

# Lassen Community College Course Outline

## AJ-35 Investigative Techniques

3.0 Units

### I. Catalog Description

A semester course with instruction and hands-on training regarding fundamentals of investigation; crime scene search and recording; collection and preservation of physical evidence; scientific aids; modus operandi; sources of information; interviews and interrogation; follow-up and case preparation. This course has been approved for online and hybrid delivery.

**Recommended Preparation:** Successful completion of ENGL105 or equivalent multiple measures placement.

Transfers to CSU only

*C-ID AJ 140*

51 Hours Lecture, 102 Expected Outside Class Hours, 153 Total Student Learning Hours  
Scheduled: Spring (odd)

### II. Coding Information

Repeatability: Not Repeatable, Take 1 Time

Grading Option: Graded or Pass/No Pass

Credit Type: Credit - Degree Applicable

TOP Code: 210500

### III. Course Objectives

#### A. Course Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the critical ethical issues relating to criminal investigation.
2. Describe the duties related to the basic functions of crime scene management (management control, evidence search and processing, general area investigation).
3. Explain the role of the investigator in the judicial process.

#### B. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the role of documentation in the criminal investigative process.
2. Recognize, identify and explain the implications of a given piece of evidence in a criminal process.
3. Identify critical ethical issues relating to criminal investigation.
4. Describe successive evolutionary stages of the criminal investigative process.
5. Identify procedures for first responders to crime scenes.
6. Describe the duties related to the basic functions of crime scene management (management control, evidence search and processing, general area investigation).
7. Identify role of forensic examination in a criminal investigative process.
8. Compare and contrast the legalities and strategies of interview and interrogation.
9. Identify key information sources and data systems available to investigators.
10. Explain the role of the investigator in the judicial process.

## **IV. Course Content**

### Part I – The Initial Investigation

- a. Coordination of the crime scene
- b. Systematic search procedures
- c. Identifying direct and circumstantial evidence
- d. Establishing the chain of evidence possession
- e. Locating witnesses

### Part II – Records of the Crime Scene

- a. Field notes
- b. Preliminary investigative reports
- c. Crime scene photography and sketches
- d. Progress reports

### Part III – Laboratory and Technical Services

- a. Criminalistics: Forensic Science
- b. DNA identification
- c. Fingerprint Identification
- d. Laboratory equipment
- e. Laboratory determinations

### Part IV – Basic Investigative Leads and Informants

- a. Concept of benefit and opportunity
- b. Modus operandi
- c. Weapons, stolen property and vehicles
- d. Composite sketches and criminal's photographs
- e. Linkage between suspects and the crime
- f. Informants and their types

### Part V – Major Investigative Techniques

- a. Type of surveillance
- b. Search warrants
- c. Police intelligence
- d. Undercover police agents
- e. Suspect lineups

### Part VI – Interviewing and Interrogation

- a. Interviewing essentials
- b. Recollection refreshment
- c. Written witness statements
- d. Interrogation law
- e. Interrogation essentials
- f. Detection of deception
- g. Documentation of a confession

### Part VII – Arrest of the Accused Person

- a. The broadcast alarm
- b. Wanted notices
- c. Records as sources of information
- d. The arrest
- e. Case preparation
- f. The decision to charge an arrestee

### Part VIII – Investigations of Major Crimes

- a. Physical assaults

- b. Sexual assaults
- c. Robbery
- d. Arson, bombings and hate crimes
- e. Property crimes
- f. Dangerous drugs
- g. Vice and organized crime
- h. Terrorism

Part IX – The Investigator as a Witness

- a. Actions prior to court appearance
- b. Court testimony
- c. Nonverbal communication
- d. Conduct after testimony
- e. Ethical awareness
- f. Prevention of misconduct

## V. Assignments

### A. Appropriate Readings

The student is expected to read the text as the class progresses, legal updates and articles assigned.

### B. Writing Assignments

Essay, quizzes, short paper and investigative procedure.

### C. Expected Outside Assignments

Student will complete out of class exercises, write short papers and investigate mock crime scene or scenario as assigned

### D. Specific Assignments that Demonstrate Critical Thinking

Class discussion and exercises on investigative procedures which will incorporate critical thinking skills. Class quizzes and exams.

## VI. Methods of Evaluation

### Traditional Classroom Evaluation

Class Participation

Written Assignments, Reports

In class exercises/presentations

Mid-term and Final Examination

### Online Evaluation

Delivery includes the following: online written lectures, forum-based discussions, exercises/assignments contained on website, adding extra resources and other media sources as appropriate.

### Hybrid Delivery

All quizzes and exams will be administered during the in person class time. Students will be expected to complete online assignments and activities equivalent to in class assignments and activities for the online portion of the course. Electronic communication, both synchronous and asynchronous will be evaluated for participation and to maintain effective communication between instructor and students.

## VII. Methods of Delivery

Check those delivery methods for which, this course has been separately approved by the Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee.

Traditional Classroom Delivery    Correspondence Delivery

Hybrid Delivery    Online Delivery

### Traditional Classroom Instruction

Lecture format with audio-visual aids, practical exercises, and group presentations.

### Online Delivery

Online instruction will be utilized. 51 hours will be instructed online through the technology platform adopted by the District. Online delivery will consist of participation in forum-based discussions and posts, web links, email communications, lecture posts, exams and online lectures. Adding extra resources and other media sources as appropriate.

### Hybrid Delivery

A combination of traditional classroom and online instruction will be utilized. Each semester a minimum of 17 hours, or 1/3 of the lecture hours, will be taught face-to-face by the instructor and the remaining hours will be instructed online through the technology platform adopted by the District. Traditional class instruction will consist of exercises/assignments, lectures, visual aids, and practice exercises. Online delivery will consist of exercises/assignments, lecture posts, discussions, adding extra resources and other media sources as appropriate.

## VIII. Representative Texts and Supplies

Christine Hess Orthmann, *Criminal Investigation*, 12<sup>th</sup> edition, 2022, Cengage Learning, ISBN: 9780357511671

## IX. Discipline/s Assignment

Administration of Justice

## X. Course Status

Current Status: Active

Original Approval Date: 10/30/1990

Revised By: Thomas Downing

Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee Revision Date: 02/07/2023