COURSE OUTLINE

JUST 203 – Criminal Investigations

Prepared By: Susan Buckley

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Department of Criminal Justice
May 2015
JUST 203 – Criminal Investigations

A. **TITLE:** Criminal Investigations

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 203

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:** 3 hours per week

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** This course is designed to provide the skills and knowledge necessary to conduct a thorough preliminary investigation of crimes. Techniques used to investigate common categories of crimes will be discussed. A major emphasis in this course will be the preparation and execution of investigative plans as they relate to a team approach. Other skills will include interviewing, crime scene processing, and basic forensic examination of evidence.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES:** Pre-requisite: JUST 101, Introduction to Criminal Justice or permission of instructor

J. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
   By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

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<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Institutional SLO</th>
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<td>1. Extend the legal authorities and limitations of statutory law to police procedures.</td>
<td>1. Communication  2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>2. Recognize and communicate viable investigative steps necessary for the successful conclusion of a criminal investigation.</td>
<td>1. Communication  2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>3. Distinguish appropriate investigative methods pertaining to various categories of crime.</td>
<td>1. Communication  2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>4. Interpret the rules of search and seizure as they pertain to the collection of evidence.</td>
<td>2. Critical Thinking  3. Professional Competence</td>
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K. **TEXTS:**

L. **REFERENCES:** None

M. **EQUIPMENT:** Technology Enhanced Classroom

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**
   - Exams
   - Quizzes
   - Assignments

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I. **Criminal Investigation: An Overview**
   A. Definition of criminal investigation.
   B. Basic functions of an investigator.
   C. Characteristics of an investigator.
   D. The response of the first responder at a crime scene.
   E. Arrest and interview of crime scene suspects
   F. Crime scene/evidence protection and security.
   G. Meaning/importance of *res gestae* statements.
   H. Determining if a crime has been committed.
   I. Responsibility for solving crime.
   J. Investigator interactions with other personnel/agencies.
   K. Avoiding civil lawsuits.

II. **Documenting the Scene**
   A. Characteristics and importance of note taking.
   B. Filing notes.
   C. Use of notes in court.
   D. Purposes of crime scene photography
   E. Purposes of crime scene sketching.
   F. Types of crime scene sketches.
   G. Types of photographic equipment.

III. **Writing Effective Reports**
   A. Importance of Reports
   B. Uses of Reports
   C. The Audience
   D. Common Problems with Many Police Reports
   E. Recording and Dictating Reports
F. Computerized Report Writing
G. Evaluating your Report
H. Citizen Online Report Writing
I. The Final Report

IV. Search and Seizure
   A. Fourth Amendment
   B. Exclusionary Rule
   C. Legal Justification
   D. Search warrants
   E. Consent searches
   F. Stop and frisk
   G. Incident to arrest
   H. Investigatory Searches
   I. Expectation of privacy

V. Physical Evidence
   A. Collection evidence
   B. Preserving evidence
   C. Examination of evidence
   D. Reconstruction of scenes
   E. Admissibility of evidence in court

VI. Obtaining Information
   A. Source of information
   B. Interview and interrogation
   C. Juvenile interviews

VII. Identifying Suspects
   A. Developing suspects
   B. Locating and arresting suspects
   C. Surveillance

VIII. Death Investigations
   A. Classifications of homicide
   B. Elements of the crime
   C. Manners of death
   D. Causes of death
   E. Mechanism of death
   F. Preliminary investigation
   G. Autopsy

IX. Victimization
   A. Assault
   B. Elements of crime
   C. Domestic violence
D. Stalking
E. Elder abuse

X. Sex Offenses
A. Classifications of sex offenses
B. Sexual offenders
C. Interviewing victims
D. Medical Examinations
E. Collection of Evidence

H.
I. Suspects

XI. Crimes Against Children
A. Extent of the problem
B. Types of abuse
C. Offenders
D. Victims
E. Preliminary investigation
F. Interviewing children
G. Court testimony

XII. Robbery
A. Elements of the crime
B. Preliminary investigation
C. Investigative tactics

XIII. Burglary
A. Elements of the crime
B. Preliminary investigations
C. Crime scenes
D. Evidence
E. Fencing property
F. Recovering stolen property
G. Suspect identification

XIV. Larceny
A. Elements of the crime
B. Types of larceny
C. Fraud
D. White collar crime

XV. Motor Vehicle Theft
A. Types of vehicle theft
B. Elements of crime
C. Preventing vehicle theft

XVI. Arson and explosions

A. Elements of the crime
B. Types of arson
C. Types of explosives
D. Preliminary investigations
E. Crime scenes
F. Safety considerations
G. Special tactics

XVII. Computer Crime

A. Elements of the crime
B. Viruses
C. Search warrants
D. Seizure of computers
E. Recovery of data

XVIII. Drugs and Organized Crime

A. Drug categories
B. Possession or use of controlled substances
C. Sale of controlled substances
D. Clandestine drug labs
E. Marihuana possession and grows
F. Activities of organized crimes
G. Organized crime groups
H. Methods of investigation

XIX. Gangs

A. Gangs defined
B. Types of gangs
C. Gang activities
D. Investigating gang activity
E. Hate crimes
F. Ritualistic crimes

XX. Terrorism and Homeland Security

A. Classification of terrorist acts
B. Groups in US
C. Methods
D. Federal response to terrorism
E. Civil rights in the fight against terrorism

XXI. Preparing for and Presenting Cases in Court

A. Writing the final report
B. Preparing a case for prosecution
C. Cross examination v direct examination

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: N/A