

CJ389-01 Criminal Investigations Syllabus

Spring Semester (January - May) 2020

Professor: Jiabo Liu, Ph.D.

Department of Criminal Justice

Mississippi Valley State University, Mississippi, USA

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Office Hours:

Mondays 10:00am – 12:00pm; 2:00 – 3:30pm

Tuesdays 2:00 – 5:00pm

Wednesdays 10:00am – 12:00pm; 2:00 – 3:30pm

or By Appointment at least 6 hours in Advance

Catalog Course Description

An extensive examination of the investigation process to include: historical origins of criminal investigation, the investigative method, note taking and reporting, crime scene focus, interviewing, the sources of information, special investigation, investigation in court, and the future of criminal investigation.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to acquaint students with:

1. Identify the structures of Criminal Investigations;
2. Provide the basic knowledge of Criminal Investigations;
3. Discuss important issues on the Criminal Investigations.

Core Objectives of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Program

Upon completion of the undergraduate program the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the structure, functions and principles of the main components of the criminal justice system— law enforcement, courts, corrections, in addition to theories of crime and research methods.
2. Demonstrate ability to apply criminological principles to address “real life” criminal justice related problems.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of research methods appropriate at the baccalaureate level.

Class Meeting Time and Place

Mondays & Wednesdays, 3:50pm - 5:05pm, SSB-18.

Required Textbook

Howard Harris & Henry Lee, *Introduction to Forensic Science and Criminalistics* 2nd Edition (CRC Press, 2019). ISBN-13: 978-1498757966. ISBN-10: 1498757960. Additional readings may be issued to you during the class.

Grading Policy

The final grade will be determined as follows:

Total 100%: 90 – 100% = A, 80 – 89% = B, 70 – 79% = C, 60 – 69% = D, Below 60% = F.

1. Middle Semester Examination (30%)

An open-note and in-class examination as Middle Term Examination will be held on 6th March 2020. This examination will consist of many multiple-choice questions that test students' understanding of the contents in the required textbook. No share of any material in any media during the exam. Each of you will independently take this examination.

2. Final Examination (30%)

An open-note and in-class examination as Final Examination will be held on 29th April 2020 for graduating seniors and on 4th - 8th May 2020 for non-graduating seniors. This examination will consist of many multiple-choice questions that test your understanding of the contents in the required textbook and class discussions. No share of any material in any media during the exam. Each of you will independently take this examination.

3. Class Presentation (5%)

A. Each of you is assigned to present your comments on the assigned materials in related chapter of the required textbook for at least 5 minutes on the scheduled day in the syllabus (2.5 points).

B. Each of you is required to write a five-page term paper and to submit the term paper to the professor at jliu@mvsu.edu on the date as indicated in the Guidelines. The requirements of the class paper will be issued separately (2.5%).

4. Class Participation (35%)

Class participation will be a combining product of reading textbook before class, attending class, raising substantial questions about the related issues, exercising practices, and submitting issued assignments during the class.

If you did something of non-class activities, violate classroom rules as stipulated in the syllabus, and/or received a warning from the professor, your participation scores would be reduced. If

your behaviors disrupt the class participation to any extent, the professor reserves the rights to ask you to leave the classroom temporarily.

Make-Up Policy

Make up may be allowed, depending on the circumstances with an excuse. It is at the professor's discretion and with students' request before the deadlines of quizzers, exams, or assignments.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is a commitment to the values of honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, respect and responsibility in academia. Academic integrity is violated by any dishonest act that is committed in an academic context. Honesty and integrity are essential values of the Mississippi Valley State University's mission to pursue truth and knowledge. Academic excellence can be reached only with the cooperation and support of students. Students are expected therefore to accept responsibility for maintaining honesty and integrity in all acts inside and outside the classroom, studio or laboratory. (MVSU Student Handbook pg.59.)

Cheating &Plagiarism Policy

Cheating in any fashion will not be tolerated, including but not limited to plagiarizing another's words, work or ideas on individual class assignments.

Class Attendance Policy

Attendance, by policy, is required. With no attendance, at least, you would not earn your points from your participations unless, even if you face emergency, you have doctor's excuse and/or an excuse letter from the Office of Student Affairs that are the ONLY excuses, whenever provided before final exam, for earning your points from your participations when you are absent.

General Course Policies

1. Be on time for all class activities. "Late" is greatly NOT encouraged. You do not have to be perfect but need to make perfect efforts.
2. Do not bring children to the classroom, turn off your cell-phone, pager and/or any other noising, sound or sound-video-recording electronic or mechanic devices during the class, and no noising, sound or sound-video-recording electronic or mechanic devices can appear on the surface during the class.
3. The professor reserves the right to modify assignments and/or any contents of this syllabus to meet the needs of the students enrolled and to adjust for unforeseen events, modifications or adjustments will be announced during class or via email or both, it is your responsibilities to pay attention to any modifications or adjustments.
4. Any with either learning or physical disabilities should consult the relevant office at the University and address your situation to the professor with official documents from the office.
5. The professor reserves the right to make photocopies of your completed assignments after grading before returning them to you.
6. You are expected to follow all university policies regarding students' activities in class and in professor's office. You take full responsibilities for all types of consequences of your violations of the policies/classroom rules stipulated in the syllabus and in Student Handbook.

CJ389-01 Spring 2020 Schedule

Dates	Topics	Readings or Assignments
Jan 13 Mon	Introduction: Overviews	Harris & Lee, Chapter 1.
Jan 15 Wed	Introduction: Science & Ethics	Harris & Lee, Chapter 1.
Jan 20 Mon	M. L. King Day (No Classes)	
Jan 22 Wednesday	Physical Evidence	Harris & Lee, Chapter 2.
Jan 27 Monday	Physical Evidence	Harris & Lee, Chapter 2.
Jan 29 Wednesday	Crime Scene: Processing & Analysis	Harris & Lee, Chapter 3.
Feb 3 Monday	Crime Scene: Processing & Analysis	Harris & Lee, Chapter 3.
Feb 5 Wednesday	Patterns of Evidence for Reconstruction	Harris & Lee, Chapter 4.
Feb 10 Monday	Patterns of Evidence for Reconstruction	Harris & Lee, Chapter 4.
Feb 12 Wednesday	Physical Patterns of Evidence	Harris & Lee, Chapter 5.
Feb 17 Monday	Physical Patterns of Evidence	Harris & Lee, Chapter 5.
Feb 19 Wednesday	Personal Identification Patterns: Fingerprints & Others	Harris & Lee, Chapter 6.
Feb 24 Monday	Personal Identification Patterns: Fingerprints & Others	Harris & Lee, Chapter 6.
Feb 26 Wednesday	Document Evidence: Questioned Document Examination	Harris & Lee, Chapter 7.
March 2 Monday	Document Evidence: Questioned Document Examination	Harris & Lee, Chapter 7.
March 4 Wednesday	Middle Semester Examination	
March 9-13	Spring Break	
March 16 Monday	Toolmarks & Firearms	Harris & Lee, Chapter 8.

Dates	Topics	Readings or Assignments
March 18 Wednesday	Toolmarks & Firearms	Harris & Lee, Chapter 8.
March 23 Monday	Digital Evidence & Computer Forensics	Harris & Lee, Chapter 9.
March 25 Wednesday	Blood & Physiological Fluid Evidence	Harris & Lee, Chapter 10.
March 30 Monday	Blood & Physiological Fluid Evidence	Harris & Lee, Chapter 10.
April 1 Wednesday	DNA Analysis & Typing	Harris & Lee, Chapter 11.
April 6 Monday	DNA Analysis & Typing	Harris & Lee, Chapter 11.
April 8 Wednesday	Arson & Explosives	Harris & Lee, Chapter 12.
April 13 Monday	Easter Monday (No Meeting for This Course as Classes Resume 6:00pm)	
April 15 Wednesday	Arson & Explosives	Harris & Lee, Chapter 12.
April 20 Monday	Drugs & Drug Analysis	Harris & Lee, Chapter 13.
April 22 Wednesday	Materials Evidence	Harris & Lee, Chapter 14.
April 27 Monday	Materials Evidence	Harris & Lee, Chapter 14.
April 29 Wednesday	Final Examination for Graduating Seniors	
May 4-8	Final Examination for Non-Graduating Seniors	