



AJ 108: Public Safety Report Writing

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2023	Instructor Name:	George Chavarria
Course Title & #:	AJ 108: Public Safety Report Writing	Email:	george.chavarria@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10355	Office #:	760-355-6280
Classroom:	3211	Office Hours:	By Appointment
Class Dates:	08/14/2023 – 12/09/2023	Emergency Contact:	Rhonda Ruiz: 760-355-6280
Class Days:	Tuesday	Units:	3.0
Class Times:	06:30 PM – 09:40 PM	Class Format:	Face-to-Face (On Campus)

Course Description

This course is an introductory course, dealing with all aspects of public safety communication. It covers the techniques to effectively communicate facts, information, and ideas in a clear and logical manner for a variety of public safety systems reports, crime violations, incident reports, letters, memorandums, directives, and administrative reports. There is an emphasis on criminal justice terminology, use of English, and organization of information. Students will gain practical experience in note taking, interviewing, report writing, and presentation of testimony in courts. (CSU)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Identify the importance of honesty and truthfulness in gathering information and documenting that information for possible future prosecution.
2. Write a report documenting the pertinent facts obtained from witnesses at a crime scene, or scenario of a crime scene, that would be able to be used in a court of law.
3. Identify and distinguish facts, information and statements into a logical and understandable format that fulfills the legal requirements of a lawful arrest and applicable procedures for both misdemeanor and felony arrests.

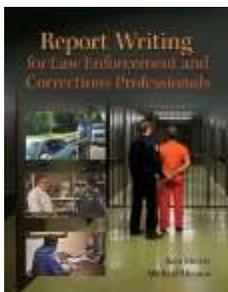
Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the Criminal Justice System and various uses of written report required in public safety.
2. Practice the ABC's of writing: Accuracy, Brevity, Completeness. Organize sentences in a logical sequential order, relatively free of errors.
3. Practice and apply basic rules of English to effectively communicate information as required within the Criminal Justice System to include: who, what, where, when, why and how.

4. Organize information into an effective reportable format. Students will demonstrate knowledge and use of different forms, formats, and reporting styles.
5. Take field notes and compile data to be used in cohesive formal reports.
6. Understand and demonstrate the basic steps of an interview and interrogation, using verbal and non-verbal techniques and satisfactorily document the interview/interrogation.
7. Interpret and synthesize case studies, simulation, and role plays, into accurate and complete reports.
8. Demonstrate knowledge and use of technology (computers, laptops, recordings, etc.) utilized in report writing.
9. Competently complete and proofread crime, probation, parole, violation, incident, and other reports for their use in court proceedings and/or hearings.
10. Practice testifying in mock courtroom and other legal proceedings as to information contained in previously written testimony.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links



Report Writing for Law Enforcement and Corrections Professionals

Edition: 1st
 ISBN: 9780133350456 (Paperback)
 ISBN: 9780134417127 (Loose-Leaf, 3-hole punched pages)
 ISBN: 9780137402120 (E-Textbook)
 Author: Morris and Merson
 Publisher: Pearson
 Copyright Year: 2017 (E-Textbook 2021)

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Instructional Methods: Audio Visual, Computer-Assisted Instruction, Demonstration, Discussion, Group Activity, Individual Assistance, Lecture, Simulation/Case Study, Distance Learning.

Out of Class Assignments: Conduct interviews of victims, witnesses, and/or suspects, as necessary. Obtain necessary information to complete assigned task. Complete daily assignment in order to be ready for new assignment or discussion in class.

Reading and Writing: Complete reports assigned during class. Structure assigned reports in the format designated for that type of report, i.e., Crime Information Broadcast, Suspect Description, Crime Report, Arrest Report, Field Interview, Victim/Witness Statement, Suspect Statement, etc.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Assignment Descriptors	Points
Quizzes	100
Mid-term	100
Final	100
Research Paper	100
Total	400

Grade	Points Required
A	360-400 points
B	320-359 points
C	280-319 points
D	240-279 points
F	0-239 points

Extra Credit: Up to 30 points in extra credit can be earned for an online assignment which will be announced at a later time.



Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Course Policies

Attendance: A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student’s status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student’s responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.

- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absence exceeds the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as ‘excused’ absences.

Online Netiquette: “Netiquette” refers to the rules of behaving well online. It can be more difficult to discern meaning in written text than in spoken conversation, so pay particular attention to your words. Keep your language clear and concise; ensure posts are on-topic; use correct spelling, grammar, and capitalization (all caps = yelling); and contribute productively to conversations.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Week 1 – 08/15/23	Syllabus Review and Class Introduction
Week 2 – 08/22/23	Library Tour
Week 3 – 08/29/23	Ch1: Reports, the English Language, and Police Jargon/ Quiz #1
Week 4 – 09/05/23	Ch2: The Art of Note-Taking/ Quiz #2
Week 5 – 09/12/23	Ch3: The Parts of the Narrative Case Report Ch4: The Basics of English Grammar/ Quiz #3
Week 6 – 09/19/23	Ch5: First Officer on Scene Ch6: Types of Reports/ Quiz #4
Week 7 – 09/26/23	Ch7: Traffic Summons/Tickets and Crash Reports/ Quiz #5



Week 8 – 10/03/23	Ch8: Types of Statements/ Quiz #6
Week 9 – 10/10/23	Midterm on Chapters 1-8
Week 10 – 10/17/23	Ch 9: Misdemeanor Crimes Involving People and Property Ch10: Felony Crimes Involving Property/ Quiz #7
Week 11 – 10/24/23	Ch11: Felony Crimes Involving Property Ch12: Documentation of the Use of Force/ Quiz #8 *Research Papers Due*
Week 12 – 10/31/23	Online Video Report Writing assignment – LAPD Critical Incident Mock Police Report. Will post assignment in Canvas. *Presentations Scheduled for 11/07/23*
Week 13 – 11/07/23	Ch13: Probable Cause Affidavits, Arrest Warrants, and Search Warrants/ Quiz #9 *Student Presentations*
Week 14 – 11/14/23	Ch14: Miscellaneous Forms Ch15: Correctional Forms and Reports/ Quiz #10
Week 15 – 11/21/23	Thanksgiving Break
Week 16 – 11/28/23	Ch16: Putting It All Together/ Review for Final Exam
Week 17 – 12/05/23	Final Exam on Chapters 9-16

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****