

Criminalistics II (CJSA 2323 9J1)

CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours 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: Mary Franklin

Email: mafranklin@eagle.lit.edu

Office Phone: 409-382-133

Office Location: CTE Building Rm.16

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

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 ISBN number is 13: 978 1 933264 87 5

Attendance Policy

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



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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 Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1	Course introduction Syllabus and policies; An Introduction to Forensic Science Today Thinking about and Researching Criminalistics A Review of Current Forensics	Orientation Discussion The Forensic Scientist The Forensic Pathologist The Crime Scene Investigator The Criminal Investigator 08/24/26	08/24/26
Week 2	Fire and Arson Evidence Fire Burn Patterns / The Fire and Arson Evidence The Arson Investigator	08/31/26 Textbook: Chapter 13	09/03/26 Assignment 1
Week 3	Chemical Evidence Collecting and Packaging Evidence Chemical Testing in the Crime Lab	09/07/26 Textbook: Chapter 14	09/11/26 Assignment 2
Week 4	Digital Evidence The Computer as a Weapon Internet Theft	Textbook: Chapter 15 09/14/26	09/18/26 Assignment 3
Week 5	Forensic Art	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 16	09/24/26 Assignment 4

	The Jane Doe Case The John List Case	09/21/26	09/25/26 EXAM 1
Week 6	Forensic Pathology “The Body at Death” The Forensic Autopsy Estimating the Time of Death “The Jon Benet Ramsey Case: A Crime Profile” The JFK Case and Forensic Profile	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 17 09/28/26	10/2/26 Assignment 5
Week 7	Forensic Toxicology The DWI Case Investigation “Drugs and Bugs” Review the “Aunt Diane” real case scenario	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 18 10/05/26	10/09/26 Assignment 6
Week 8	Forensic Anthropology Analyzing the Hidden Secrets in the Bones The Robert Pickton “The Pig Farmer” Case Case Study of the Guilty Sausage Maker	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 19 10/12/26	10/16/26 Assignment 7
Week 9	Forensic Entomology What Can Insects Tell Us About a Murder? Selected Cases of Dr. Neal H. Haskell, the bug	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 20 10/19/26	10/22/26 Assignment 8 10/23/26 EXAM 2

	and maggot doctor...Ref: Entomology and Death		
Week 10	Forensic Dentistry Identifying Human Remains through teeth Case Studies of Dr. Henry Lee, Dr. Lowell Levine (Ted Bundy) Remains of Dr. Josef Mengele / The Last Russian Czar Nicholas and Family / The Donna Payant correctional Officer Murder Case by Dr. Michael Baden	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 21 10/26/26	10/30/26 Assignment 9
Week 11	Forensic Engineering Reconstructing events such a building collapses, auto crashes, etc. The East Texas Challenger Space Shuttle Disaster Guest Speaker U.S. Attorney Brit Featherston	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 22 11/02/26	11/06/26
Week 12	The FBI – EVIDENCE RECOVERY TEAM (ERT – Cases “The James Byrd Case” Jasper, Texas. Forensic Psychology “The Case of the Sick Mind”	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 23 11/09/26	11/12/26 Assignment 10 11/13/26 EXAM 3
Week 13	The Andrea Yates Case	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 23	11/20/26

	The Robert Durst Case The Richard Speck Case The Ed Gein Case The Richard Speck Case The Ed Gein Case	11/16/26	
Week 14	No class Thanksgiving	No class Thanksgiving 11/23/26 – 11/27/26	No class Thanksgiving
Week 15	The Crime Scene Reconstruction The Science and Logic of Reconstruction The Helle Crafts Case “The Woodchipper Case” The Amy Bradley Case The George Smith Case – Dr. Henry Lee Jurisprudence: Law and forensics CRIME SCENE SEARCH PRACTICAL PROBLEM(S) COURSE PROJECT DUE	<i>Textbook: Chapter 24</i> 11/30/26 <i>Textbook: Chapter 25</i> 11/30/26	12/04/26
Week 16	Crime Scene Research and Case Writings Reports and Courtroom Testimony	<i>Textbook: Chapter 26</i> 12/07/26	12/11/26 Final Exam

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Assignments 25%
- Lab/Online Exercise 5%
- 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.