



Criminal Investigation (CJSA 1342)

CREDIT

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Investigative theory; collection and preservation of evidence; sources of information; interview and interrogation; uses of forensic sciences; case and trial preparation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Define the goals and objectives of criminal investigation.
- Demonstrate ability to conduct proper crime scene investigations.
- Organize the criminal case including field notes, reports, and crime scene.
- Students will define the responsibilities of Law Enforcement and Constitutional restraints.
- Students will analyze landmark supreme court cases that impact law enforcement.
- Demonstrate understanding of the daily functioning of the criminal justice system.
- Students will be able to compare and contrast current supreme court cases to past supreme court cases.
- Students will discuss how do Law enforcement affects society.
- Students will discuss probable cause, stop, and frisk, Miranda Warning and what is needed for a search warrant.
- Students will demonstrate the basic knowledge to prepare for law enforcement career activities.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Mary Franklin

Email: mafranklin@lit.edu

Office Phone: 409-382-1333

Office Location: CTE Building Rm. 16

Office Hours: 11:31 a.m.- 12:54 p.m. Monday – Friday

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Criminal Investigation by Karen M. Hess, Christine Hess Orthmann, and Henry Lim Cho (11TH edition)

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend classes regularly. Regular participation is necessary to pass this course.

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

Date	Topic	Readings (Due on this day)	Assignments (Due on this day)
08/24/26-08/28/26	Introduction Week	08/24/26 Syllabus Review 08/25/26 Criminal Investigation: An Overview Chapter 1 08/26/26 Documenting the Crime Scene: Note Taking, Photographing and Sketching Chapter 2	08/27/26 Chapter 1 Assignment 08/28/26 Chapter 2 Assignment
08/31/26-09/03/26	Writing Effective Reports	08/31/26 Writing Effective Reports Chapter 3	09/03/26 Chapter 3 Assignment

09/08/26 -09/11/26	Searches	09/08/26 Searches Chapter 4	09/09/26 Chapter 4 Assignment 09/11/26 Quiz 1
09/14/26-09/18/26	Forensics/Physical Evidence Obtaining Information and Intelligence	09/14/26 Forensics/Physical Evidence Chapter 5 09/15/26 Obtaining Information and Intelligence Chapter 6	09/16/26 Chapter 5 Assignment 09/18/26 Chapter 6 Assignment 09/18/2026 Chapter 5-6 Test
09/21/26-09/25/26	Identifying and Arresting Suspects	09/21/26 Identifying Arresting Suspects Chapter 7	09/23/26 Chapter 7 Assignment 09/25/26 Exam 1
09/28/26-10/02/26	Death Investigations Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Elder Abuse	09/28/26 Death Investigations Chapter 8 09/29/26 Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Elder Abuse Chapter 9	09/30/26 Chapter 8 Assignment 10/02/26 Chapter 9 Assignment
10/05/26-10/08/26	Sex Offenses Crimes Against Children	10/05/26 Sex Offenses Chapter 10 10/06/26 Crimes Against Children Chapter 11	10/07/26 Chapter 10 Assignment 10/08/26 Chapter 11 Assignment
10/13/26 - 10/16/26	Robbery	10/13/26 Robbery	10/16/26 Chapter 12 Assignment
10/19/26 - 10/23/26	Burglary	10/19/26 Burglary	10/22/26 Chapter 13 Assignment/Power Point Presentation 10/23/26 Quiz 2

10/26/26 - 10/30/26	Larceny/Theft, Fraud, and White- Collar Crime Motor Vehicle Theft	10/26/26 Larceny/Theft, Fraud, and White- Collar Crime Chapter 14 10/27/26 Motor Vehicle Theft Chapter 15	10/30/26 Chapter 14 Assignment
11/02/26 - 11/06/26	Arson, Bombs, and Explosives Computer Crime	11/02/26 Arson, Bombs, and Explosives Chapter 16 11/03/26 Computer Crime Chapter 17	11/04/26 Chapter 16 Assignment 11/06/26 Exam 2
11/09/26 - 11/13/26	A Dual Threat: Drug-Related Crime, and Organized Crime Criminal Activities of Gangs and Other Dangerous Groups	11/09/26 A Dual Threat: Drug- Related Crime, and Organized Crime Chapter 18 11/10/26 Criminal Activities of Gangs and Other Dangerous Groups Chapter 19	11/11/26 Chapter 18 Assignment 11/13/26 Chapter 19 Assignment
11/16/26 - 11/20/26	Terrorism and Homeland Security	11/16/26 Terrorism and Homeland Security Chapter 20	11/20/26 Quiz 3
11/23/26-11/27/26 Thanksgiving Break	No class	No class	No class
11/30/26-12/04/26	Preparing for and Presenting Cases in Court	11/30/26 Preparing for and Presenting Cases in Court Chapter 21	12/04/26 Exam 3

12/07/26 -12/11/26		12/07/26 - 12/10/26 Review for final exam	12/11/26 Final Exam
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Approved: MF 08/04/2026

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- **Assignments 30%**
- **Quiz/Exams 40%**
- **Power Point Presentation 10%**
- **Final Test 20%**

GRADE SCALE

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

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimumcomputer-requirements>. 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 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 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

I DO NOT accept late work. All assignments are due as scheduled. There are a few exceptions but those will be discussed on a case-by-case basis (ex. medical situation such as hospitalization).

Preferred means of communication: Email: mafranklin@lit.edu or phone: 409-382-1333.

Communication Response Time: Expected response time for communications with instructor is 24- 48 hours (except weekends).

Grading Response Time: Assignments should be returned with grades within 1 week.