

Criminalistics II (CJSA 2323-9Y1)



CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hour lab)

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Theory and practice of crime scene investigation. Topics include report writing; blood and other body fluids; document examination; etchings, casts and molds, glass fractures; use of the microscope, and firearm identification.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Explain the various aspects of theory and practice related to crime scene investigation
- List the procedures used in various types of evidence discovery and examination

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Terry Higginbotham

Email: tlhigginbotham@libertyisd.net

Office Phone: (936) 336-6483

Office Location: Liberty High School, Room 125

Office Hours: 5th period

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Forensic Science Today by Dr. Henry C. Lee and George M. Taft (2nd Edition) Lawyers & Judges Publishing Company, Inc. Tucson, Arizona
a. ISBN number is 13: 978 1 933264 87 5

ATTENDANCE POLICY

LISD attendance policy

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

COURSE CALENDAR

Readings include the required text and instructor-provided Liberty High School course materials.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS / ASSESSMENTS
Week 1-2	Advanced crime-scene procedures; scene security, legal considerations, and documentation review	Procedure review	Advanced scene documentation exercise
Week 3-4	Blood and body-fluid evidence; microscopy and biological evidence	Laboratory practice	Biological-evidence analysis
Week 5-6	Questioned documents: handwriting, ink, paper, and alteration examination	Document lab	Questioned-document comparison
Week 7-8	Impression evidence: footwear, tire tracks, casts, molds, and glass	Casting practice	Impression-evidence lab
Week 9-10	Firearms and toolmarks; trajectory concepts and safe evidence handling	Comparison practice	Firearms/toolmark documentation
Week 11-12	Crime-scene reconstruction, evidence packaging, and advanced report writing	Reconstruction workshop	Integrated case-report draft
Week 13-14	Advanced mock crime-scene investigation, case presentation, courtroom testimony, and final assessment	Mock-scene practical	Final case file, testimony, and written assessment
Week 15-16			Final Case File, Testimony, and written assessment continued... Final Grades Submitted

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Major Grades	40%
Minor Grades	60%

GRADE SCALE

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

For the latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc., review the Minimum Computer and Equipment Requirements on the [LIT Online Experience](#) page. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email

specialpopulations@lit.edu. You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses.

STARFISH

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION