UVU UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY™

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 #: 1340-601
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 Wade Raab

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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

Course Materials and Texts

Criminal Investigation
By: Christine Orthmann and Karen Hess
Edition 11th
Copyright: 2017

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Class Quizzes, Midterm, and Final Exam:

There will be weekly quizzes on each of the chapters assigned in the book. These quizzes will be taken on Canvas. I expect you to read the chapter and then take the quiz before the deadline. You may use your book if necessary, however, you will only have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. There will also be study materials and assignments for each chapter. You must complete all of the assignments and turn them in on time.

The midterm exam will be online and will cover learning objectives from the first half of the class. The final exam will also be online and will **cover the learning objectives from the second half of the course and will not be comprehensive**. You can use your book for both exams; however, the exams will be timed.

Grading Scale:

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 will be used:

94	to	100	A
90	to	93	A-
87	to	89	B+
84	to	86	B
80	to	83	B-
77	to	79	C+
74	to	76	C
70	to	73	C-
67	to	69	D+
64	to	66	D
60	to	63	D-
0	to	59	E

Grading Criteria

- **Chapter Quizzes**
- **Assignments / Activities**
- **Discussion Questions**
- **Mid-term Exam (from chapter readings)**
- **Final Exam (from chapter readings)**

Throughout the semester you must review your scores on CANVAS to track your grade and academic progress. It is your responsibility to make sure all of your assignments are turned in on time. FOR ANY ASSIGNMENTS NOT TURNED IN YOU WILL GET A "0" FOR THAT ASSIGNMENT.

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments
All required readings use chapters from the course text that align with the schedule below.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion
Study Schedule:

Criminal Investigation Spring 2025
WEEK OF

Jan 06 (Mon)	Syllabus, Introductions, Introduce Yourself video
Jan 13 (Mon)	Chapter 1; Criminal Investigation: and Overview
	Jon Benet Ramsey Investigation [5 short quizzes]
Jan 20 (Mon)	**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
Jan 27 (Mon)	Chapter 2; Document the Crime Scene: Note Taking, Photos and
	Crime scene photography [assignment]
	Crime scene sketching [assignment]
	~~Chapter 3; Writing Effective Reports~~
Feb 03 (Mon)	Chapter 4; Searches
	Chapter 5; Forensics/Physical Evidence
Feb 10 (Mon)	Chapter 6; Obtaining Information and Intelligence
	Chapter 7; Identifying and Arresting Suspects
Feb 17 (Mon)	Chapter 8; Death Investigation
Feb 24 (Mon)	Chapter 9; Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Elder Abuse
	Chapter 10; Sex Offenses [Brockway Case]
	Midterm Review
Mar 03 (Mon)	**Midterm Exam, Chapters 1-10 Online (no class)**
Mar 10 (Mon)	**Spring Break Mar 10th to 15th**
Mar 17 (Mon)	Chapter 11; Crimes against Children [Baby Maria case]
Mar 24 (Mon)	Chapter 12; Robbery
	Chapter 13; Burglary
Mar 31 (Mon)	Chapter 14; Larceny/Theft, Fraud, and White-Collar Crime
	Chapter 15; Motor Vehicle Theft
	~~Chapter 16; Arson, Bombs, and Explosives~~ (Not covered)
Apr 07 (Mon)	Chapter 17; Computer Crimes
Apr 14 (Mon)	Chapter 18; Drug-Related Crime and Organized Crime
	Chronic State [Video]
	~~Chapter 19; Criminal Activities of Gangs and Others~~ (Not Covered)
Apr 21 (Mon)	Chapter 20; Terrorism and Homeland Security
	Final Exam Review
Apr 28 (Mon)	**FINAL EXAM (**online, April 24 to April 30th)

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

AI Syllabus Statement
adapted from [Temple University](Links to an external site.) statement on AI in classes.
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.