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Administration of Justice (ADMJ) 1505 Criminal Investigation (3 Units) CSU

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: None

Advisory: Successful completion of English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This course addresses the techniques, procedures, and ethical issues in the investigation of crime, including organization of the investigative process, crime scene searches, interviewing and interrogating, surveillance, source of information, utility of evidence, scientific analysis of evidence and the role of the investigator in the trial process. C-ID: AJ 140

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text such as: Swanson, Charles, Neil C. Chamelin, Leonard Territo, and Bob Taylor. *Criminal Investigation*. McGraw-Hill Higher Education. New York, New York. 2012. 11th Ed. Print.

Additional Required Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the role of documentation in the criminal investigative process,
2. Recognize, identify and explain the implications of a given piece of evidence in a criminal process,
3. Identify critical ethical issues relating to criminal investigation,
4. Describe successive evolutionary stages of the criminal investigative process,
5. Identify procedures for first responders to crime scenes,
6. Describe the duties related to the basic functions of crime scene management (management control, evidence search and processing, general area investigation),
7. Identify role of forensic examination in a criminal investigative process,
8. Compare and contrast the legalities and strategies of interview and interrogation,
9. Identify key information sources and data systems available to investigators, and
10. Explain the role of the investigator in the judicial process.

Course Scope and Content:

- Unit I Criminal Investigation
 - A. The history and structure of criminal investigation
 - a. Stages in criminal investigation
 - B. The criminal investigation function of police
 - C. The legal significance of evidence

- Unit II Crime Scene Management
 - A. Duties of the 1st officer
 - B. Identifying and securing crime scene
 - a. methods
 - b. personnel
 - c. equipment
 - C. Search methods
 - D. Locating and preserving evidence
 - a. crime scene sketching
 - b. photography and electronic media
 - c. victim(s) identification
 - d. witness(es) identification

- Unit III Sources of Evidence
 - A. Crime scene sketching
 - B. Types of physical evidence
 - C. Types of forensic evidence
 - D. Blood spatter and stain interpretation
 - E. Victim(s)
 - F. Witness(es)
 - G. Other

- Unit IV Utility of Evidence
 - A. Uses of evidence
 - B. Relevant evidence
 - C. Direct and circumstantial evidence
 - a. weight of evidence
 - b. circumstantial evidence
 - c. character
 - d. other acts of evidence
 - e. offers to plead guilty
 - f. circumstantial evidence involving the victim
 - D. Testimonial and real evidence
 - E. Substitutes for evidence

- Unit V Documentation of Evidence
 - A. Evaluation and analysis of evidence
 - B. Recording, collecting, and preserving evidence

- a. Legal issues
- C. Chain of custody
- D. Photography and its role in the investigation
- E. Field notes
- F. Reports
 - a. accuracy
 - b. organization
 - c. grammar

- Unit VI Interviewing
- A. Types of interviews
 - B. Preparatory steps
 - C. General strategies
 - D. Setting the stage
 - E. Empathy, validation and support
 - F. Questioning techniques
 - G. Closure

- Unit VII Interrogating Techniques
- A. Types of interviews
 - B. Preparatory steps
 - C. General strategies
 - D. Setting the stage
 - E. Empathy, validation and support
 - F. Questioning techniques
 - G. Closure

- Unit VIII Physical Evidence
- A. Role of physical evidence
 - B. Identification and documentation of physical evidence
 - C. Processing of physical evidence
 - D. Preservation of physical evidence
 - E. Chain of custody

- Unit VIII Search Warrants
- A. Process/steps for obtaining a search warrant
 - B. Requirements for the service of a search warrant
 - C. Search warrant return
 - D. Special warrants
 - a. RICO
 - b. wiretapping
 - c. tracing
 - d. sneak and peak
 - e. other

- Unit IX Laboratories and Forensic Evidence

- A. The role of forensic evidence
- B. The role of laboratories
 - a. Identification
 - b. Comparison
 - c. Analysis
- C. Identification and documentation of forensic evidence
- D. Analysis of forensic evidence
- E. Preservation of forensic evidence
- F. Chain of custody

Unit X Ethical Challenges

- A. Fourth, fifth, and sixth amendment rights
- B. Entrapment
- C. Privacy issues
- D. Interrogation techniques
- E. Other

Unit XI Surveillance

- A. Surveillance methods
- B. Undercover or covert activities

Unit XII Follow-up Investigation

- A. Types of follow-up investigation
- B. Purpose of follow-up investigation

Unit XIII Differences in Investigations

- A. Types of crime
 - a. crimes against persons
 - b. crimes against property
 - c. complex crimes
 - i. drugs and narcotics
 - ii. conspiracy cases
 - iii. organized crime
 - iv. hate crimes
 - v. terrorism
 - vi. cyber crime
- B. Modification of investigation by type of crime

Unit XIV Source of Information

- A. Key information sources
- B. Data systems
- C. Emerging sources

Unit XV Trial Process

- A. Introduction to the trial process
- B. Case preparation guidelines

- C. Courtroom demeanor and expert witnesses
- D. Witness testimony

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

- 1. Studying textbook(s) or other materials
- 2. Completing required reading including case studies
- 3. Completing required written exercises
- 4. Completing project assignments
- 5. Library research
- 6. Internet research

Methods of Instruction:

- 1. Lectures
- 2. Class discussions
- 3. Audio/Visual presentations
- 4. In- class scenarios
- 5. Group discussion
- 6. Research and study of materials

Methods of Evaluation:

- 1. Substantial writing assignments including:
 - a. essay exams
 - b. research paper using APA or other generally accepted social science format
- 2. Objective and subjective examinations/quizzes
- 3. Case analysis
- 4. Projects
- 5. Homework assignments
- 6. In class exercises/presentations
- 7. Forum responses and interaction with other students based on assigned readings from criminal justice literature/or internet sites