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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

Criminal Justice Program
CMRJ306
Criminal Investigation
Credit Hours: 3
8 Weeks
School of Security and Global Studies

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Instructor Information

*Instructor:* See information provided in the Syllabus link in the classroom

*Email:* Please use internal classroom messaging system

Course Description (Catalog)

This course is an analytical examination of crime detection and solution, including such topics as crime scene procedures, physical evidence, interviews, field notes and reporting, follow-up investigation, interrogation, and rules of evidence. Specific detail is given to investigations involving homicide, sex-related offenses, and crimes against children, robbery, larceny, vehicle thefts, computer crime, environmental
crime, arson, and drug abuse. There is an in-depth analysis of investigation methodologies addressing inductive and deductive reasoning to assess the decision-making process to solve crimes.

**Course Scope**

This course is divided into 8 weeks and is organized to give students a broad context in which it will provide you with the information and processes needed to conduct, manage, and report a criminal investigation. The techniques procedures and resources presented are applicable whether the incident under investigation is a homicide or a forgery, and can be expanded or adapted to the investigation of any incident -- criminal or civil. The learning process is totally dependent on your close reading of the course material, text, additional research, successful completion of the course assignments, and your participation and interaction with the course professor and students. The chapters in the text discuss in detail most of the aspects of both common practice and unusual incident. The discussion boards will be utilized to explore course topics in detail allowing students to share prior education, experience, and knowledge of the criminal investigative process.

**Course Objectives (CO)**

Upon successful completion of this course of study, the student will:

CO1: Identify key terms associated with criminal investigations.
CO2: Analyze the procedures for conducting a criminal investigation.
CO3: Explain the evolution of criminal investigation and criminalistics.
CO4: Define the term crime scene.
CO5: Analyzes interrogation and interview techniques.
CO6: Explain the role of evidence and the crime lab in the investigation process.
CO7: Analyze specific crime investigations techniques and practices (example: homicide, rape, child related incident, etc.).
CO8: Discuss the role of the investigator in the trial process and preparing for trial.

**Course Delivery Method**

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday evening of the week as noted and include Discussion Board questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded discussion board), examination, and individual assignments submitted for review by the
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Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

**Course Materials**


--- > Please visit [http://apus.libguides.com/bookstore](http://apus.libguides.com/bookstore) for more information.

**VitalSource E-book – How to get it!**

The APUS Bookstore distributes hard copy books and VitalSource e-books to APUS students. Effective in September 2013, you must validate your cart to get access to the VitalSource e-book. If this is your first order for a VitalSource e-book, you will receive an order confirmation email from the APUS Bookstore and then a second email with your VitalSource account credentials. Below are links to a tutorial video, FAQs, and tech support contacts to help guide you through this process.

[https://www.vitalsource.com/referral?term=9781483324357](https://www.vitalsource.com/referral?term=9781483324357)

- How to validate your cart – video demonstration
- How to validate your cart – bookstore information
- My EdMap bookstore cart is empty. What happened?
- VitalSource video tutorials
- VitalSource 24/7 tech support
- APUS Bookstore Customer Service (9:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. Eastern, Monday-Friday)
  Email: APUS_Customer_Service@edmap.com
  Phone: (800) 274-9104
- APUS undergraduate course material support - ecm@apus.edu

**Print/download options**

- VitalSource e-books have a print option. You may only be able to print a certain number of pages at a time, but you can continue printing as you wish.
- VitalSource e-books can be viewed online or downloaded to a bookshelf. Once downloaded, internet access is not required to read the e-book from
Additional FAQs

What if I want the hard copy book instead?
Can I get the VitalSource e-book and hard copy book?
What books are required for my course?
Where is my e-book located?

Additional Resources

Websites

In addition to the required course texts the following public domain Websites are useful. Please abide by the university’s academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Website URL/Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Find Law</td>
<td><a href="http://www.findlaw.com">www.findlaw.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA Style</td>
<td><a href="http://www.apastyle.org">www.apastyle.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Research Guide For Students</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aresearchguide.com/1steps.html">http://www.aresearchguide.com/1steps.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evaluation Procedures

The grading will be based on eight (8) graded homework assignments (weekly forums), a research paper, a midterm exam and a final exam.

1. **Weekly Forums:** There will be eight (8) weekly forums and one introduction forum during the course and will count as 45% of the final grade. These assignments will be comprised of case briefs, discussion questions from the text, and forum postings. They are selected to provide the student with hands on experience in applying the law and theories being discussed. With the exception of the introduction forum, your weekly initial posts will require a minimum of 500 words of text and is due Thursday evening by 11:55 pm ET. The word count does not include copying of the question or the listing of the resources. Two classmate replies with a minimum of 250 words each will be due by Sunday evening 11:55 pm ET.

2. **Research Paper:**
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Each student will be required to complete a 1200-word APA Style research paper worth 15% of your class grade. You must include a separate proper title page at the top of your submission and a separate properly formatted source page. The project should have at least 1200 words of text not counting the title and reference pages. Students will be required to use (5) five scholarly references and two of these references must be peer-reviewed journal articles from the APUS online library databases. Please note that Wikipedia, dictionaries, encyclopedias, endnotes, ehow, etc. are not scholarly resources. If in doubt about your source, please ask your instructor before using. The paper is due by Sunday of week 7 and is worth 15% of your class grade. When you submit your paper into the "assignment" area as a word doc only it is processed by Turnitin for plagiarism detection.

Students are required to follow APA Style guidelines.

The class instructor will read and grade your papers with professor comments for improvement as needed. The course will be using the Criminal Justice Writing Rubric to grade the Term Project. The rubric is in the lessons, resources, and attached to this assignment. Please make sure that you are using the writing rubric as a checklist as you work on the Term Project.

You are to select one topic from below that you are interested in and would like to learn more about. There is no special requirement on the content. Discussing case laws and articles associated with your paper is acceptable. You do not have to notify the instructor of your choice. Your research paper must be formatted in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association Sixth Edition (APA style). You can find help with APA Style guidelines within the AMU Online Library or at www.apastyle.org. Do not copy large sections of text verbatim, cited or uncited, from the Web or your paper will be severely penalized. You must cite within the paper per APA standards. Papers submitted to previous classes or other universities are not permitted.

4th Amendment
6th Amendment
Crime Prevention
Crimes against children
Crimes against the elderly
Domestic Terrorism
Driving Under the Influence
Human Trafficking
Identity Theft
Juvenile Crime
Landmark Cases
Police Brutality
Police Pursuits
Polygraph or CVSA (Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer)
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Sex Offender laws
Wrongful Convictions

The class instructor is looking for critical thinking and demonstrating that you have a grasp of the criminal justice material you are researching. Do not just regurgitate information but analyze the articles, journals, and scholarly literature you use to support your work.

Do not include quotes in your work. The course instructor wants to see your critical thinking skills on display and not a string of quotes written by published authors. Your analysis is what is needed for a successful paper. You will lose points for using quotes so stay away from quotes in this analytical assignment.

At this level in your educational journey students should have solid substance and proper academic formatting in your college level writing assignments. The course instructor will be grading on both, so make sure you turn in your best work.

Do not wait to the last minute to research, write, format, and edit. Proper time management is required to turn in a quality paper that highlights your criminal justice writing. This is a major assignment so follow the instructions carefully. Good luck!

3. **Exams:** The Midterm and Final examinations will consist of fill and the blank and essay questions. Each exam will count toward 20% of the final grade. These examinations will cover selected sections of the textbook and assigned reading.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Instruments</th>
<th>Percentage of grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 forum</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 forum</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 forum</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 forum</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 forum</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 forum</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 forum</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 Research Paper</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 forum</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 Final Exam</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</table>
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## 8 – Week Course Outline

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University’s grading scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Course Objective(s)</th>
<th>Reading(s)</th>
<th>Assignment(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Evolution of Criminal Investigations</td>
<td><strong>CO1:</strong> Identify key terms associated with criminal investigations  &lt;br&gt; <strong>CO2:</strong> Analyze the procedures for conducting a criminal investigation</td>
<td>Criminal Investigations 3rd Edition. Chapters 1, 2, &amp; 4  &lt;br&gt; Chapter 1: The Investigation of Crime  &lt;br&gt; Chapter 2: The History of Criminal Investigation  &lt;br&gt; Chapter 4: The Law and Criminal Investigations</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Week 1 forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Physical Evidence, Interviewing &amp; Interrogation</td>
<td><strong>CO3:</strong> Explain the evolution of criminal investigations and criminalistics  &lt;br&gt; <strong>CO5:</strong> Analyzes interrogation and</td>
<td>Criminal Investigations 3rd Edition. Review Chapters 3, 5, 6 &amp; 7  &lt;br&gt; Chapter 3: The Role of Evidence in Criminal Investigations  &lt;br&gt; Chapter 5:</td>
<td>Week 2 forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>CO4: Define the term crime scene.</td>
<td>CO6: Explain the role of evidence and the crime lab in the investigation process</td>
<td>CO7: Analyze specific crime investigations techniques and practices (example: homicide, rape, child related incident, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Crime Laboratory</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Burglary, Larceny-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CO7: Analyze specific</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<th>7</th>
<th>Investigating Drug Offenses, Arson, and Terrorism</th>
<th>CO7: Analyze specific crime investigations techniques and practices (example: homicide, rape, child related incident, etc.)</th>
<th>Criminal Investigations 3rd Edition. Chapters 13 &amp; 16 Chapter 13: The Investigation of Burglary, Vehicle Theft, Arson, and Other Property Crimes Chapter 16: Terrorism, Technology and the Future of Criminal Investigation</th>
<th>Week 7 forum Research Paper is Due by Sunday night 11:55pm ET.</th>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The Court Process and Preparing for Trial</td>
<td>CO8: Discuss the role of the investigator in the court process and preparing for trial.</td>
<td>Criminal Investigations 3rd Edition. Chapter 15 Chapter 15: The Documentation and Presentation of Evidence</td>
<td>Week 8 forum Final Exam encompasses weeks 1-8, chapters 1-22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Policies**

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- Drop/Withdrawal Policy
- Plagiarism Policy
- Extension Process and Policy
- Disability Accommodations
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CITATION AND REFERENCE STYLE

The central function of legal citation is to allow the reader to efficiently locate the cited source. All courses in the Legal Studies program require that any narrative essay or composition format follow the legal citation guidelines set forth in The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, 19th ed., (2010). More information can be found in the Web Resources and Course Material links in the classroom.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Deductions:

Late forum posts can be penalized up to 5 points per day

Late assignments can be penalized up to 5 points per day

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advance of knowledge through positive and constructive debate--both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting--basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the fun and excitement of learning that does not include descent to personal attacks, or student attempts to stifle the discussion of others.

- Technology Limitations: While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Educator classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- Humor Note: Despite the best of intentions, jokes and--especially--satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-(, :), 😊
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Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this group.

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Turnitin.com:** Turnitin.com is a tool to detect plagiarism. This tool helps ensure a culture of adherence to the University's standards for intellectual honesty. Turnitin.com reviews students' papers for matches with Internet materials and with thousands of student papers in its database, and returns and Originality Report to instructors.

Request a Library Guide for your course


The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. These are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name or navigate by school.
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- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111) or class name.

If a guide you need isn't available yet, let us know by emailing the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu

**Selected Bibliography**


