



MERCER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
CRJ 207	Criminal Investigation	3
Hours: Lecture/Lab/Other	Co- or Pre-requisite	Implementation Semester & Year
3 Lecture Hours	None	Spring 2022
<u>Catalog description:</u>		

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

General Education Category:
[Not GenEd](#)

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

Required texts & Other materials: Please reference your professor's syllabus for the exact learning materials and or textbook for the semester; do not order or purchase any learning material or textbooks until contacting your professor and or reviewing the syllabus. The following has been used at some time but may not be currently required:

Criminal Investigation: Basic Perspectives 13th Edition
Author: Lushbaugh
Publisher: Pearson
2016

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Upon successful completion of this course 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. [Supports ILG 5, 7, 8, 9, 11; PLO 1, 2, 3, 4]
2. Identify and evaluate the significance of physical evidence. [Supports ILG 9, 11; PLO 4]
3. Define, describe, and evaluate the importance of searching for, collecting and preserving, as well as recording physical evidence. [Supports ILG 8, 9, 11; PLO 1, 2, 3, 4]
4. Identify the importance of developing basic investigative leads, and locating witnesses. [Supports ILG 11; PLO 2, 4]

5. Understand and develop the techniques used to interview witnesses and interrogate suspects. [Supports ILG 9,11; PLO 2, 3, 4]
6. Identify, evaluate and describe when a search warrant is or is not required during a criminal investigation. [Supports ILG 9, 11; PLO 3, 4]
7. Prepare investigations of specific types of crime. [Supports ILG 11; PLO 2, 3, 4]

Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG):

Institutional Learning 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.

Institutional Learning Goal 7. History. Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.

Institutional Learning Goal 8. Diversity and Global Perspective: Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples

Institutional Learning Goal 9. Ethical Reasoning and Action. Students will understand ethical frameworks, issues, and situations.

Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking: Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

Program Learning Outcomes for Criminal Justice(PLO)

1. Discuss the history and philosophy of the components of the criminal justice system
2. Describe the formal and informal political and community structures that affect criminal justice agencies
3. Describe the fundamental concepts and principles of management and administration employed in various police agencies.
4. Discuss the roles of various criminal justice professionals,

Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes:

Unit I Introduction and Overview [Supports Course SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Describe the history of criminal investigation.
- Delineate the legal significance of evidence
- Assess and criticize the qualifications and duties of an investigation.
- Explain the implications of maintaining the integrity of an item of evidence.
- Identify and delineate the role of the crime lab in criminal investigation.

Unit II The Investigative Process [Supports Course SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Describe a Modus Operandi File.
- Define the preliminary and continuing investigation.
- Identify how investigators search crime scenes and collect physical evidence

- Demonstrate the advantages of the various types of crime scene searches used by investigators.
- Label the reasons for recording and photographing crime scenes.
- Explain and appraise the steps involved in the Preliminary Investigation, and the continuing investigation.
- Specify and support the known standards of criminal investigation techniques.
- List the techniques of interviewing and interrogation.
- Assess the importance of interrogation.

Unit III Searches and Other Legal Issues [Supports Course SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Understand the importance of maintaining the "chain of custody" of physical evidence.
- Criticize and defend the Doctrine of Reasonable Doubt.
- Explain the principles involved in consensual searches.
- Specify when search warrants are required.
- 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 (2) examinations during the course of the term with the dates and format to be decided by the instructor. Examinations may 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 criminal justice book, a summary of an interview with a primary worker in the criminal justice system, or a research paper on a specific issue in criminal justice. The instructor will determine the percentage of the examinations, the research paper, and class participation in the computation of each student's grade.

<u>Scale</u>	A = 93-100%
	A- = 90- 92%
	B+= 87- 89%
	B = 83- 86%
	B- = 80- 82%
	C+= 77- 79%
	C = 70- 76%
	D = 60- 69%
	F = 0- 59%

Teaching- learning methods employed shall include lectures, discussions, supplemented by appropriate related texts, and audio- visual medial. 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.