COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number  
CRJ 207

Course Title  
Criminal Investigation

Credits  
3

Hours:  
lecture/Lab/Other  
3 lecture hours

Co- or Pre-requisite  
None

Implementation  
Spring/2019

Catalog description

The strategies, techniques, and methods employed in criminal investigations - at the crime scene, follow-up investigation, modus operandi, sources of information, and interrogation.

Is course New, Revised, or Modified? Revised

Required texts/other materials: Reference Business and Technology Course List.

Revision date:  
Spring 2020

Course coordinator:  
Cavit Cooley  
(609)570-3625  
cooleyc@mccc.edu

Information resources: Reference Criminal Justice Library Materials List

Other learning resources: No tutoring or study groups at this time.

Course Competencies/Goals:

The student will be able to:

1. Be aware of the history and function of criminal investigation as it relates to police agencies, and investigators with respect to the preliminary and continuing investigation.
2. Identify and evaluate the significance of physical evidence.
3. Define, describe, and evaluate the importance of searching for, collecting and preserving, as well as recording physical evidence.
4. Identify the importance of developing basic investigative leads, and locating witnesses.
5. Understand and develop the techniques used to interview witnesses and interrogate suspects.
6. Identify, evaluate and describe when a search warrant is or is not required during a criminal investigation.
7. Teach how to properly prepare an investigation of specific types of crime.
Course-specific General Education Knowledge Goals and Core Skills.

General Education Knowledge Goals

Goal 1. Communication. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
Goal 2. Mathematics. Students will use appropriate mathematical and statistical concepts and operations to interpret data and to solve problems.
Goal 3. Science. Students will use the scientific method of inquiry, through the acquisition of scientific knowledge.
Goal 4. Technology. Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.
Goal 5. Social Science. Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.
Goal 6. Humanities. Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.
Goal 7. History. Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.
Goal 8. Diversity. Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.

MCCC Core Skills

Goal A. Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in speech and writing, and demonstrate proficiency in reading.
Goal B. Critical Thinking and Problem-solving. Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.
Goal C. Ethical Decision-Making. Students will recognize, analyze and assess ethical issues and situations.
Goal D. Information Literacy. Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.
Goal E. Computer Literacy. Students will use computers to access, analyze or present information, solve problems, and communicate with others.
Goal F. Collaboration and Cooperation. Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.
Goal G. Intra-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility. Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global, and environmental awareness.

Units of study in detail.

MCCC Core Skills A, B, C, D, E, F, and G are addressed in the following Units of Study. This Course is not designated as a General Education Course.

The student will be able to:

1. Describe the history of criminal investigation.
2. Define the Preliminary and Continuing investigation.
3. Delineate the legal significance of Evidence.
4. Identify how investigators search crime scenes and collect physical evidence.
5. Demonstrate the advantages of the various types of crime scene searches used by investigators.
6. Understand the importance of maintaining the "chain of custody" of physical evidence.
7. Describe the reasons for recording and photographing crime scenes.
8. Explain and evaluate the steps involved in the Preliminary Investigation, and the continuing investigation.
9. Criticize and defend the Doctrine of Reasonable Doubt.
10. Assess and criticize the qualifications and duties of an investigation.
11. Specify and support the known standards of criminal investigation techniques.
12. Explain the implications of maintaining the integrity of an item of evidence.
13. Describe a Modus Operandi File.
14. Identify and delineate the role of the crime lab in criminal investigation.
15. List the Techniques of Interviewing and Interrogation.
16. Assess the importance of interrogation.
17. Explain the principles involved in consensual searches.
18. Specify when search warrants are required.
19. Determine the validity of the criminal law in crime investigations.

**Evaluation of student learning:**

Students should be given a variety of opportunities for course participation. This should include oral discussions and or presentations, examinations, and research writing. The student will be given at least two (2) examinations during the course of the term with the dates and format to be decided by the instructor. Examinations should include an essay component. Students will be given adequate advance notice of the dates and the topics in each examination. The student may also be required to write at least one research assignment. The research assignment will be a book review of an important work in the field of criminal investigations, a summary of an interview with any primary worker in the field of criminal investigations, or a research paper on a specific issue in criminal investigations. The percentage of examinations, the research paper, and class participation in the computation of each student’s grade will be determined by the instructor.

**Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 76 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 59 %</td>
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Teaching-learning methods employed shall include lectures, discussions supplemented by appropriate related texts, and audio-visual media. Guest speakers (practitioners) and other academicians are considered to be beneficial to keep the course current and meaningful. Field trips when and wherever possible may be utilized.

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

Mercer County Community College is committed to Academic Integrity -- the honest, fair and continuing pursuit of knowledge, free from fraud or deception. This implies that students are expected to be responsible for their own work and that faculty and academic support services staff members will take reasonable precautions to prevent the opportunity for academic dishonesty. The complete academic policy and implications can be found at http://mlink.mccc.edu/omb/OMB210.pdf.