

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

CRMJ- 2130 YB 132

David W. Patterson

Office: YB 119 / 307-754-6328

TEXT

Crime Scene Investigation and Reconstruction

By: Robert R. Ogle; Sharon Plotkin ISBN 9780136093602 / 4TH EDITION / Pearson Books

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An overview and examination of basic criminal investigation techniques, procedures, and methods. Topics include the theory of criminal investigation, information gathering and analysis, the collection and preservation of evidence, and investigation strategies and techniques.

Prerequisite : CRMJ 2120 / CRMJ 1201 OR concurrent enrollment in that class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- ☐ Demonstrate understanding of the basic theories of investigation.
- ☐ Demonstrate understanding of the various types of crime scene searches used by police.
- ☐ Demonstrate understanding of the proper criteria for writing an effective report.
- ☐ Demonstrate understanding of the need for proper crime scene security.
- ☐ Demonstrate understanding of the use of various types of evidence.

ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP POLICY: Regular daily attendance is expected and Is strongly recommended. Lectures will not only supplement the required text but will also introduce new materials that are not covered in the textbook. There will be no make-up quizzes or tests in this class, unless you have an “excused” absence as defined in the Northwest College Catalog. Any student who has an excused absence must inform the instructor prior to the absence to make arrangements to take the exam prior to the absence.

TESTS/QUIZZES: The purpose of the tests and quizzes is to determine your understanding of the material covered. Tests will be given over the concepts covered and will include practical examples and possibly hands-on tests as well as written. The best way to prepare for tests and quizzes is to read the assigned material, take good notes during class time, and complete each project and related assignments. Missed tests or quizzes may be made up with an excused absence and the instructor's permission.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS: Reading assignments will be made in advance and problem solving assignments will be used to reinforce topics covered during lecture. Completion of all reading and computational assignments is required for successful completion of chapter tests. Regular attendance, completion of homework and asking for help when needed are necessary for successful course completion.

EVALUATION: Tests, projects, student-led class discussion and any pop quizzes will be given equal consideration and evaluated on a possible point's basis. For example, an assignment may be worth 10 points, and a project worth 100 points. Total possible points will be added at the end of the semester and grades will be awarded based on the following scale:

A = 100%-95% B- = 82%-80% D+ = 69%-67%

A- = 94%-90% C+ = 79%-77% D = 66%-63%

B+ = 89%-87% C = 76%-73% D- = 62%-60%

B = 86%-83% C- = 72%-70% F = Below 60%

Class attendance is vital to succeeding in this class and will affect your grade. Northwest College has an attendance policy: one clock hour of unexcused absence for each credit offered (for example, a three credit course = three clock hours of unexcused absences allowed). After the allowed absences have been taken, the instructor has the prerogative to reduce the student's grade by one grade per absence beyond the number allowed. Students who miss class while officially representing the college are directly responsible for seeing that all assignments, written lessons, labs, quizzes, tests, and exams are made up promptly. Such authorized absences merely give the individual who missed the class an opportunity to make up the work and in no way excuse the student from work required by the instructor.

OTHER CLASSROOM POLICIES: During classroom sessions, it is expected that the student will remain alert and attentive during class. All students are required to turn off cell phones or any other electronic devices prior to class (including music players). If a student does text or use their electronic device during class, then that student will be asked to leave and the student will be marked as absent for that day. If the students' desires to take notes using a laptop computer, a request in writing should be submitted to the instructor and the student will be given a list of specific guidelines and procedures for computer use in class, which will include, but will not be limited to, a showing of the notes taken during class and the installation of a "tracking program" that will generate a report to the instructor of the computer usage at the end of the class period. No children shall be admitted into class, and any "special" guest that would like to attend the class, must have permission from the instructor before attending. Any student that is sleeping or exhibiting disruptive behavior during the class period will be asked to leave and the student will be marked as absent for that day. The student taking this class should be aware that the Criminal Justice System involves the study and discussion of "adult" and sometimes "offensive" subjects; i.e., discussions of rape, murder, feticide and other crimes are common place in this class; as well as discussions regarding "hot button" topics, such as abortion, religion, free speech, illegal pornography, and other topics, such as child molestation and pedophilia. Students who feel that they are uncomfortable with any of the material covered and the frank and honest discussion of different topics and crimes offends them; then the student should carefully consider whether or not to take this course. Students are encouraged to bring in articles and stories of recent events that are related to the topic we are covering in class.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Cheating will not be tolerated in any form. It is a serious offense and may be punished by failure on the exam/hand-out problem/quiz/homework or failure in the course. Please refer to the Student Handbook regarding.

HOW TO DROP A CLASS: If you find that you no longer wish to remain in this class, you should officially drop or withdraw from it. Only you, the student can initiate this process, and you are strongly encouraged to consult first with your academic advisor with regard to the effect

on your program of study, financial aid status, etc. In order to drop or withdraw from class, you must meet certain deadlines and follow specific procedures:

□ To drop: you can do this during the first two weeks of class and no record will appear on your transcript. You can drop a class by logging onto Webadvisor through your student portal, or your academic advisor can do it for you as well. You can also go to the Registration and Records Office and complete the appropriate form. Consult the current academic calendar (found at <http://www.nwc.edu/academics>) for the deadline to drop a full-term class.

□ To withdraw: after the “drop” deadline, your remaining option is to “withdraw” from this course. A mark of “W” will appear on your transcript, but it will not affect your GPA. Follow the same procedure as above. The withdrawal deadline typically occurs about four weeks after mid-terms. Consult the current academic calendar (found at <http://www.nwc.edu/academics>) for the deadline to withdraw from a full-term class.

□ Deadlines for half-semester courses differ for both the “drop” and “withdrawal” options and can be obtained by contacting the Admissions Office at 307-754-6101.

If you merely stop attending or do not log onto a class, but do not officially remove yourself from class, then you will almost certainly receive a grade of “F.”

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Northwest College is dedicated to removing barriers and opening access for students with disabilities in compliance with ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. It is the student’s responsibility to make an appointment with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Coordinator to provide documentation of a disability (whether it is psychiatric, learning, mobility, health related, or sensory) and to inquire about accommodations or courses each semester. To contact the DSS Coordinator, call 754-6135 or stop by the Student Success Center located in the lower level of Colter Hall.

TUTORING SERVICES: Northwest College offers a variety of free tutoring services. For more information, please call 754-6052, talk with your instructor, or consult the tutoring services link on the student portal.

Topic areas by Chapter / Week – Subject to modification

INTRO TO INVESTIGATIONS

Chapter 1	Introduction to Physical Evidence	
Chapter 2	Crime Scene Search Principles	
Chapter 3	Crime Scene Photography	(TEST 1-3 100 pts)
Chapter 4	Crime Scene Sketches	
Chapter 5	Latent Fingerprint Evidence	
Chapter 6	Trace Evidence	(TEST 4-6 100 pts)
Chapter 7	Biological Fluid Stain Evidence: Blood, Semen, and Saliva	
Chapter 8	Firearms Evidence	
Chapter 9	Impression Evidence	(TEST 7-9 100 pts)
	-----Practical Crime Scene Begins-----	(200pts)
Chapter 10	Drug and Alcohol Evidence	
Chapter 11	Document Evidence	
Chapter 12	Vehicle Scene Investigations	(TEST 10-12 100 pts))
Chapter 13	Sexual Assault Investigations	
Chapter 14	Homicide Crime Scene Investigations	------(Practical Crime Scene Ends)
Chapter 15	Crime Scene Reconstruction	(TEST 13-15 100pts)
Chapter 16	Entomology	
		(FINAL 200 pts)
		Attendance/Participation/Discussion 100pts
		Course total points 1000 possible