

Basic Course Information

Semester	Spring 2014	Instructor Name	Jeff Mason
Course Title & #	Criminal Investigation AJ 222	Email	jeff.mason@imperial.edu
CRN #	20422	Webpage	N/A
Room	806	Office	Room 809
Class Dates	21 JAN 14 – 16 MAY 14	Office Hours	N/A for part-time faculty
Class Days	Monday	Office Phone #	760-355-6280
Class Times	1:30 PM-4:30 PM	Office contact if student will be out or emergency	Rhonda Ruiz
Units	3		

Course Description

Fundamentals of investigation; techniques of crime scene recording and search; collection and preservation of physical evidence; modus operandi processes; sources of information; interview and interrogation; follow up and case preparation.

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. Describe the basic aspects of a criminal investigation. (ILO4, ILO5)
2. Identify the legal requirements necessary for a successful prosecution as a result of a completed criminal investigation. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)
3. Identify sources of information and methods for obtaining information from these sources. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)

Course Objectives

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

1. Explain the evolution of criminal investigation and criminalistics.
2. Demonstrate knowledge, and evaluate applicability of new current technological advances to the field of criminal investigations.
3. Assess crime scene, and demonstrate appropriate crime scene procedure.
4. Through case studies and role play, practice taking field notes, and drawing rough and smooth crime scene sketches to the satisfaction of the instructor. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of accurate field notes.
5. Correctly assess and apply the proper method of evidence examination, collection, and marking. The student will demonstrate an understanding for evidential potential of crime scene material.
6. Define and describe effective uses and application of forensic science and criminalistics to criminal investigation. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the scientific community and the criminal justice system.
7. Through oral and written exercises, be able to distinguish and apply correct interview and interrogation procedures.
8. Identify sources of information.
9. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the basic rules of evidence.

10. Summarize the basic investigative procedures common to major crimes.
11. Identify and apply different investigative techniques appropriate to the given crime.
12. Satisfactorily demonstrate knowledge of or prepare a case investigation.
13. Demonstrate knowledge of the uses of the behavioral sciences in criminal investigations (psychological profiling, NCAVC, etc.).

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Criminal Investigation by Swanson, 11th Edition

ISBN: 978-0-07-81152-8

Students must have the textbook.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Assignments are due on the date stated on the syllabus. Late assignments are subject to reduction of points. Make every effort to turn in assignments on time or you may receive a zero for that assignment. Failure to take a test will result in a zero for that test unless prior approval is given by the instructor. Tests will be twenty (20) minutes long. If you are late to class, you will not be given extra time to take the test. Bring a No. 2 Pencil on test days. You must communicate to your instructor any problems that you are having with the course.

Term Paper: (50 Points)

You are required to submit a four-page (minimum/maximum) typewritten report including a cover page and a bibliography page (1 cover page + 2 typed complete content pages + 1 bibliography page).

Select one of the topics listed on the Term Paper Topics by **02/17/14**. Once you have made a selection, you will e-mail me (using your IVC e-mail address) informing me of your selection.

A minimum of three sources must be listed on your bibliography page and information taken from those sources cited throughout your report. Wikipedia sources are not acceptable. Completed reports are due on **04/07/14**.

AJ 222 – Criminal Investigations Term Paper Topics

1. Opening a Cold Case Murder Investigation.
Opening a Cold Case Murder Investigation is discussed in Chapter 9.
2. Investigating Sex-related Offenses.
Sex-related Offenses are discussed in Chapter 10.
3. Investigating Crimes Against Children.
Investigating Crimes Against Children are discussed in Chapter 11.
4. Investigating Computer Crimes.
Investigating Computer Crimes are discussed in Chapter 16.
5. Arson & Explosives.
Arson & Explosives are discussed in Chapter 18.

6. Recognition, Control, & Investigation of Drug Abuse.

Recognition, Control, & Investigation of Drug Abuse are discussed in Chapter 19.

7. Terrorism.

Areas on terrorism are discussed in Chapter 20

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

GRADING PROCEDURE: Total Points: **350 points**

Tests: 5 @ 15 points each **75 points**

Chapter Questions: 5 @ 15 points each **75 points**

Term Paper: **50 points**

Crime Scene Investigation: **50 Points**

Final Exam: **100 Points**

A = 350-300 B = 299-250 C = 249-200 D = 199-150 F = 149-0

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 absences exceed 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.

Classroom Etiquette

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: Any conduct that disrupts the learning process cannot be tolerated. Anyone engaging in such conduct will be asked to leave the classroom. Talking, whispering, loud yawning, and cell phones ringing during class are examples of disruptive behavior because such actions are disrespectful and distracting to the instructor and to other students. Respect your fellow students and instructors at all times.

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.

- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

Academic Honesty

- Plagiarism is to take and present as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly 'cite a source', you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment ;(c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment, (e) use of a commercial term paper service

Additional Help

- Blackboard support center: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8543>
- Learning Labs: There are several 'labs' on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Learning Services (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program
- Library Services: There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the learning center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313 if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar

Mon	Jan	27	Introduction / Course Expectations / Black Board / Text Book Requirements
Mon	Feb	03	Chapters 3, 4 & 5 / Homework Questions Ch. 1 & 2 (due Feb. 10)
Mon	Feb	10	Chapters 6, 7 & 8 / Test # 1 Ch. 3-6 /
Mon	Feb	17	Holiday – No Class (Term Paper Selection Deadline)
Mon	Feb	24	Chapter 9 / Homework Questions Ch. 11 (due Mar. 03)
Mon	Mar	03	Chapter 10 / Test # 2 Ch. 7-9 / Crime Scene Investigation <u>½ Class</u>
Mon	Mar	10	Chapter 12 / Homework Questions Ch. 17 (due Mar. 17)
Mon	Mar	17	Chapter 13 / Test # 3 Ch. 10, 12-13
Mon	Mar	24	Chapter 14 / Homework Questions Ch. 18 (due Mar. 31)
Mon	Mar	31	Chapter 15 / Crime Scene Investigation <u>½ Class</u>
Mon	Apr	07	Chapter 16 / Test # 4 Ch. 14-16 / Term Paper Due
Mon	Apr	14	Chapter 20 & 21 / Homework Questions Ch. 19 (due Apr. 28)
Mon	Apr	21	Spring Break – No Class
Mon	Apr	28	Crime Scene Investigation Reports Due / Test # 5 Ch. 20-21
Mon	May	05	Test Make-Up 1:30 / Review for Final Examination 2:30
Mon	May	12	Final Examination