

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Criminal Investigation

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NO.
AJ 222 (CRN 11393)

COURSE TITLE
Criminal Investigation

INSTRUCTOR
Michael Crankshaw
(Ret.) Police Chief

TEXTBOOK
Criminal Investigation – The Art and the Science,
9th Edition, by Michael D. Lyman

TERM
Fall 2025

UNITS
3

CLASS TIMES
Mon. / Wed. 4:20pm – 5:45pm

OFFICE HOURS – Wednesday 1:40 pm- 2:40pm

LOCATION - Location: Room 3211 (Building 3200)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the historical and contemporary issues surrounding criminal investigation. The course represents a strong scholarly approach to the study of criminal investigation and is peppered with criminal case examples, highlights of criminal statutes, and case law. This class will address the crime scene, investigative process, crimes against a person, crimes against property, vice crimes, and prosecution. It explores the historical evolution of American investigation and information gathering through contemporary evidence collection, technology, and investigative procedure. It is designed to help students develop a working knowledge of criminal investigation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

1. Examine the foundation and history of criminal investigation in America. Students will understand crime scene dynamics and collection of evidence process. Students will discuss the need for field documentation and accurate report writing.

2. Students will study the core steps of the identification process of criminal suspects, and the scientific use of field and lab services. Students will be able to break down the legal issues surrounding various types of criminal investigations. Students will have full understanding of the difference between interviews and interrogations.
3. Students will study and discuss the multitude related topics - including, Criminal Intelligence, Surveillance Operations, Undercover Operations, and Informant Management. Examine the full details associated with felony Death Investigations.
4. Students will learn the role of Law Enforcement, Courts, Corrections within our justice system. Students will discuss the elements for various criminal statutes, including crimes against child, Theft crimes, special anti-terrorism acts, gang enhancements and drug trafficking.
5. Students will examine special criminal investigations white-collar crimes, cybercrimes, as well as, officer – involved shooting investigations. Students will have full understanding of the different court preparation techniques.

GRADING PROCEDURE:

Total Semester Points: 500

Homework Assignment (1) (50 points)	= 50 Points
Classwork Assignments	= 100 Points
Quizzes: (4) 25 Q = (50 points) each	= 200 Points
Final Exam: 75 Q = (150 points)	= <u>150 Points</u>
Total	= 500 Points

A = 500-450 B= 449-400 C = 399-350 D=349-300 F= 299-0

PLEASE NOTE: Assignment due dates will be provided at the time the assignments are given. Late assignments are subject to reduction of points, so make every effort to have your written assignments turned in on time.

Homework Assignment: (1) *Due by November.19, 2025*

There will be a total of one (1) homework assignment due during this semester. The first is an Essay paper and will be worth 50 points. The topic and due date for the paper will be given out in week 4. The assignment paper must be a minimum of two (2) full pages, maximum of three (3) pages. The papers must be in MLA writing format. Papers will be graded on spelling, grammar and direct connection with the assigned topic.

No Papers will not be accepted during the week of the final exam.

Classwork assignments:

As indicated above our classroom assignments will make up a portion of your final grade (100 points). The points you will receive for each assignment will be based on the quality of the classwork you complete in the class. (Completion of in class handouts, chapter worksheets, reading assignments & video work.)

Every student is expected to participate in class discussions each week. This includes punctuality, contributions, personal opinions, group efforts if assigned and discussion of issues relating to the current assignment of the class. News media post - on how local crime impacts our community, state and federal levels will be discussed.

Quizzes: (4)

There will be a total of four (4) quizzes given. Each quiz will have 25 questions and be worth a total of 50 points. The quizzes will focus on material covered (classroom lecture, handouts, homework assignments.) Whenever possible, time will be set aside for a quiz review the week prior to each quiz. After the quizzes are graded they will be returned to you, to be used as study guides for your final exams.

All quizzes will consist of true / false, multiple choice and narrative blank type questions. Failure to take a quiz will result in a zero for that quiz, unless prior approval is given by the instructor.

Final Exam:

The Final exam will be given on the last week of the semester. The Final exam will consist of true / false, multiple choice and narrative blank type questions.

Failure to take the final exam will result in a zero and will be reflected in your overall grade.

Extra Credit:

Students will have three (3) separate options to earn extra-credit points. Only one (1) selected option per semester will be allowed. (See below)

- Students can schedule a minimum of four (4) hour observation period "Ride along" with the Police agency of their choice. A one (1) page summary paper is due, outlining the various calls / events witnessed. The paper is worth a maximum of 20 points and can be turned in anytime during the semester, prior to the week of the final exam.

- Students can schedule a minimum of three (3) hour observation period with the Imperial County Court of their choice (Criminal or Traffic). A one (1) page summary paper is due, outlining the various procedures / cases witnessed. The paper is worth a maximum of 20 points and can be turn in anytime during the semester, prior to the week of the final exam.
- Students can select to watch the approved case study (movie) “12 Angry Men” – either the 1957 original movie or the 1997 remake. A one (1) page summary paper is due, outlining the connectivity to the course. The paper is worth a maximum of 20 points and can be turn in anytime during the semester, prior to the week of the final exam.

ATTENDANCE:

One of the institutional learning outcomes for this course is personal responsibility. You will be expected to demonstrate personal responsibility by attending class, showing up on time, and not causing a distraction. You must communicate to your instructor any problems that you are having with the course.

You may be dropped by the Instructor, for missing 25% or more of this semester course, without an accepted justification - outlined in the IVC guidelines.

ACADEMIC ETHICS:

Cheating is defined as copying answers from another student on an exam or assignment, allowing another student to copy answers from you, turning in work as your own that someone else completed for you.

PLAGIRISM will not be tolerated! If a student uses the words or ideas of another person without giving that person credit, the student is committing an act of plagiarism.

CHEATING will not be tolerated! Anyone caught cheating will get a zero for the assignment or exam and may be given a failing grade.

CELL PHONE POLICY:

All cell phones shall be turned to silent / off prior to class starting. If you need to use your cell phone during class period, please quietly step out of class.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:

This is college level learning - Any conduct that disrupts the learning process cannot be tolerated. Anyone engaging in such conduct will be asked to leave the classroom. Talking, whispering, texting, and cell phones ringing during class are examples of disruptive behavior. Such actions are disrespectful and distracting to the instructor and to other students. Respect your fellow students and instructors at all times. ***TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE IN-CLASS LEARNING ENVIRONMENT!***

Course Schedule (Subject to Change):

Week	Topics
1	Course Introduction / Discussion & Syllabus Review
2	Chapter 1: Foundations and History of Criminal Investigation Chapter 2: The Crime Scene: Identification and Collection of Evidence
3	Chapter 3: The Crime Scene: Field Notes, Documenting, and Reporting Chapter 4: Identification of Criminal Suspects: Field and Laboratory Services
4	<u>Holiday (Labor Day)</u> Chapter 5: Legal Issues in Criminal Investigation
5	QUIZ #1 Chapter 6: Interviews and Interrogations
6	Chapter 7: Criminal Intelligence and Surveillance Operations Chapter 8: Undercover Operations and Informant Management
7	Chapter 9: Death Investigations Chapter 10: Robbery
8	QUIZ #2 Chapter 11: Assault and Related Offenses
9	Chapter 12: Missing and Abducted Persons Chapter 13: Crimes against Children: Child Abuse, Child Fatalities, and Exploitation
10	Chapter 14: Theft-Related Offenses Chapter 15: Arson, Bombings, and Terrorism
11.	QUIZ #3 Chapter 16: Special Investigations: Drug Trafficking and Gangs

12. Chapter 17: Special Investigations: While-Collar, Corporate, & Computer Crimes
Chapter 18: Investigations of Officer-Involved Shootings
13. Chapter 19: Preparation for Court
Full class assignment
14. **Holiday – (Veteran Day)**
QUIZ #4
15. Case Study assignment
All Classroom work sheets Due / Homework assignment Due
16. **Thanksgiving Break**
17. Course work – open class / Review Final Exam
FINAL EXAM