CMJ 256 - CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION
Spring Syllabus 2016

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Associate Professor David Striegel
Guerrieri Hall, Room 202-D
Office Phone: 410-572-8755
Office Hours:
- Monday 10:45 am – 11:45 am
  4:00 pm – 4:30 pm
- Tuesday 4:45 pm – 5:45 pm
- Wednesday 10:45 am – 11:45 am
  4:00 pm – 4:30 pm
- Thursday 4:45 pm – 5:45 pm
- Friday By appointment

Email Address: dstriegel@worwic.edu

TEXTBOOK

New York: CRC Press.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A practical hands-on approach to evidence identification, documentation, collection and handling, from the crime scene, to the crime laboratory, to presentation in court. This course includes lab study designed to reinforce important forensic & investigative skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon successful completion of this course the student will demonstrate the ability to:

A. Demonstrate techniques needed to recognize, document, collect, package and preserve physical evidence from a crime scene. (GEO 1, 2, 7)

   A. Describe common types of physical evidence and its evidentiary value.
   B. Identify equipment required for crime scene investigations.
   C. Explain the procedures for processing crime scenes.
   D. Identify methods to secure a crime scene and protect physical evidence.
   E. Differentiate between different crime scene search patterns.
   F. Identify techniques to recognize, collect, package and preserve physical evidence.
   G. Demonstrate the use of technology to recognize and recover physical evidence.
   H. Identify common field tests for the presumptive identification and enhancement of different types of physical evidence.
   I. Identify techniques for handling scenes that present special difficulties.

Assessment Strategies: Unit exam, final exam, lab exercises, research project.

2. Demonstrate proper procedures for note-taking, measuring, sketching and photography. (GEO 1, 2, 7)

   A. Demonstrate effective note-taking to document the scene’s physical and environmental conditions, assignments, tasks performed, etc.
   B. Demonstrate different methods to sketch a crime scene.
   C. Demonstrate different techniques for taking measurements at crime scenes.
   D. Demonstrate techniques to photograph crime scenes and physical evidence.

Assessment Strategies: Unit exam, final exam, lab exercises, research project.

3. Discuss legal aspects needed to ensure proper handling and chain of custody from the crime scene to the crime lab and the courtroom. (GEO 1, 2)

   A. Describe the legal aspects associated with crime scene investigations.
   B. Identify legal guidelines governing the admissibility of evidence.
   C. Summarize the importance of proper chain of custody.

Assessment Strategies: Unit exam, final exam.

4. Discuss professional ethics and health and safety issues at crime scenes. (GEO 8)
A. Identify ethical considerations in crime scene investigation.
B. Identify biohazards associated with crime scenes.
C. Describe general precautionary measures to protect against biological and chemical hazards.

Assessment Strategies: Unit exam, final exam.

LABORATORY OBJECTIVES

Upon completing lab exercises students will demonstrate skills that relate to the following areas:

- Evidence packaging
- Crime scene photography
- Crime scene sketching
- Latent fingerprint development and recovery
- Chemical enhancement of latent prints
- Impression evidence (footwear and tool marks)
- Bloodstain interpretation and documentation
- Alternate light sources

COURSE CONTENT

Introduction - Chapter 1
Understanding the Nature of Physical Evidence - Chapter 2
Actions of the Initial Responding Officer - Chapter 3
Processing Methodology - Chapter 4
Assessing the Scene - Chapter 5
Crime Scene Photography - Chapter 6
Crime Scene Sketching and Mapping - Chapter 7
Narrative Descriptions: Crime Scene Notes and Reports - Chapter 8
Basic Skills for Scene Processing - Chapter 9
Shooting Scene Documentation and Reconstruction - Chapter 10
Applying Bloodstain Pattern Analysis in the Crime Scene - Chapter 11
The Body as a Crime Scene - Chapter 12
Special Scene Considerations - Chapter 13

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week #1 Course orientation, chapters 1-2
Week #2     Chapters 3-4
Week #3     Chapter 4, Lab #1
Week #4     Exam #1 (chapters 1-4, handouts)
Week #5     Chapters 5-6
Week #6     Chapter 6, lab #2 (Writing assignment due May 23)
Week #7     Chapter 7, lab #3
Week #8     SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
Week #9     Exam #2 (chapters 5-7)
Guest speaker (tentative)
Week #10    Chapters 8-9, lab #4
Week #11    Chapter 9, lab #5
Week #12    Chapter 10-11, lab #6
Week #13    Guest speaker (tentative), lab #7
Week #14    Chapter 13, lab #8, exam #3 review
Take home final due April 12
Week #15    Exam #3 (April 26)

TENTATIVE LAB SCHEDULE
Lab 1 - Packaging physical evidence
Lab 2 - Crime scene photography I
Lab 3 - Crime scene sketching and mapping
Lab 4 - Latent fingerprint development (powder)
Lab 5 - Impression evidence I (dust prints and tool marks)
Lab 6 - Impression evidence II (footwear impressions; alternate light sources)
Lab 7 - Crime scene photography II (mock crime scene)
Lab 8 - Bloodstain pattern analysis and documentation

EVALUATION AND GRADING
Four exams will be given at appropriate intervals. Exams will cover lecture material as well as information in the textbook. Exams will be in multiple choice and short answer
format. The final exam (exam #4) will consist of a take-home assignment requiring students to create and process a simulated crime scene. Additional information will be provided later in the semester.

Exams are expected to be taken during their scheduled times. Students are responsible for the material presented in class, whether or not they are in attendance. **Make up exams will only be allowed if the instructor is notified prior to the exam.** Exams must be made up within one week of the originally scheduled date. The instructor reserves the right to change the format of any make-up tests.

**Laboratory Assessment**

There are eight lab sessions scheduled throughout the semester. Each student is expected to actively participate in every scheduled lab. Labs are designed to reinforce important lesson material and allow students the opportunity to apply what they have learned. Students can earn up to ten points per lab session by attending and successfully completing each lab (total 80 points). There will be no make-up sessions for labs that are missed.

The final grade for this course will be based upon a scale of 530 points. Each of the three examinations is worth 100 points, the final exam (take-home) is 100 points, lab exercises are worth a total of 80 points and the research project is 25 points. Students may earn up to 25 points for class participation. While there will necessarily be some subjectivity to awarding points for this, objective criteria such as attendance, punctuality and class participation will be considered.

**Computation of Final Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 exams (100 points each)</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam (take-home)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab exercises</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research project</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td><strong>Total possible points</strong></td>
<td>530</td>
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**Evaluation of Final Grade**

- **A** = 90%-100% (477-530 points)
- **B** = 80%-89% (424-476 points)
- **C** = 70%-79% (371-423 points)
D = 60%-69%  (318 - 370 points)
F = 0%-59%   (< 318 points)

WRITING ASSIGNMENT

This assignment requires students to access Forensic Magazine and summarize several CSI-related articles. Go to the web site http://www.forensicmag.com and click on the Articles tab. Then select five articles of interest and prepare a well-written summary of each article using the following format: Title, Author, Date Article Posted, Summary, and Bottom Line. The Bottom Line should be a brief synopsis of key points in the article.

The assignment is worth 25 points and will be graded on content, grammar, punctuation, style and organization, and APA format. Papers should be word processed and include a cover sheet with the student's name, date, assignment title, course number and semester. Text should be single-spaced with one-inch margins using 12 font. APA guidelines should be followed for every article. Each article should be on a separate page.

Assignments are due February 23. Late assignments will result in a reduction of 10% for each calendar day late. No assignments will be accepted during the week of final exams.

Scoring Rubric: Research Project

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<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grammar, punctuation, and style</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>APA guidelines</td>
<td>2</td>
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Electronic Assignment

Throughout the semester students be will be required to access the Electronic Library Database Collection for information on assigned topics. Students should be prepared to discuss that information with the class.

Writing Center

If you wish to have additional help on a writing assignment, you may schedule an appointment with a writing conference instructor by going to www.worwic.edu and clicking on “Current Students” and then “Learning Resources” and “Writing Conferences.” Limited time slots are available, so an appointment is required. If you
cannot keep your appointment, it is your responsibility to cancel any writing conferences by using this link.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

Students must comply with the standards of conduct mandated by college policy as outlined in the Appendix of the college catalogue. Any student caught plagiarizing or cheating on an assignment in violation of that policy will not receive credit for that assignment. Discussions will occur before penalties are given. At the discretion of the instructor, the student may also be referred to the Student-Faculty Disciplinary Committee.

**Classroom Etiquette**

Silence all cell phones and electronic devices. Text messaging is not permitted during class. Violations of the cell phone policy will result in the loss of class participation points.

Students are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire class. If a student is late or must leave early, please minimize disruption to the class. A late or early leave counts as 1/2 an absence. No side conversations or other distracting behaviors will be tolerated during class. Respect others by being polite and considerate.

**ONLINE END-OF-SEMESTER EVALUATIONS**

The College has selected SmartEvals as its vendor to conduct online end-of-course evaluations. **The evaluations will become available starting April 11 and ending April 25.** SmartEvals maintains the highest level of security with the evaluation information, and the information resides only on SmartEvals’ computer servers. Faculty are unable to identify individual evaluations, and any data which has the potential to reveal the identity of a student (i.e. the only male in a class) is blocked from viewing. You will receive automated emails from SmartEvals reminding you to complete your evaluations, and the timing of the emails is in compliance with anti-spam guidelines. The emails discontinue once all of your evaluations are completed. You will be able to access the evaluations through the link in the SmartEvals email or by clicking on “course evaluation” in the left menu of your Blackboard course website. The evaluations are only active during designated times at the end of the semester. Disable the pop-up blockers on your internet browser in order to access the evaluation. Your cooperation in completing the online evaluation at the designated time is greatly appreciated. The results from the course evaluation provide valuable feedback to your instructor in order to make changes as needed with curriculum and teaching. Please direct any questions about the online course evaluation system to Hope Ellis at hellis@worwic.edu
EMERGENCY INFORMATION STATEMENT

In the event of a flu epidemic or other emergency that results in the suspension of classes, faculty will be communicating with students about their courses and course requirements, such as assignments, quiz and exam dates, and class and grading policies, via faculty websites or Blackboard. Students will be responsible for completing all these assignments in accordance with class policies. Information about the resumption of classes will be communicated via the College’s website and email system.

BLACKBOARD STATEMENT

Blackboard is being used as a supplementary site in this course. To access course content in Blackboard you need to have access to a computer with an Internet connection, (other requirements may apply). Computers that meet these requirements are available on campus in MTC 200, AAB 217, HH 100, GH 204, WDC 305, and AHB 108. Please follow these directions to access course syllabi and any other materials posted for this course:

Login Information

1. From Wor-Wic home page, point to “Quick Links” (top right) and click the “Blackboard Login” link.

2. Enter your Wor-Wic user ID and password (same as your Wor-Wic email user ID and password). If you do not know your Wor-Wic user ID or password, contact Student Services.

3. You should then see a list of courses for which you are currently enrolled. Click on the course link for CMJ 256.

4. Find and click on the folder for the course resource you are looking for, i.e. course syllabus, Power Point presentations, study guides, etc.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND COMPUTER USAGE POLICY

All students logging into Blackboard affirm that they understand and agree to follow Wor-Wic Community College policies regarding academic integrity and the use of College resources as described in the college catalog. Wor-Wic Community College considers the following as violations of the computer usage policy:
• Using the campus computing network and facilities to violate the privacy of other individuals
• Sharing of account passwords with friends, family members or any unauthorized individuals

Violators are subject to college disciplinary procedures.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Wor-Wic provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you are in need of accommodations, please contact the counseling office at (410) 334-2900. For more information, see Wor-Wic's Services for Students with Disabilities web page.

MISCELLANEOUS

Class time will involve both lecture and class discussions covering subjects in the text and outside materials. Students are expected to complete all assigned reading prior to class, actively participate in class discussions, attend all classes, and be on time. Regular attendance and participation are the best ways to ensure success in this course. If a student experiences any course-related problems throughout the semester, feel free to contact the instructor at any time.