

Northern Marianas College
CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Effective Semester / Session: Fall 2011


Type of Action:


- New
- Modification
- Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- Cancellation


Course Alpha and Number: CJ 225

Course Title: Criminal Investigations

Reason for initiating, modifying, or canceling: This course guide is being modified to change the course title, textbook, department name, catalog course description, English Placement level, course outline, instructional goals, and student learning outcomes, add the assessment measures, add CJ 101 as a course prerequisite, change the course ID of the report writing course prerequisite, and indicate that this course is now a required course for the A.A.S. Degree in Criminal Justice.


Judy DLG Torres / Frank Sobolewski *April 15, 2011*
Proposer Date

Thomas D. Sharts 
Department Chair Date

Barbara K. Merfalen 
Dean of Academic Programs and Services *4/9.11*
Date

Northern Marianas College Course Guide

Course : CJ 225 Criminal Investigations

1. **Department:** Social Sciences and Fine Arts

2. **Purpose:**

To enable the student to examine the qualities of an ideal investigator and consider the implications of those qualities on research and investigations; to compare physiological and oral responses and physical evidence for compatibility and for their use in reconstruction of a crime; and to observe, analyze, and relate problems of oral and visual aids to objectively portray the sequence of events and the role each method contributes when communicating to the suspects, prosecutors, judge, and jury within sanctioned judicial and constitutional guidelines.

3. **Description**

A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Required: Becker, Ronald F., *Criminal Investigations*, 3rd ed.; Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2009.

Readability Level: Grade 11.4

B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 per week / 45 per semester

2. **Lab:** N/A

3. **Other:** N/A

C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3

2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

D. Catalogue Course Description

This course covers the fundamentals of reconstructing a chronological sequence of events as to if, when, and how a crime was committed. This includes searching for, collecting, preserving, evaluating, and cross-comparing physical and oral evidence within the framework of accepted procedural and constitutional requirements and standards. Also included in the course are procedures using proven scientific methods and analyses to meet the ideal standards of an investigation to resolve the issue, identify the offender(s), and professionally present the findings in court. Prerequisites: CJ 101, CJ 200, and EN 111. English Placement Level: EN 101. Math Placement Level: None. (Offered Spring)

E. Degree, Certificate or Other Requirements Met by Course

This course is a required course for the A.A.S. Degree in Criminal Justice.

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F. Course Activities and Design

Lecture and discussion sessions form the basis from which the knowledge and skills are developed during this course.

4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Proficiency Level(s):

Prerequisites: CJ 101, CJ 200, and EN 111.

English Placement Level: EN 101.

Math Placement Level: None.

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course, the Student Activities fee, and the cost of the textbook.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary.

Instructional Resources needed for this course include chalk and chalkboard, TV/VCR, videotaped programs, library books, and other resources.

6. Method of Evaluation

Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

- A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;
- B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;
- C: Average – grade points: 2.0;
- D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;
- F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 Forensic Science
 - 1.1 The Scientific Method
 - 1.2 Medical Contributions to Forensic Science
 - 1.3 Criminal Investigators: Roles and Skills and Competencies
- 2.0 History of Criminal Investigation
- 3.0 Crime Scenes
 - 3.1 First Response
 - 3.2 Collecting, Handling, and Preserving Evidence
 - 3.3 Taking Field Notes
 - 3.4 Doing a Walk-Through of a Crime Scene
 - 3.5 Recording a Crime Scene: Photographing and Video-Taping
 - 3.6 Sketching a Crime Scene
 - 3.7 Searching Dry-Land Crime Scenes
 - 3.8 Searching Underwater Crime Scenes
 - 3.9 Searching Human-Made Mass Disasters
- 4.0 Constitutional Law of Search and Seizure
 - 4.1 The Fourth Amendment and Due Process of Law
 - 4.2 The Exclusionary Rule and Exceptions
 - 4.3 Search Warrants
 - 4.4 Warrantless Searches
- 5.0 Blood Evidence
- 6.0 Identifying Suspects
 - 6.1 Biometric Identification
 - 6.2 Fingerprints
 - 6.3 DNA Typing and Analysis
 - 6.4 Composite Identifications
 - 6.5 Lineups
- 7.0 Sources of Information about Crimes
 - 7.1 Eyewitnesses and Victims
 - 7.2 Informants
 - 7.3 Surveillance
 - 7.4 Interviews

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- 7.5 Criminal Profiling
- 7.6 Modus Operandi

- 8.0 Interrogating Suspects
 - 8.1 Constitutional Law
 - 8.2 Successful Interrogations
 - 8.3 The Reid Technique
 - 8.4 Written Statements and Confessions

- 9.0 Firearms Investigations
 - 9.1 Physical Evidence
 - 9.2 Ballistics and Firearms Identification
 - 9.3 Types of Firearms
 - 9.4 Types and Components of Ammunition
 - 9.5 Firearms and Forensics
 - 9.6 Legal Aspects of Firearms Identification and Investigations

- 10.0 Death Investigations
 - 10.1 Homicide Investigations
 - 10.2 Recovering Human Remains
 - 10.3 Autopsies
 - 10.4 Identifying the Deceased
 - 10.5 Determining the Time of Death
 - 10.6 Forensic Entomology (Human body decomposition by insects)
 - 10.7 Gunshot Wounds
 - 10.8 Cutting and Stabbing Deaths

- 11.0 Assaults
 - 11.1 Aggravated Assault
 - 11.2 Domestic Violence
 - 11.3 Child Abuse
 - 11.4 Preserving and Investigating the Crime Scene
 - 11.5 Interviewing Victims and Witnesses

- 12.0 Robbery
 - 12.1 Common locations of robberies
 - 12.2 Traits, behaviors, and techniques (modus operandi) of robbers
 - 12.3 Investigating scenes of robberies

- 13.0 Sexual Assault
 - 13.1 Elements of a Sexual Assault
 - 13.2 Investigating Sexual Assaults

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- 13.3 Interviewing Victims of Sexual Assaults
- 13.4 Sexual Assailant Profiling
- 13.5 Sex Crimes that do not Cause Physical Harm

- 14.0 Theft, Burglary, and Motor Vehicle Thefts
 - 14.1 Different Types
 - 14.2 Preserving and Investigating the Crime Scene

- 15.0 Illegal Drugs and Drug Offenses
 - 15.1 Drug Analysis
 - 15.2 Narcotics
 - 15.3 Hallucinogens
 - 15.4 Depressants
 - 15.5 Stimulants
 - 15.6 Federal Drug Laws
 - 15.6.1 The Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, as amended
 - 15.6.2 The Controlled Substances Act
 - 15.6.3 The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act of 1970

- 16.0 Arson
 - 16.1 Arson Investigations
 - 16.2 Arson Evidence
 - 16.3 Arson of a Vessel (Boat or Ship)
 - 16.4 Vessel Explosions

- 17.0 Terrorism and Terrorists
 - 17.1 Weapons of Terrorists
 - 17.2 Investigating Terrorism and Terrorists
 - 17.3 Gathering and Preserving Evidence of Terrorism

- 18.0 Organized Crime
 - 18.1 Organized Crime Groups and their Attributes
 - 18.2 Organized Crime Activities
 - 18.3 History of Organized Crime in the U.S.
 - 18.4 Laws Applicable to Organized Crime
 - 18.4.1 The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act of 1970
 - 18.4.2 The Organized Crime Control Act of 1970
 - 18.4.3 Conspiracy Laws
 - 18.5 Investigating Organized Crime

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- 19.0 White-Collar Crimes
 - 19.1 Money Laundering
 - 19.2 Confidence Swindles
 - 19.3 Forgery and Check Fraud
 - 19.4 Fraudulent and Altered Document Identification and Analysis
 - 19.5 Computer-Assisted Crime
 - 19.6 Identity Theft

- 20.0 Underwater Investigations
 - 20.1 Elements of Underwater Investigations
 - 20.2 Recovering Submerged Firearms
 - 20.3 Recovering Submerged Bodies
 - 20.4 Drowning
 - 20.5 Recovering Submerged Automobiles, Aircraft, and Vessels

- 21.0 Defense Lawyers, Prosecutors, and Investigators

- 22.0 Expert Testimony and Expert Witnesses

8. Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The nature and procedures of the scientific method and forensic science;
- 2.0 The history of criminal investigations;
- 3.0 Investigating a crime scene, and collecting and preserving evidence;
- 4.0 U.S. constitutional law on search and seizure and admissibility of evidence;
- 5.0 Blood evidence;
- 6.0 Identifying suspects;
- 7.0 Sources of information about crimes;
- 8.0 Interrogating suspects;
- 9.0 Identifying firearms, and investigating firearms and the use of firearms;

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- 10.0 Investigating deaths;
- 11.0 The different types of assaults, preserving and investigating the crime scene, and interviewing victims and witnesses;
- 12.0 Common locations for robberies; traits, behaviors, and techniques (modus operandi) of robbers; and investigating scenes of robberies;
- 13.0 Elements of a sexual assault, investigating sexual assaults, interviewing sexual assault victims, and profiling sexual assailants;
- 14.0 Different types of thefts and burglaries, and preserving and investigating the crime scene;
- 15.0 Different types of illegal drugs and drug offenses, and Federal drug laws;
- 16.0 Arson investigations, evidence of arson, and vessel arson and explosions;
- 17.0 Weapons of terrorists, investigating terrorism and terrorists, and gathering and preserving evidence of terrorism;
- 18.0 Organized crime groups, attributes, activities, and history; laws applicable to organized crime; and investigating organized crime;
- 19.0 Different types of white collar crimes;
- 20.0 Underwater investigations;
- 21.0 Roles in criminal trials: defense lawyers, prosecutors, and investigators testifying; and
- 22.0 Expert testimony and expert witnesses at trials.

9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.0 Describe the nature and procedures of the scientific method and forensic science;
- 2.0 Explain the history of criminal investigations;

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- 3.0 Investigate a crime scene, and collect and preserve evidence;
 - 3.1 Identify three places where evidence can be found on a victim;
 - 3.2 Describe a good method for preparing a firearm for shipment to a laboratory;
 - 3.3 Describe blood evidence;

 - 4.0 Interrogate suspects in a manner that does not violate their constitutional rights;

 - 5.0 List the requirements and guidelines for a successful investigator;

 - 6.0 Identify 25 procedural steps to follow in preliminary criminal investigations;

 - 7.0 State three main sources of criminal evidence;

 - 8.0 Describe four techniques for identifying (locating) points on a sketch;

 - 9.0 List the criteria and major characteristics of a good criminal investigation report;
 - 9.1 Describe nine modus operandi parts of a good police report;
 - 9.2 Use the 24-hour clock system for report writing.

 - 10.0 List the criticisms leveled at police by judges and prosecutors concerning physical evidence and court testimony;

 - 11.0 List ten basic guidelines for interviewing witnesses;
 - 11.1 Describe the different types of witnesses;

 - 12.0 Explain the meaning of "stake-out", and draw a sketch of a hypothetical stake-out; and

 - 13.0 Explain the differences between fixed and moving surveillance.
- 10.0 Assessment Measures**
Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:
- 1.0 Class participation and small group discussions;

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2.0 Writing assignments and exercises;

3.0 Oral and visual presentations;

4.0 Homework;

5.0 Chapter quizzes; and

6.0 Tests.

Attached is the Assessment Schedule for Fall 2010 – Spring 2012.