

COURSE OUTLINE

CRIM-110

Criminal Investigation

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

This course focuses on the fundamental principles and procedures employed in the investigation of crime; emphasizes investigation of specific crimes, identification of information sources and procedures required for the handling of evidence and the development of a working knowledge of investigation techniques. Only students authorized by the Howard County Police Department Academy are eligible to enroll in this course. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the historical perspective of criminal investigation
2. Identify the basic scientific means utilized in crime solving
3. Describe the legal requirements for admission of evidence into court
4. Identify basic procedural steps common to most investigations
5. Identify common techniques used by criminals to commit prevalent crimes
6. Describe the mechanics of an arrest
7. Write an acceptable arrest report
8. Identify the correct procedures for processing an undercover investigation
9. Describe the procedures for the handling of selective serious criminal offenses

Major Topics

- I. Introduction to Criminal Investigation
 - A. Philosophy
 - B. History
- II. Criminalistics
 - A. Friction Ridge Prints
 - B. Tool marks and Ballistics Examination
 - C. Shoe, and Tire Print and Impression Examination
 - D. DNA and Deceased Identification
 - E. Document, Hair and Fiber Examination
 - F. Miscellaneous Comparison Examination
- III. Evidence search, seizure and handling
 - A. Crime Scene Searches
 - B. Photography
 - C. Sketches, Diagrams and Floor Plans
 - D. Chain of Custody
 - E. Court Presentation of Evidence
- IV. Mechanics of Arrest
 - A. Probable Cause
 - B. Body, Property, Vehicle Searches
 - C. Contraband
 - D. Search Warrants
- V. Reports
 - A. Original Notes

- B. Field Reporting
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- VI. Witnesses
 - A. Interview and Interrogation
 - B. Polygraph Examination
 - C. Social / Psychological Aspects
 - VII. Clues
 - A. Motives
 - B. Alibis
 - C. Modus Operandi
 - VIII. Informants
 - A. Legality
 - B. Procedures
 - IX. Undercover Investigations
 - A. Intelligence Information
 - B. Surveillance
 - X. Specific Offense Investigations
 - A. Sex Offenses
 - B. Burglary, Robbery, Breaking and Entering
 - C. Cargo Thefts
 - D. Homicide and Suicide
 - E. Narcotics

Course Requirements

Grading/Exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

- -written Assignments
- -tests/quizzes
- -participation

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine specific writing assignments.

Other Course Information

This course is taught in the classroom using a variety of instructional techniques, which are intended to meet the varied learning styles of our diverse student population. It also involves practical application of knowledge during the investigation of mock crime scenes.