experience for the student by utilizing available technology.


Course Objectives:

- To understand investigative techniques and procedures in criminal justice.
- To understand the roles and functions of uniformed and plainclothes officers in the investigation of criminal offenses.
- To gain experience with common legal framework involved in the investigation of criminal offenses.
- To gain experience with terminology used by professionals in the field of criminal investigation.
- To understand the competing values, theories and concepts involved with Criminal Procedure and to enable the student to apply them to situations involving conflicts between the Government and the individual.
To enhance critical thinking, research and writing skills in criminal investigation issues.
To understand contemporary research in the area of criminal investigation.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

- Define criminal investigation as a concept
- Explain the theoretical underpinnings of criminal investigation
- Demonstrate knowledge of the history of criminal investigation
- Describe the processes of inductive and deductive reasoning
- Interpret, recognize and apply important Supreme Court decisions involving the 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, and 14th amendments to the US Constitution.
- Demonstrate knowledge of current investigative problems and issues.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the steps of the criminal investigative process
- Describe the process and procedures of obtaining and serving warrants.
- Describe the process and procedures of obtaining and serving warrants.
- Describe the process and procedures of making an arrest.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the constitutional limitations upon criminal investigators.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the constitutional requirements of criminal investigators.
- Appraise current literature, materials and developments regarding criminal investigation.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

- Overview of the criminal investigation process
- Legal considerations
- The myth and reality of crime solving
- The preliminary investigation
- Documenting the crime scene
- Search and seizure
- Identification of criminal suspects
- The criminal intelligence function
- Undercover operations
- Arrests
- Interviews and interrogations
- Informant management
- Covert investigations
- Physical evidence
- Testifying in court

In an effort to better prepare students for future educational pursuits and professionalism in their chosen fields, it is highly recommended that all courses bearing the CJAD prefix contain both a writing and speech communication component. Formal writing projects should be prepared in APA format.
Recommended maximum class size for this course: 20

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Michael D. Lyman, Ph.D.                                      
Name                                      Signature

Date: April 20, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

Office of Academic Affairs
12/04