CJ 268  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
Spring 2008

Professor:    James Fitch, B.S., M.S.  
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Class Hours: Wednesday Night 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Classroom: CJC A-213  
Office Hours: M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
               Always by appointment

TEXTBOOK


COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Description: A brief overview of scientific crime detection and more detailed discussion of techniques for case management and documentation; the concept of proof; the impact of emergent technology on the investigative process; interacting with victims and witnesses; and interviewing suspects.

Objectives:
1. Acquaint the student with the basic theories, principles, and practices of the criminal investigation process.
2. Introduce the student to some basic techniques and tools used in the criminal investigation process.
3. Examine the relevant issues pertaining to the criminal investigation process in the major crimes.
4. Improve student analytical and abstract thinking.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance will be recorded pursuant to University policy. Role will be taken twice each class session. More than five absences will result in failure of the course. This rule applies to all absences for whatever reason. No distinction is made between “excused” and “unexcused” absences.
GRADING POLICY

Exam 1 100 points   A  373 + points  
Exam 2 100 points   B  332 to 372 points  
Exam 3 100 points   C  290 to 331 points  
Project 100 points   F  289 points or less  
Attendance 15 points

Total 415 points

MAKE UP EXAM POLICY

No make-up examinations will be given unless arrangements have been made prior to the examination date.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

The University’s policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled Student Guidelines, distributed by Division of Student Services” (available in the Office of Student Life or online at http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/studlife.html#conduct) for a description of possible sanctions in cases involving academic dishonesty.

Any student in this class who is involved in any form of dishonesty (including the presentation of someone else's work as your own, etc.) will receive an "F" for this class. Depending upon the severity of the violation, further action may be taken to have the student dismissed from the University.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM

Any electronic telecommunications devices (cell phones, personal pagers, etc.) should be set to “silent” mode or turned off prior to the beginning of each class session. If you require the use of one of these devices, please leave the classroom prior to initiating use.
WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS

The weekly reading assignments for this course are listed in the “Annotated Outline” section of the syllabus. Each student is expected to have read the weekly reading assignment before the class session during which the topics will be covered. Students are expected to participate in scholarly debate of the issues pertinent to the course.

PROJECT

“Technology and Criminal Investigation.” You will be required to research a new method of investigation or new investigation technology. Students will then prepare a short synopsis of this new advance in investigation (2 to 3 pages). You will then present a short (10 to 15 min.) presentation to the class.

ANNOTATED OUTLINE

01/16/07 Introduction and Overview of the Class
         Chapter 1 – Introduction to Investigation

01/23/07 Chapter 1 (cont.) – Introduction to Investigation
         Chapter 2 - Legal Aspects of Investigation

01/30/07 Chapter 3 – Investigators, the Investigative Process, and the Crime Scene

02/06/07 Chapter 4 – Physical Evidence

02/13/07 Chapter 5 – Interviewing and Interrogation
         Chapter 6 – Field Notes and Reporting

02/20/07 Exam I

02/27/07 Chapter 7 – The Follow-Up Investigation and Investigative Resources
         Chapter 8 – The Crime Lab and Crime Scene Reconstruction

03/05/07 Chapter 9 – Injury and Death Investigations

03/12/06 Spring Break

03/19/07 Chapter 10 – Sex-Related Offenses

03/26/07 Chapter 11 – Crimes against Children

04/02/07 Chapter 12 - Robbery
         Chapter 13 - Burglary
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/09/07</td>
<td>Exam II</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/16/07</td>
<td>Chapter 15 – Vehicle Thefts and Related Offenses</td>
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<td>Chapter 16 – Computer Crime</td>
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<td>04/23/07</td>
<td>Chapter 19 – Recognition, Control, and Investigation of Drug Abuse</td>
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<td>04/30/07</td>
<td>Chapter 21 – The Trial Process and the Investigator as a Witness</td>
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<td>Mock Trial Exercise</td>
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<td>05/07/07</td>
<td>Projects due – Oral presentations</td>
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<td>05/14/07</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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**DISABLED STUDENT POLICY**
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html

**SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS**
http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html

**STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY**
http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday