

GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course OutlineADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 206 – CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

1. <u>Course Number</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Semester Units</u>	<u>Hours</u>
AOJ 206	Criminal Investigation	3	3 hours lecture

2. Course Prerequisites

None.

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

This course is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the variety of criminal investigations and the critical role of the first responders to a crime scene. In addition, the course will emphasize the relationship between the police, prosecution and defense in criminal investigations. This course is an overview of the criminal investigation process, and will include most common types of crimes and related investigative techniques.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

- a. Compare the role of the investigator in the wide variety of criminal cases.
- b. Contrast the various methods of criminal investigations.
- c. Evaluate the critical role of first responders; evaluating crime scenes, interviewing witness and protecting the crime scene and related evidence.
- c. Demonstrate effective interview and interrogation techniques.
- d. Describe the "chain of custody" and it's role in successful investigations.
- e. Distinguish the relationship between case law, constitutional issues and their effect on police procedure, interviews, interrogations, line-ups, warrants, and searches.
- f. Write research reports of case studies related to criminal investigations.
- g. Evaluate use of resources, including evidence technicians, fingerprint experts, and criminalists in the criminal investigation.
- h. Discuss the principles of case management from initial crime scene to the presentation of evidence in court.
- i. Examine the various career opportunities as an investigator within the various levels of law enforcement and security professions.
- j. Articulate a code of ethics and demonstrate standards of ethical conduct.

5. Instructional Facilities

Since the course may be offered as both a standard classroom and a distance learning course, the student has a choice of the classroom or the computer. If the computer is selected, the student must have access to a computer capable of accessing the Internet, including e-mail, web sites and related material. The

student need only be able to access the appropriate web site to manage the on-line instruction. A modem, server, or cable connection is needed to access the Internet. Students may use existing computers on campus or a personal computer for this course.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

Access to a computer with Internet capabilities.

7. Course Content

Course content includes an orientation to the field criminal investigations. Specific topic areas include:

- a. Fundamentals of investigations.
- b. Use of notebooks during interrogations/interviews.
- c. Legal use of notes during trial.
- d. Using the cross-file system of permanent notes.
- e. Using charts, sketches and diagrams in court qualifications and personality types more suited for investigations.
- f. Investigative resources.
- g. Interviewing and interrogation techniques.
- i. Managing crime scenes, collection and preservation of physical evidence.
- j. Relationship of evidence technicians/forensic specialists and criminalists to investigations.
- k. Investigations methods appropriate to specific crimes.

8. Method of Instruction

- a. Lecture, discussion, audio visual materials.
- b. For the distance learning component, the on-line instruction is done "on-line" and students must follow the course schedule posed on the web site. All the homework and assignments are submitted electronically.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

- a. Written midterm and written final.
- b. Term paper.
- c. Essay (brief essay assignment).
- d. For distance learning students, there are weekly assignments and projects that must be completed and electronically submitted to the instructor. These include weekly quizzes and chapter projects. It also includes electronic research.

10. Outside Class Assignments

- a. Reading assignments from text.
- b. Supplemental reading assignments.

11. Texts

- a. Required Text(s):
 - (1) Osterburg, James W. and Richard H. Ward. Criminal Investigations. Cincinnati, OH: Anderson Publishing Company, 2000.
 - (2) Criminal Investigations and Study Guide. Cincinnati, OH: Anderson Publications, 2000.
- b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:
None.

Date approved by the Governing Board: 4/01

01-0532-002W/lw