



CJ 2314.1E Criminal Investigation

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Ray Dittrich, MS, MPO

Office Location: Henderson # 139

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5860

University Email Address: ray.dittrich@tamuc.edu

Course start and end dates: August 28 - December 15, 2023

Class Location: EDS Room: 129 (Education South)

Class time: Tue, Thurs 2:00p -3:15p

COURSE INFORMATION

TEXTBOOK:

Title: Criminal Investigation (**11th Edition**)

Authors: Hess, Orthmann & Cho

Publisher: Cengage (ISBN: 9781285862613)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An examination of theories and practices of the investigation process in the criminal justice system. An analysis of information and application of operational techniques relating to crime scenes, forensic sciences, interviews, and interrogations. A study of issues concerning rules of evidence, trial testimony, and other constitutional processes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand general criminal investigative practices, constitutional laws and relevant theories.
2. Understand the techniques behind investigating violent crimes.
3. Understand the techniques behind investigating property crimes.
4. Understand the special challenges facing the criminal investigation field.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed:

Basic understanding of Microsoft Office programs Internet browsing Webcam & Microphone

Instructional Methods:

Face-to-Face Course Hands-on Learning In-class Work Days

Course Attendance:

- Class attendance is required.
- Should you miss class, it is also your responsibility to ask a classmate or the professor what was missed. If you miss class the day an assignment is due, the assignment must be submitted **before** class begins.

D2L:

This course utilizes the D2L learning management system for the dissemination of supplemental materials. D2L allows for additional communication between the students as well as the professor. Students should check D2L regularly for email announcements, handouts, articles, etc. that may be posted by the professor.

Quizzes and Examinations:

Students are required to take quizzes and exams utilizing the D2L system during the assigned day and time as scheduled on the course syllabus. No make-up exams or advance exams will be offered.

Grades:

Individual grades on assignments are posted in D2L in order to assist students in monitoring their academic progress throughout the semester. Borderline final grades will be determined based on in-class participation, attendance and the completion/submission of all assignments.

Extra Credit:

Any extra credit opportunities will be discussed in class. If offered, extra credit will be available to all students in the course, not individual students.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is generally defined as the presentation of the ideas and/or the words of someone else as one's own. Examples of plagiarizing material include using a person's written words or ideas from a variety of different sources (internet, classmate's paper, book, journal article, etc.) without proper documentation. Plagiarism is taken very seriously and the student will be fully punished if caught plagiarizing material within this course. This course uses plagiarism software, which is integrated within D2L.

You commit plagiarism if you use, copy and paste or paraphrase:

- Any part of an assignment submitted by a student from a previous semester
- Any part of an assignment written by/shared with a current classmate (collaboration work, group work and split work are **NOT** allowed)
- Any part of another person's written words without correct documentation
- Any part of another person's ideas without correct documentation, including any part of a website, book, encyclopedia, news article, journal article or any other source used without correct documentation.
- Plagiarism is punished in a variety of ways. If collaboration/shared work is found, **BOTH** the student who copied and the student who allowed their work to be copied will be reported. The student(s) may fail the assignment and/or the entire course. The Dean may take additional actions.
- **To avoid punishment:** don't plagiarize others and don't allow other students/friends to view your work at any time, no matter the circumstances.

Electronic Policy:

Laptop computers may be used during class time, for the purpose of taking electronic notes only. Students should not access the internet or play games during class. If a student is found using their laptop for activities not pertaining to taking electronic notes, the student will lose their privilege of using their laptop during class for the remainder of the semester/term.

NO electronic communication devices or music devices are to be used in this class during class time.

This includes cell phones, tablets, laptops, iPods, etc.

- Students must turn off all electronic devices during class. Should there be an extenuating circumstance, which requires the potential use of a cell phone during class, please notify the professor prior to class.
- Should your electronic device go off during class, you will be asked to leave the class. This is disruptive to your fellow students and the classroom environment. Laptops should be closed during student presentations and guest speakers

Classroom Rules:

- Students are free to discuss individual thoughts and opinions during class discussion periods, however, be sure to be courteous to your fellow classmates and professor.
- Please be tolerant toward comments and opinions for which you do not agree; tolerance is a reciprocal process for all students. The professor will not tolerate any remarks that are personally demeaning, or offensive.
- Students who become disruptive in class will be asked to stop the behavior immediately.
- If the behavior continues, the student(s) will be asked to leave the classroom immediately and for the rest of the class period.
- If asked to leave, a student(s) will not be allowed back in the classroom until he/she/they meet with the professor in his office to discuss the disruptive behavior.
If the disruptive behaviors arise in class and/or in the online discussion board again, the student(s) will be asked to leave and cannot return until he/she/they meet with the professor and the Department Head to discuss dropping the student(s) from the course.

GRADING

Graded Item	Points Possible	Points Earned
Quiz 1	100	
Quiz 2	100	
Quiz 3	100	
Quiz 4	100	
TOTAL	400	

Points Earned	Final Grade
360-400	A
320-359	B
280-319	C
240-279	D
239 or below	F

ASSESSMENTS

1. Quizzes: 4 x 100 points each (400 points)

There will be four quizzes during the semester, each following a categorical section in the textbook. Students will be responsible for all assigned readings in the textbook and lecture slides. All questions on the quizzes will come from a review sheet provided in advance.

***SCANTRON REQUIRED (Green Version with 50 questions)**

All quizzes are 50 questions (2 point each)

Questions vary: multiple choice, true/false

- **Quiz 1:** Chapters 1-7
- **Quiz 2:** Chapters 8-12
- **Quiz 3:** Chapters 13-16
- **Quiz 4:** Chapters 17, 18, 21

2. Group Presentations - *Required Extra Credit: (Up to 40 points)

- Each group of students will present the “criminal investigation best practice” for a assigned crime. The group will take into account current Texas law and procedures summary of all key information utilizing the textbook.
- Then each group will answer questions about the crime they were assigned.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L, call 903-468-6000 or 1-877-325-7778. Other support options are here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

- <http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

- <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>
- <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

- [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
- <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>
- [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)
- <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Date	Task	Topic	Due
Tues. 8/29	Introduction	Syllabus, D2L	
Thur. 8/31 Tues 9/05	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	Criminal Investigation: An Overview Documenting the Crime Scene	
Thur. 8/31 Tues. 9/05	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	Writing Effective Reports Searches	
Thur. 9/07 Tues. 9/12	Chapter 5 Chapter 6	Forensics/Physical Evidence Obtaining Information & Intelligence	
Thurs. 9/14	Chapter 7	Identifying & Arresting Suspects	
Tues. 9/19	Quiz 1	Chapters 1-7	D2L
Thur. 9/21 Tues. 9/26 Thur. 9/28	Chapter 8 Chapter 9	Death Investigations Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking & Elder Abuse	
Tues. 10/03 Thur. 10/05 Tues. 10/10	Chapter 10 Chapter 11	Sex Offenses Crimes Against Children	
Thur. 10/12	Chapter 12	Robbery	
Tues. 10/17	Quiz 2	Chapters 8-12	D2L
Thur. 10/19 Tues. 10/24	Chapter 13 Chapter 14	Burglary Larceny/Theft, Fraud & White-Collar Crime	
Thur. 10/26 Tues. 10/31	Chapter 15 Chapter 16	Motor Vehicle Theft Arson, Bombs & Explosives	
Thurs. 11/02	Quiz 3	Chapters 13-16	D2L
Tues. 11/07 Thur. 11/09	Extra Credit	Assigned group project Work of group project	
Tues. 11/14 Thur. 11/16	Chapter 17 Chapter 18	Computer Crime Dual Threat: Drug Crime & Organized Crime	
Tues. 11/21	Chapter 21	Preparing for and Presenting Cases in Court	
Tues. 11/28	Quiz 4	Chapters 17, 18, 21	D2L

Thur. 11/30 Tues. 12/05 Thur. 12/07	Extra Credit	Group presentations	
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**subject to modification, with notification*