



CRIJ 2314 – Criminal Investigation

Course Syllabus: Fall 2017

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities.”

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Email
	9:30 – 10:00	N/A	Online	N/A	N/A	Any Time
The best way to communicate with me is via email. I will answer all questions as quickly as possible, but no later than 24 hours after receipt of your email.						

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Catalog Course Description:

Topics for this course shall include: the Investigative theory; collection and preservation of evidence; sources of information; interview and interrogation; uses of forensic science; case and trial preparation.

Prerequisites:

No formal course requirements, but students should understand how to access the Internet via a web browser.

Textbook(s):

Criminal Investigation. Swanson, Charles R. et al; McGraw Hill Publishing, eleventh edition, 2012

Resources:

Computers and computer labs assistants are available in MS 103. The LRC and the Academic Skills Center have computers available for students but with limited or no assistance.

Your instructor can be your greatest resource. Your instructor is here to assist you in learning the material and helping you earn the grade you wish to earn in the course. This is a commitment by your instructor. Please utilize this resource by contacting him with any matter you feel he can assist you with, both within this class or your college success in general. It is your responsibility to learn the material, but this can often be best accomplished by initiating contact with the instructor on topics you need clarification or further assistance. Please do this!

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Explain the foundations, origins, and evolutions of Criminal Investigation.
- Identify the different types of Criminal Investigations and Explain the Investigative Process
- Understand the various types of evidence and their respective methods of collection
- Examination and Familiarization with multiple types of Criminal Investigations

- Understanding of the court process and investigator testimony

Exemplary Educational Objectives:

N/A

SCANS Skills:

N/A

Lectures & Discussions:

	Monday	Wednesday
Week 1 – Aug28/30	Introduction - Syllabus	BB Video – Understanding the U.S. Criminal Justice System
Week 2 – Sept 5/7	History & Evolution of Criminal Investigation	BB Video – Inside the FBI
Week 3 – Sept 11/13	History and Evolution Cont...	Blackboard Discussion #1
Week 4 – Sept 18/20	Crime & Its Investigation	Exam 1
Week 5 – Sept 25/27	Crime & Its Investigation	Crime Scene Response Reading Assignment
Week 6 – Oct 2/4	The Crime Scene	Blackboard Discussion #2
Week 7 – Oct 9/11	The Crime Scene	Interactive Exercise #1
Week 8 – Oct 16/18	The Crime Scene	Mid-Term Exam
Week 9 – Oct 23/25	Physical Evidence	Interactive Exercise #2
Week 10 – Oct 30/Nov 1	Physical Evidence	Blackboard Discussion #3
Week 11 – Nov 6/8	Physical Evidence	BB Video – Bugs, Bones, and Botany
Week 12 – Nov 13/15	Interviews – Complainants/Witnesses/Suspects	Exam 3
Week 13 – Nov 20/21	Interrogation	Blackboard Discussion #4
Week 14 – Nov 27/29	Burglary Investigation	Burglary Investigation Cont...
Week 15 – Dec 4/6	Assault Investigation	Assault Investigation Cont...
Week 16 – Dec 11/13	Final Exam Week	Final Exam

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Grades of A, B, C, D, and F will be determined by the student's achievement of a total number of possible points based on the below listed categories.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Pts. Per Assign.</u>	<u>Total Pts. Possible</u>
Class Participation	1	N/A	100
Class Assignments			
Exams	2	150	300
In-Class Assignments	TBD	TBD	160
Blackboard Discussion Items	4	10	40
Mid-Term Exam	1	250	200
Final exam	1	250	200
Total			1000

The letter grade is based on the following Grading Scale:

Total Pts. Earned	Ltr. Grade
900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
Below 600	F

CLASS PARTICIPATION:**In-Class Meetings vs Blackboard Meetings**

This course consists of four exams, two quarterly exams, a mid-term, and a final. The mid-term will consist of information from the start of the semester, up to the time of the exam. The final will be comprehensive and contain information from the entire course. **If you have a conflict with the exam dates**, you must contact the instructor prior to the exam week to attempt to resolve the conflict in a mutually agreeable manner.

TESTS/EXAMS:

Mid-Term Exam: October 18, 2017

Final Exam: December 13, 2017 (Monday – Thursday)

This course consists of four exams, two quarterly exams, a mid-term, and a final. The mid-term will consist of information from the start of the semester, up to the time of the exam. The final will be comprehensive and contain information from the entire course. **If you have a conflict with the**

exam dates, you must contact the instructor prior to the exam week to attempt to resolve the conflict in a mutually agreeable manner.

Assignments:

IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be a number of in-class assignments that will be completed during this course. **Each assignment varies in length and complexity and the total number will be determined by student participation and the availability of resources.** All necessary materials and direction will be provided by the instructor on the day of the assignment. Students are expected to fully participate in all in-class exercises as they will be based on practical skills of Criminal Investigation and are necessary for complete understanding of course material.

Should a student be absent on the day of an in-class assignment, a 1-2 page, type-written paper covering the topic of the in-class exercise may be turned in to replace the assignment grade.

Students will only be allowed to make up 2 in-class assignments in this format.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the topics to be covered in order to best prepare the student with the above stated learning outcomes.

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

Class Attendance: **Participation in class discussions and assignments is mandatory.** Students' participation grade (100 points of the total Class Grade) will be ***heavily based*** on in-class engagement.

Withdrawal requests **MUST BE** initiated by the student. The last day for a student to drop a course with a grade of "W" is **Thursday, April 13, 2017**. Requests for withdrawal become official and effective the date they are received in the records office. Students who stop coming to class but fail to drop the course will earn an "F" for the course.

Late Work: To be considered "on time," **all work must be submitted at the beginning of class on the day that it is due.** Assignments can be submitted for a 10% deduction for one week following the assignment due date. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact your instructor.

NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:

Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook (see Student Handbook on the student MyEagle Portal).

Academic Ethics

The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to arrange an appointment with a College counselor to obtain a Request for Accommodations form. For more information, please refer to the NTCC Catalog or Student Handbook.

Family Educational Rights And Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.