

CRJ 320 – Criminal Investigation

Course Description

The course introduces students to the fundamentals of criminal investigation by examining processes involved in identifying and arresting criminal suspects, identifying types of crimes and offenses, and in preparing for the in-court presentation of evidence through testimony. Techniques and procedures for evidence collection, preservation, and examination are discussed, and developing “high technologies” useful to the criminal investigator are explored.

Instructional Materials

Hess, K. M., & Orthmann, C.H. (2013). *Criminal investigation* (10th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth Publishing / Cengage Learning.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the major components of and responsibilities involved in the investigative process.
2. Recommend improvements to the criminal investigation process in selected areas.
3. Describe the procedures for the preparation of field notes and the documentation of a crime scene.
4. Evaluate the importance of search and seizure, processing the crime scene and collecting evidence, the criminal intelligence function, and the use of information resources in the investigative process.
5. Analyze the process of undercover and surveillance operations.
6. Analyze the procedures involved in making an arrest, conducting interviews and interrogations, and the importance of the accurate identification of suspects.
7. Recommend effective ways to apply the investigative process to violent crimes.
8. Describe effective ways to apply the investigative process to property crimes and financial crimes.
9. Describe effective ways to apply the investigative process to drug offenses, organized crime, and other dangerous groups.
10. Explore the nature and investigative processes of investigating terrorism.
11. Predict changes that will take place in criminal investigation in the next 20 years.
12. Describe effective ways to apply the investigative process to cybercrime.
13. Evaluate the role of the criminal investigator in preparing evidence for presentation and courtroom testimony.
14. Use technology and information resources to conduct research in the criminal investigation process.
15. Write clearly and concisely about the criminal investigation process using proper writing mechanics.