

COURSE OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Course Title

CJ 222

Dept. & Course No.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the investigations process, qualities and skills needed in investigating, the personnel and tools needed for investigations, and the types of investigations. Overview of crime scene processing, preservation and processing of criminal evidence and interview and interrogation methods are also covered.

II. SEMESTER CREDITS: 3

III. CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK: 3 0 3
 Lecture Lab Total

IV. PREREQUISITES: CJ 204

V. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

VI. COURSE CONTENT:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able, with 65% accuracy, to:

1. Discuss the history of investigation, an overview of investigating, identify the objectives and process of criminal investigation, and identify the skills and qualities needed in investigating and how they are developed.
 - A. Background Information
 1. History of investigations
 2. Overview of investigations
 3. Key terms and concepts
 - B. Investigations process
 1. Qualities and skills of investigating
 2. Selection and training of investigators
 3. Introduction of types of investigations
 4. Review investigating questions
 5. Patterns, leads, tips, and theories
 6. Verifying the crime report
 7. Ethics in investigating
 8. Key terms and concepts
 - C. Case management and report writing
 1. Purpose of case management
 2. Note taking
 3. Review report writing
 4. The case folder
 - D. The crime scene
 1. Processing the crime scene
2. Identify and describe the tools of investigations.
3. Identify and discuss the duties of personnel during crime scene processing.

4. Discuss the handling, preservation, and processing of criminal evidence.
 2. Duties of police personnel at the crime scene
 3. Methods and equipment for isolating, protecting, and preserving the crime scene
 4. Photographing
 5. Sketching
 6. Selection of search methods
 7. Crime scene walk-through
 8. Collection, recording, preservation and processing of crime scene evidence.

5. Review types of law, the legal system, types of evidence, forms of evidence, and rules of evidence.
 - E. Types of law, the legal system, and types, forms, and rules of evidence
 1. Review types of law (substantive and procedural laws)
 2. Review the legal system (criminal law process, the trial, and the jury)
 3. Review evidence (types, forms, and rules of evidence)

6. Discuss the importance of criminalistics in investigating.
 - F. Criminalistics
 1. Key terms and concepts
 2. Introduction
 3. Importance of criminalistics
 4. The crime lab (firearms, trace analysis, serology, blood alcohol analysis, toxicology, narcotics, latent print, questioned document, survey and composite artist, and voice sections)
 5. Criminalistics techniques

7. Describe the obtaining of information through interviews and interrogations.
 - G. Interviews and interrogations
 1. Review key terms and concepts
 2. The interview (purpose, types, the setting, preparation, the interview itself, ending the interview)
 3. The interview (factors that must be considered)
 4. Interrogation principles
 5. Interrogation and Miranda Ruling
 6. Selected suspects and techniques of interrogation
 7. Recording the interview or interrogation (written statements or confessions, videotaped confessions, and surreptitious recording of suspects'

conversations)

8. Discuss sources of information.

H. Information sources

1. Methods of acquiring information
2. Procedural guidelines
3. People and records as sources of information

9. Discuss surveillance and undercover investigation.

I. Surveillance and undercover investigation

1. Types of surveillance
2. Preparation for surveillance
3. Special techniques
4. Undercover assignments

10. Identify and discuss the types of investigations.

J. Investigative guidelines for selected crimes and scenes

1. Investigation of violent crimes
 - i. Death scenes
 - ii. Homicide investigations
 - iii. Rape or sexual assault investigations
 - iv. Robbery investigation
 - v. Abused child investigation
2. Investigation of property crimes
 - i. Burglary investigation
 - ii. Larceny or theft investigation
 - iii. Motor vehicle theft investigation
 - iv. Arson investigation
3. Investigation of controlled substances and drug offenses
 - i. Extent of the drug problem
 - ii. Major drugs of abuse
 - iii. Drug investigation techniques
 - iv. Investigative guidelines

11. Discuss case preparation, court demeanor, and testimony.

K. Preparation of the case and going to court

1. Preparing the case to present to the prosecutor
2. Professional demeanor, conduct, and attitude of police officers and investigators in court

VII. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

- A. Projector
- B. Handout
- C. Film
- D. Library materials
- E. Routine classroom materials

VIII. TEXTS:

Required Text:

Pena, Manuel S. *Practical Criminal Investigation* 5th edition, Incline Village, Nevada: Copperhouse Publishing Company, 2000.

IX. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Courtroom proceeding observation
- D. Guest lecturer/speaker
- E. Assignments

X. METHODS OF EVALUATION

Final grades will be computed from percent to letter grades as follows:

A. Participation/assignments.....	20%
B. Quizzes/Tests.....	20%
C. Midterm Exam.....	30%
D. Final Exam.....	30%
E. Total.....	100%

Transmutation of percent to letter-grade is as follows:

90 – 100%	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
65 – 69%	D
0 – 64%	F

Palau Community College
CJ 222 Introduction to Criminal Investigation
Course Learning Outcomes

During the course experience, the course learning outcomes (CLOs) will be assessed through the use of signature assignments. A rating scale will be used to determine the students' proficiency level of each CLO using specifically aligned assignments. The numerical ratings of 4, 3, 2 and 1 are not intended to represent the traditional school grading system of A, B, C, D and F. The descriptions associated with each of the numbers focus on the level of student performance for each of the course learning outcomes listed below.

- Rating Scale:**
- 4 – Exceeds Expectations
 - 3 – Meets Expectations
 - 2 – Developing
 - 1 – Below Expectations

CLO1: At the completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the process of criminal investigation as well as identify the desirable characteristics of investigators.

Numerical Value	
4	Perform all of the following tasks accurately and completely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Explain the purpose of investigation. * Explain the fundamentals of criminal investigation. * Identify and explain the development of the desirable characteristics of an investigator. * Discuss ethics in investigating.
3	Perform the tasks mentioned above with mixed quality, but most are adequate and complete.
2	Perform the tasks mentioned above with mixed quality, but most are inadequate or incomplete.
1	Perform the tasks mentioned above inaccurately or incompletely.

CLO 2: At the completion of the course, students will be able to identify and describe the tools and methods used for successful investigations.

Numerical Value	
4	Perform all of the following tasks accurately and completely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Explain the importance of case management in investigations. * Discuss the importance of proper note-taking procedures and report writing in investigations. * Discuss the duties of personnel during the crime scene processing. * Discuss the handling, preservation, and processing of criminal evidence. * Discuss the skills and methods of successful interviewers and interrogators. * Identify and discuss appropriate investigative guidelines for various types of investigations.
3	Perform the tasks mentioned above with mixed quality, but most are adequate and complete.
2	Perform the tasks mentioned above with mixed quality, but most are inadequate or incomplete.
1	Perform the tasks mentioned above inaccurately or incompletely.

CLO 3: At the completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the importance of case preparation and professional court demeanor of police officers and investigators.

Numerical Value	
4	Perform all of the following tasks accurately and completely: *
3	Perform the tasks mentioned above with mixed quality, but most are adequate and complete.
2	Perform the tasks mentioned above with mixed quality, but most are inadequate or incomplete.
1	Perform the tasks mentioned above inaccurately or incompletely.