The University of North Georgia
Department of Criminal Justice
College of Arts and Letters
CRJU4000 – Criminal Investigations
Fall 2015

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Office hours:  Tuesday and Thursday 0830 -0925, 10:30 – 11:30 and 3:15 – 4:15

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Prerequisites:  CRJU 1100

Co-requisites:  None

Class times:  Tuesday and Thursday 1400 - 1515

Classroom location:  Rogers 109

Semester hours:  3

Textbook:
Cengage Learning.

If you need this document in another format, please email john.cagle@ung.edu or call 706-864-1904.

Course Description:
This course introduces the student to investigation methodology and includes the theory of investigations as conducted at the scene of a crime, collection and preservation of evidence, the use of informants, techniques of surveillance, and presentation of cases in court.

Learning Objectives:
The course is designed to give the student knowledge and understanding to:

Evaluate current laws governing policing investigative practices, procedures and operations.

Understand the duties and responsibilities of a criminal investigator.

Apply a basic understanding of evidence and issues related to criminal investigations; including those investigations involving violent crimes, sex crimes, and property crimes.

Analyze the use of informants, interviewing and interrogation methods, and practices by criminal investigators.

Methods of Instruction:

Chapters from the text will be assigned for study to reinforce the lecture material. Additional media may be used to reinforce major points covered by lecture and discussion.

Electronic devises:

Unless specifically authorized by the instructor the use of cell phones and laptop computers during class is prohibited.

Evaluation Methods:

There will be two exams consisting of multiple choice, true false and short answer questions. The first exam (midterm) and the second (the final) will be given in the classroom. There will be investigative exercises that students are required to complete. The exercises will be graded.

Investigative exercises:

Students will be given information regarding an incident that law enforcement has responded to. Acting as investigators they must identify the crime/crimes that have occurred and give the legal definition of those crimes along with the elements of those crimes that must be proved in order to convict a suspect. Also students will be given detailed information about the crime and must develop an investigative strategy. This strategy should include crime scene investigations, interviews, and forensic examinations.

Investigative exercise information will be given in class as outlined in the syllabus. Students will submit their answers/information on the date specified in a format determined by the instructor. At the conclusion of the exercise students will be evaluated based on the information provided during each exercise. Methods of evaluating student performance during this exercise will include:

1.  Was the appropriate crime identified and the proper elements of proof determined?
2.  Did the investigative strategy include reasonable investigative techniques and were they utilized?
3.  Were the proper assumptions made as a result of standard investigative practices?
Make- up exams:

Make-up exams will not automatically be given for persons who do not show up for the scheduled exam unless arrangements have been made with me in advance. If you miss an exam without an acceptable excuse, your grade will be “0” for the test. Incompletes are not automatic but are subject to my approval and the college policy. Incompletes will be given by the professor only in special hardship cases.

Grading summary:

A= 90-100
B= 80-89
C= 70-79
D= 60-69
F= 59 or less points

Course grade:

Exam # 1 – 33.3%
Exam # 2 – 33.3%
Investigative exercise – 33.3%

100%

Course Calendar:

August 18th - Introduction, review syllabus and begin. (Drop/Add begins). Criminal Investigations overview.

August 20th – Documenting the crime scene: Note taking, photographing, sketching and writing reports.

August 25th - Searches. (Roll/Attendance verification)

August 27th – Forensic/physical evidence

September 1st – Fingerprinting. (POST 7.1). Discussion points will include procedures for locating and lifting a latent fingerprint, a discussion of the procedure for rolling inked fingerprints and the use of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), the characteristics of latent fingerprints, and a discussion of Live Scan.
September 3rd – Burglary investigation. (POST 5.5). Discussion points will include characteristics of physical evidence collected and preserved in a burglary investigation, effective investigative techniques for investigating a burglary, the identification of the elements of the offense of burglary and the methods of operation commonly used during the offense of burglary. Information given for investigative exercise 1.

September 7th – No classes

September 8th – Larceny/theft, fraud and white collar crime.

September 10th – Robbery investigation. (POST 5.6). Discussion points will include characteristics of physical evidence which should be identified, collected, and preserved in a robbery investigation, the elements of the offense of robbery and armed robbery, and effective techniques for investigating the offense of robbery and armed robbery. Investigative exercise 1 response due.

September 15th – Death investigations. (Case study).

September 17th – Sex crime investigation. (POST 5.3). Discussion points will include identification of the characteristics of physical evidence which should be identified, collected, and preserved in a sex offense investigation, identifying the elements of the specific sex offenses, and determining effective investigative techniques for investigating a sex offense.

September 22nd – Sex crime investigation continued. Crimes against children.

September 24th – Assault, domestic violence, stalking and elder abuse

September 29th – Motor vehicle theft. (POST 5.12). Discussion points will include characteristics of physical evidence which should be identified, collected, and preserved in a motor vehicle theft investigation, the elements of the offenses under which motor vehicle theft could be prosecuted, a discussion of the techniques used to alter the vehicle identification number of motor vehicles or to alter the appearance of a motor vehicle, identify the functioning characteristics of the vehicle identification number, and identify techniques used to commit the offense of motor vehicle theft.

October 1st – Review for mid-term exam. Investigative exercise 2 information given in class.

October 6th – Mid-term exam

October 8th – Discuss mid-term exam. Organized crime and gang investigation. (POST 5.13). Discussion points will include identifying the elements and characteristics present during organized criminal or gang activity, a discussion of the provisions of the Georgia Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act, investigative techniques for investigating organized crime or gang activity, and a discussion of the characteristics of past and present organized crime and gang activity.

October 13th – Bombs, explosives and arson investigation. (POST 5.11) Discussion points will include identifying the correct procedure for responding to the scene, securing the scene, evaluating the scene, and searching the premises, identifying the correct procedure for disposal of a bomb or explosive, identifying the characteristics of a bomb or other explosive/incendiary in order to aid in evacuation, search, and crime scene processing, identify physical evidence which should be collected and preserved
in an arson investigation, identify the elements of specific arson offenses, and identifying effective investigative techniques for investigating the offense of arson. Investigative exercise 2 response due.

October 15th – Guest speaker (GBI EOD).

October 20th – Obtaining information. Informant management.

October 22nd – Drug crime investigations.

October 27th – Drug crimes continued.

October 29th – Raid planning.

November 3rd – Terrorism and homeland security.

November 5th – Open discussion and catch-up.

November 10th – Computer crime

November 12th – Truth verification tests as investigative tools.

November 17th – Preparing for and presenting cases in court.

November 19th – Investigative exercise 3 information given in class.

November 23 – 28 Break (no classes).

December 1st – Investigative exercise 3 response due and discussion.

December 3rd – Review for final exam.

December 8th 1500 – 1700 hrs. Final exam

Contained in this course calendar are references to P.O.S.T material. This information is also contained in the Basic Law Enforcement Training Course and consist of the following:

**Sex Offense Investigation**

5.3 Instructional goal for sex offense investigation is to provide the student with an understanding of terminology, specific offenses, investigative techniques, and resources available to the peace officer.

5.3.1 Identify the characteristics of physical evidence which should be identified, collected, and preserved in a sex offense investigation.

5.3.2 Identify the elements of specific sex offenses.

5.3.3 Identify effective investigative techniques for investigating a sex crime.

**Burglary investigation**
5.5 The instructional goal for burglary investigation is to provide the student with an understanding of terminology, specific offenses, investigative techniques, and evidence unique to the offense of burglary.

5.5.1 Identify the characteristics of physical evidence which should be identified, collected, and preserved in a burglary investigation.

5.5.2 Identify effective investigative techniques for investigating the offense of burglary.

5.5.3 Identify the elements of the offense of burglary.

5.5.4 Identify methods of operation common to the events of burglary.

**Robbery investigation**

5.6 The instructional goal for robbery investigation to provide the student with an understanding of terminology, specific offenses, investigative techniques, and evidence unique to the offense of robbery

5.6.1 Identify the characteristics of physical evidence which should be identified, collected, and preserved in a robbery investigation.

5.6.2 Identify the elements of the offense of robbery and armed robbery

5.6.3 Identify effective techniques for investigating the offense of robbery and armed robbery

**Bombs, Explosives and Arson Investigation**

5.11 The instructional goal for bombs, explosives and arson investigation is to provide the student with an understanding of terminology, explosive devices, search procedures, and appropriate response to incidents where bombs and explosives may be present, and to provide the student with an understanding of terminology, specific offenses, investigative techniques, and evidence unique to the offense of arson.

5.11.1 Identify the correct procedure for responding to the scene, securing the scene, evacuating the scene, and searching the premises.

5.11.2 Identify the correct procedure for identification and disposal of a bomb or explosive for the First Responder.

5.11.3 Identify the characteristics of a bomb or other explosive/incendiary in order to aid in evacuation, search, and crime scene processing.

5.11.4 Identify characteristics of physical evidence we should be identified, collected, and preserved in an arson investigation.

5.11.5 Identify the elements of specific arson offenses

5.11.6 Identify effective investigative techniques for investigating the offense of arson
Motor vehicle theft investigation

5.12 The instructional goal for motor vehicle theft investigation is to provide the student with an understanding of terminology, specific offenses, investigative techniques, and evidence unique to motor vehicle theft.

5.12.1 Identify the characteristics of physical evidence we should be identified, collected, and preserved in motor vehicle theft investigation.

5.12.2 Identify the elements of the offenses under which motor vehicle theft could be prosecuted.

5.12.3 Identify techniques used to alter the vehicle identification number of a motor vehicle or to alter the appearance of a motor vehicle.

5.12.4 Identify the function and characteristics of the vehicle identification number.

5.12.5 Identify techniques used to commit the offense of motor vehicle theft.

Organized Crime and Gang Investigation

5.13 The instructional goal for organized crime and gang investigation is to provide the student with an understanding of terminology, specific offenses, characteristics, investigative techniques, and the Georgia Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations statutes.

5.13.1 Identify the elements of specific offenses which are characteristic of past or present organized criminal or gang activity.

5.13.2 Identify the provisions of the Georgia Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act.

5.13.3 Identify effective investigative techniques for investigating organized crime or gang activity.

5.13.4 Identify the characteristics of past and present organized criminal and gang activity.

Fingerprinting

Instructional goal:

7.1 The instructional goal for fingerprinting is to provide the student with an understanding of terminology, fingerprint characteristics, equipment, and procedures for processing inked and latent fingerprints.

7.1.1 Demonstrate the correct procedure for locating, lifting, and mounting a latent fingerprint.
7.1.2 Demonstrate the correct procedure for rolling a classifiable set of inked fingerprints on a standard fingerprint card which is Automated Fingerprint Identification System acceptable.

7.1.3 Demonstrate the correct procedure for completing the personal information section of the criminal fingerprint card.

7.1.4 Identify the characteristics of inked and latent anger prints.

7.1.5 Identify the characteristics of Live Scan

**Supplemental Syllabus:**

Students are expected to refer to the Supplemental Syllabus for the following information:

1. Academic exchange
2. Academic integrity policy
3. Academic success plan program
4. Class evaluations
5. Course grades and withdrawal policy
6. Disruptive behavior policy
7. Inclement weather
8. Smoking policy
9. Student with disabilities

The supplemental syllabus policy can be located at: [http://ung.edu/academic-affairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php](http://ung.edu/academic-affairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php)

The instructor will make every effort to follow the syllabus as printed, however reasons beyond the instructors control may occur and cause some deviation from the printed syllabus. The syllabus may be subject to change without prior notice. Students will be notified immediately of any changes to the schedule and/or syllabus.

Please remember that I am available for discussion throughout this course. Any issues or concerns that may arise should be brought to my attention promptly.