



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Course Prefix: CJ

Course Title: Criminal Investigations

Year: 2025

Course and Section #: 1340-151

Credits: 3

Course Description

Introduces the fundamentals of criminal investigations. Examines the techniques commonly utilized by investigative personnel for crimes against property and persons to include case management and documentation, interacting with victims, witnesses and suspects, and crime scene analysis.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Professor Rick Los

Student Learning Outcomes

Course Objective

Upon successful completion, students should be able to . . .

- 1 Describe the role of the first responders and crime scene investigators.
 - 2 Evaluate the facts and circumstances of a crime scene.
 - 3 Distinguish the appropriate investigative techniques to be applied to each individual crime scene.
 - 4 Develop a method from which to interact, interview and/or interrogate victims, witnesses and suspects.
 - 5 Describe the process of crime scene analysis and evidence gathering principles.
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Course Materials and Texts

Criminal Investigation by Orthmann & Hess 12th Edition

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Final Grades for this course will be calculated as follows:

Current Event Assignment	50 Points
Chapter Outlines	50 Points
Court Paper	50 Points
Presentations & Assign.	100 Points
Quizzes	648 Points/12 quizzes
Final Exam	225 Points
SRI	50 Points

1. Current event assignment: Each student will turn in a current event relating to Criminal Justice at the beginning of each class. It can be one paragraph about something that happened in the news or you can cut and paste something you read online. YOUR NAME must be on top of the paper. This is how attendance will be taken. We will discuss some of the current events at the beginning of each class.
2. Assignments and Presentation: There will be 2 group assignments and discussions during the semester. The topics will be decided by the students with the instructor's approval. Each group will then put on a presentation.
3. Quizzes: There will be 12 quizzes during the semester. They will cover the chapters and lecturers. The quizzes will be True/False and Multiple Choice.
4. Final Exam: The final Exam will cover all chapters and lecturers.
5. Term paper. The term paper will be 3 to 7 pages. I will approve your topic. This paper will be due December 11th.
6. At the end of the semester students will be asked to complete an evaluation of this course. This helps the Instructor to assess how the course was taught, how it can improve as a facilitator. Please make every attempt to complete this section. It is extra credit worth 30 points.

Grades are issued at the end of each semester. All grades earned will be reflected on and remain on the official academic transcript. The following grading scale is used:

Grade	Percent of Points
A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	86-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	76-79
C	73-75
C-	70-72
D+	66-69
D	63-65

D-	60-62
E	<59

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

All required readings use chapters from the course text that align with the lectures below

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Schedule

Week 1 Ch. 1: Criminal Investigation - An Overview

Week 2 Quiz 1 Ch. 2: Documenting the Crime Scene/Quiz 2

Week 3 Ch. 3: Writing Effective Reports/Quiz 3

Week 4 Ch. 4: Searches & Ch. 5: Forensic/Physical Evidence/Quiz 4

Week 5 Assignment - Presentation #2

Week 6 Ch. 6: Obtaining Information & Intelligence & Ch. 7: Identifying and Arresting Suspects/Quiz 5

Week 7 Ch. 8: Death Investigation/Quiz 6

Week 8 Ch. 9: Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking & Elder Abuse/Quiz 7

Week 9 Ch. 10: Sex Offences & Crimes Against Children/Quiz 8

Week 10 Spring Break

Week 11 Ch. 11: Presentation #2

Week 12 Ch. 12: Robbery & Ch. 13: Burglary/Quiz 9

Week 13 Ch. 14: Larceny/Theft, Fraud and White-Collar Crime & Ch. 15: Motor Vehicle Theft/Quiz 10

Week 14 Ch. 16: Arson, Bombs & Explosives

Week 15 Ch. 18: A Dual Threat: Drug Related and Organized Crime/ Quiz 11

Week 16 Term paper and review for final.

Week 17 Final Exam

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

ChatGPT (and similar AI Tools) in This Course

AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, thinking, and researching are crafts that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice. At the same time, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Fine tuning your research questions;
- Finding information on your topic;
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts/responses assigned to you or content that you put into a Teams/Canvas chat.
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, please reach out to me for a conversation before submitting your work.

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions

of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.