



## ADMJ 124 - Introduction to Investigation Course Outline

Approval Date: 12/09/2021

Effective Date: 08/12/2022

### SECTION A

**Unique ID Number** CCC000185860

**Discipline(s)** Administration of Justice

**Division** Criminal Justice Training

**Subject Area** Administration of Justice

**Subject Code** ADMJ

**Course Number** 124

**Course Title** Introduction to Investigation

**TOP Code/SAM Code** 2105.00 - Criminal Justice/Police Science\* / C -  
Occupational

**Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum** Periodic course update, textbook update, revision of course learning outcomes.

**Units** 3

**Cross List** N/A

**Typical Course Weeks** 18

**Total Instructional Hours**

#### Contact Hours

**Lecture** 54.00

**Lab** 0.00

**Activity** 0.00

**Work Experience** 0.00

**Outside of Class Hours** 108.00

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**Total Contact Hours** 54

**Total Student Hours** 162

**Open Entry/Open Exit** No

**Maximum Enrollment** 35

**Grading Option** Letter Grade or P/NP

**Distance Education Mode of Instruction** On-Campus  
Hybrid  
Entirely Online

### SECTION B

**General Education Information:**

### SECTION C

**Course Description**

**Repeatability** May be repeated 0 times

**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, sources of information, utility of evidence, scientific analysis of evidence and the role of the investigator in the trial process.

**Schedule Description**

## SECTION D

### Condition on Enrollment

1a. Prerequisite(s): *None*

1b. Corequisite(s): *None*

1c. Recommended: *None*

1d. Limitation on Enrollment: *None*

## SECTION E

### Course Outline Information

#### 1. Student Learning Outcomes:

- A. Analyze principles and applications of statutory and Constitutional law, particularly the requirements adhered to by law enforcement, courts, and corrections.
- B. Produce written communications that meet the standards for transfer and a criminal justice system professional.
- C. Examine bias and cultural competence in the criminal justice system.

#### 2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Understand general investigative principles and demonstrate this knowledge through class discussion, short research papers, and written essay examinations with 60% accuracy.
- B. Describe successive evolutionary stages of the criminal investigative process.
- C. Describe the duties related to the basic functions of crime scene management (management control, evidence search and processing, general area investigation).
- D. Explain the role of the investigator in the judicial process.
- E. Identify and explain the role of documentation in the criminal investigative process
- F. Explain how bias can impact and an investigator's ability to be objective.
- G. Explain how the cultural competence of an investigator impacts a criminal investigation.
- H. Recognize, identify and explain the implications of a given piece of evidence in a criminal process.
- I. Identify critical ethical issues relating to criminal investigation.
- J. Identify procedures for the first responders to crime scenes.
- K. Identify role of forensic examination in a criminal investigative process.
- L. Compare and contrast the legalities and strategies of interview and interrogation.
- M. Identify key information sources and data systems available to investigators.
- N.

#### 3. Course Content

- A. The role of the investigator
- B. How implicit and explicit bias can impact objectivity
- C. How cultural competence helps an investigator
- D. Crime scene management
- E. Utility of evidence
- F. Documentation of evidence
- G. Follow up investigations

- H. Interviewing (witness identification)
- I. Interrogation techniques
- J. Physical evidence
- K. Laboratories
- L. Ethical challenges
- M. Surveillance
- N. Sources of information
- O. Trial process
- P.

#### 4. Methods of Instruction:

##### Lecture:

**Other:** Lecture; using technology when appropriate Application; practicing and assessing the skills presented in the course content Presentation of evidence; both written and verbal

**Explain how the online adaptation of the methods of instruction aligns with the course**

**outcomes:** Discussions will be facilitated using the discussion board in Canvas. Lectures will be delivered using audio recordings, video recordings, or supplemental reading. Projects will be facilitated by using the assignment option in Canvas. Oral presentation will be facilitated using the Canvas video recorder, YouTube, or similar technology. Field trips will be offered in the same way as a face-to-face class.

**5. Methods of Evaluation:** Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

##### Typical classroom assessment techniques

Exams/Tests -- For example: 1. A final exam with multiple-choice, true-false and or short essay questions about procedures for documenting physical evidence commonly found at a crime scene. 2. A mid-term exam requiring students to outline the steps required to secure a crime scene.

Papers -- For example: 1. A narrative style police report outlining the steps of a criminal investigation. 2. A paper explaining the steps required for investigating a death.

Oral Presentation -- For example: 1. Providing testimony in the role of an investigator during a mock trial based on a scenario provided by the instructor. 2. A oral presentation to the class on how to collect and document various types of physical evidence.

Projects -- For example: 1. Work in a small group to process a mock crime scene including collecting and documenting evidence and conducting a preliminary interview of witnesses. 2. Develop a working guide for the processing of common types of crime scenes.

Field Trips -- For example: 1. Tour the Napa County Crime Lab. 2. Tour the Napa County Morgue.

Class Work -- For example: 1. Collect fingerprints from a simulated crime scene set up by the instructor. 2. Diagram a crime scene based on a simulated incident created by the instructor.

Final Exam --

Additional assessment information:

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Letter Grade or P/NP

**6. Assignments:** State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

##### A. Reading Assignments

1.

After reading Chapter 8, "Computer-Aided Investigations and Computer Crime", interview a Napa Valley College official and determine what security measures are used

to prevent unauthorized computer access to student records.

2.

Access <http://icje.org/id114.htm> and identify two entrapment problems in handling informants.

**B. Writing Assignments**

1.

After collecting/evaluating the available evidence, prepare a summary which details the following objectives of a legal inquiry:

- a. Did a criminal violation as described in a code or statute occur?
- b. Where and at what time and date did the crime occur?
- c. Who were the individuals involved in the planning, execution and after effects of the violation?
- d. Are there any witnesses to the criminal activity?
- e. Is there evidence of the offense?
- f. In what manner or by what method was the crime committed?
- g. Is there any indication of guilt or innocence to aid the judicial officials in going forward with a criminal case?

2.

Given a mock crime scene, locate, protect, recover, package, or present any relevant evidence in a legally competent manner.

**C. Other Assignments**

1.

Prepare a research paper on the history and development of a current "gang" operating in California. What investigative techniques identified in this course would law enforcement agencies most likely use when obtaining evidence to prosecute them?

2.

After doing research, briefly explain how the breathalyzer, the polygraph, and the spectrophotometer operate in terms of the analysis of evidence.

**7. Required Materials**

**A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.**

Book #1:

Author: Lyman, Michael D.  
Title: Criminal Investigation  
Publisher: Pearson  
Date of Publication: 2020  
Edition: 9th

**B. Other required materials/supplies.**