

CJC –221 Investigative Principles

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites.

Corequisites: None

Course description. This course introduces the theories and fundamentals of the investigative process. Topics include crime scene/incident processing, information gathering techniques, collection/preservation of evidence, preparation of appropriate reports, court presentations, and other related topics. Upon completion, students should be able to identify, explain, and demonstrate the techniques of the investigative process, report preparation, and courtroom presentation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completing requirements for this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the historical roots of criminal investigation in policing.
2. Explain the investigator's role and the criminal investigation process.
3. Explain the importance of physical evidence to the investigation process.
4. Explain a crime scene, interview, and interrogation of witnesses and suspects, the use of informants, and the surveillance techniques.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Historical Highlights of Criminal Investigation
 - A. The first major federal investigative agencies and their responsibilities.
 - B. The Supreme Court's due process revolution and its impact on policing.
 - C. The historical development of fingerprint identification.
 - D. The concept and practice of DNA typing.
- II. The Investigator Role and the Investigative Process
 - A. The purposes and functions of a crime scene investigation.
 - B. The rules for the crime scene investigator.
 - C. Potential threats to investigator's health and safety.
 - D. The major considerations that dominate the crime scene search.
 - E. The differences and similarities between interviews and interrogations.
 - F. The steps in preparing for an interview and an interrogation.
 - G. Assess the challenges in relying on eyewitness identification.
 - H. Interviewing processes and techniques.
 - I. The impact of *Miranda v. Arizona* and other landmark Supreme Court cases on police interrogation.
 - J. Interrogation processes and techniques.
 - K. The methods and importance of documenting an interview and interrogation.

- L. The importance of field notes.
- M. Distinguish between basic and primary investigative questions. List the six primary investigative questions.
- N. Formats for basic incident reports.
- O. The purpose and objectives of surveillance.
- P. The methods for conducting photo and live line-ups.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIAL:

The instructor will determine the textbook and other instructional material.