

# Course Syllabus

CJ 103 - Criminal Investigation

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## **Course Description:**

This course provides students with an awareness of the history, theory, strategies, and procedures relating to criminal investigation and crime scene management. Included is a study of crime scene investigation, burglary, assault, sex crimes, death cases, cyber crime and terrorism. Students will process simulated crime scenes.

**This is a hybrid class** and therefore will be conducted face to face and online using Canvas. The class will meet face to face on Monday and Wednesday. You will complete weekly assignments and research through the canvas site.

## **Methodology:**

The course is constructed to be *interactive*. We will be using a variety of classroom activities, including simulated crime scene investigations which will be done on campus.

During this course you will experience a variety of delivery methods to include: lecture, power point presentations, handouts, classroom discussion, small group activities, and field observations. Student involvement will include timely attendance, class discussion and participation, textbook study, and successful exam completion.

This course will not always follow the text book in sequence, so flexibility is key.

**Required Text:** *Criminal Investigation, Michael Lyman, 23rd. Edition, Pearson.*

**Learning Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to;

- Understand the principles/procedures necessary for basic criminal investigation techniques;
- Develop strategy for the investigative process, including forensic considerations;
- Understand the functions and purposes of the crime lab in relation to investigations; and,
- Be familiar with crime scene processing, evidence collecting, and preservation of scientific evidence.

**Program Specific Outcomes:** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to;

- Think Critically - Demonstrate effective crime scene management skills.
- Communicate Effectively - Construct arguments to evaluate applicable procedures that govern criminal investigation.

### **System of Evaluation:**

Crime Scene Scenario Exercises (2)	50 points each
Final Evaluation	100 points
Forensic Research Assignment	100 points
Weekly Assignments	20 points each

### **Assessment and Grading**

#### **GRADE SCALE** (in percentage of points achieved):

A = 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C = 73-76	D = 63-66
B = 83-86	C- = 70-72	D- = 60-62	F = < 60

### **Classroom Participation**

Each student will be evaluated on both the quality and the quantity of their classroom participation. What constitutes class participation is described on the attached document entitled "*Guidelines for Class Participation.*"

You are expected to be prepared for each class by doing your homework assignments, and being prepared to discuss what you have read and/or researched. You are expected to actively participate in and contribute to classroom discussions and group exercises. Both comments and questions are encouraged. You will have evaluated in-class group exercises, which cannot be made up in the event you were absent.

Failure to participate in class discussions and activities will result in a reduction in your final grade.

Assignments may be individual or group. Assignments are due on the due date in order to be worth full credit. Late assignments will be valued as follows: 1 class late – half credit; no credit thereafter.

### **Crime Scene Scenario Exercises**

Using information from our textbook and during classroom discussions, you will have the opportunity to put your knowledge to work by applying knowledge and skills to scenarios and critical thinking exercises. Each of these exercises is a portion of your grade, testing your comprehension and mastery of the materials and your ability to put the theoretical information into practice. **Each student must complete each of the major crime scene scenario exercises in order to successfully complete this course.**

### **Forensics Research Assignment**

#### **Use of Forensic Psychology and Profiling**

- A research paper could cover the use of psychology in the investigation of crimes. Profiling is the study of criminal behavior and the most common characteristics of a person who would commit a certain type of crime such as age, race and psychological personality. Concentrate on case studies of convicted criminals.

#### **History of Forensic Science**

- A common topic for a forensic research paper is the history of forensic science and how it became a law enforcement tool used to investigate crimes. Include the first type of forensic science used to investigate crimes, the first time it was allowed to be used in a courtroom as evidence against a suspect and the growth of forensic science over the years.

#### **The Study of Debris**

- A forensic research paper can review the use of debris and other material found at a crime scenes --- such as carpet fibers, animal hair and other small fragments of material. --- to determine the perpetrator, location of the crime scene and even the whereabouts of the perpetrator. Analyzing a completed criminal investigation that found crime scene debris and materials to determine a perpetrator and convict a suspect can be the main topic of the research paper.

#### **Forensic Entomology**

- Forensic entomology uses insects that invade and feed on decomposing remains to assist the investigation of a crime. This research paper can be broken down to cover the three different areas of forensic entomology. Medico legal area of forensic entomology (This is the branch of forensic entomology that's familiar to viewers of TV crime dramas. When medical factors alone can't establish a time of death, entomology often can.) studies the type of insects which feed on human remains. The urban area of forensic entomology studies the insects which infest different environments of man such as city insects and insects found in the country. The third area of forensic entomology that can be covered in the research paper is the use of stored product pests. This last area is the study of insects that infest food products.

Instructor scoring will be based on the content, depth, and accuracy of your research efforts.

It is expected that your academic papers will conform to the standards for college-level writing.

### **Late Policy for Written Assignments:**

Late assignments are discouraged. If you have extenuating circumstances and would like to turn work in late without penalty, **you must contact me prior to the due date.**

Emergencies will be considered for full credit (death in family, illness, car accident with injuries, etc.) provided the student supplies documentation of the “emergency” (i.e. emergency room bill, published obituary, police case report # and name of officer investigating).

Assignments that are more than 10 days past due will not be considered for evaluation.

### **Plagiarism Policy**

Everett Community College considers academic honesty to be one of its highest values. Students are expected to be the sole authors of their work. Use of another person’s work or ideas must be accompanied by specific citations and references. Though not a comprehensive or exhaustive list, the following are some examples of dishonesty or unethical and unprofessional behavior:

- Plagiarism: Using another person’s words, ideas, or results without giving proper credit to that person; giving the impression that it is the student’s own work.
- Any form of cheating on examination
- Submitting an assignment(s) that was partially or wholly completed by another student.
- Copying work or written text from a student, the Internet, or any document without giving due credit to the source of the information.
- Assisting another student with reasonable knowledge that the other student intends to commit any act of academic dishonesty. This offense would include, but would not be limited to providing an assignment to another student to submit as his/her own work or allowing another student to copy answers to any test, examination or assignment

In essence, plagiarism is the theft of someone else’s ideas and work. Whether a student copies verbatim or simply rephrases the ideas of another without properly acknowledging the source, it is still plagiarism. In the preparation of work submitted to meet course requirements, whether a draft or a final version of a paper or project, students must take great care to distinguish their own ideas and language from information derived from other sources. Sources include published primary and secondary materials, electronic media, and information and opinions gathered directly from other people.

### **Classroom Behavior**

The study of criminal justice involves many controversial issues and theories. Critical thinking and analytical reasoning are necessary to gain a thorough understanding of this subject and to

make class discussions interesting. Thoughts and opinions will be varied and diverse. To encourage and foster open forum discussions, all students can expect to be treated with respect by their fellow classmates and by the instructor.

### **Students with Disabilities**

In compliance Everett Community College's policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Request for academic accommodations need to be made during the first week of the quarter, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with the Center for Disability Services (located in Parks 267 right across from the bookstore) for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations.

### **Class Participation Guidelines**

1. Arrives in class at an appropriate time to avoid tardiness
2. Demonstrates preparedness and flexibility
3. Participates in class discussions by contributing thoughtful and responsive input
4. Contributes to group efforts by focusing on task and contributing to the assignment
5. Is attentive and does not disrupt class and/or other students during class
6. Readily undertakes new tasks and assignments
7. Takes assignments seriously
8. Follows directions on assignments
9. Turns in discerning assignments
10. Turns in assignments in a timely manner
11. Demonstrates a non-judgmental and respectful attitude towards classmates
12. Accepts critique in a mature and constructive manner and uses it for personal and professional improvement