COURSE INFORMATION FORM

DISCIPLINE
Criminal Justice

COURSE TITLE
Criminal Investigations I

CR.HR 3    LECT HR. 3    LAB HR.    CLIN/INTERN HR.    CLOCK HR.    

CATALOG DESCRIPTION
This course will present an introduction to modern criminal investigations. This course presents theory of investigation, procedures at a crime scene, collection and preservation of physical evidence, sources of information, questioning of witnesses and suspects, preliminary and follow-up investigations, and case and trial preparation.

PREREQUISITES
None

EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES IN THE COURSE
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the primary objectives of criminal investigations and in a preliminary investigation.
2. Identify and demonstrate the elements of crime scene processing to include; sources of evidence, search methods, collection, preservation, marking and packaging evidence.
3. Demonstrate the ability to locate, develop and preserve fingerprint evidence.
4. Identify and demonstrate the principles of interrogation, procedures and approaches.
5. Identify and demonstrate proper case and trial preparation as well as courtroom demeanor.
CLASS-LEVEL ASSESSMENT MEASURES
Student accomplishment of expected student outcomes will be assessed using the following measures. (Identify which measures are used to assess which outcomes.)
1. Multiple Choice Exam (1-5)
2. Essay Exam (1-5)
3. Practical-crime scene scenario (1-5)

PROGRAM-LEVEL OUTCOMES ADDRESSED

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES
Specify which general education outcomes, if any, are substantially addressed by the course by completing the “Course/Program Assessment Matrix” to show the relationships between course and program outcomes and assessment measures.

OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM OUTCOMES
Specify which occupational program outcomes, if any, are substantially addressed by the course by completing the “Course/Program Assessment Matrix” to show the relationships between course and program outcomes to assessment measures.
Individual instructors may order this outline as fits the needs of their individual courses. In addition, they may place more emphasis on some areas than others. What is assured is that this particular list is covered in the course. Other topics may be added to a course as the instructor sees fit to do so, and as time and interest allows. An *asterisk can be used to mark an item as optional.

I. Introduction
   A. Primary goals of criminal investigations
   B. Resources available to an investigator
   C. Objectives of a preliminary investigation

II. Physical evidence
   A. Sources of physical evidence
   B. Transfer of evidence
   C. Trace evidence

III. Crime scene searches
   A. Parts of the crime scene
   B. Protecting the crime scene
   C. Chronological steps of crime scene processing
   D. Crime scene kit
   E. Search methods

IV. Crime scene photography
   A. Uses of crime scene photography
   B. Basic rules for admissibility

V. Evidence collection
   A. Collection and preservation
   B. Chain of custody

VI. Marking evidence

VII. Packaging evidence

VIII. Special evidence handling
   A. Firearms
   B. Blood samples
   C. Personal safety
   D. Crime scene sketches
IX. Fingerprint evidence
   A. Patterns
   B. Methods of locating, lifting and preserving

X. Interview and interrogation
   A. Legal issues
   B. Preparations and procedures

XI. Case and trial preparation
   A. Preparation
   B. Courtroom demeanor