

Criminalistics II (CJSA 2323 9G1)

CREDIT

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Hybrid/Lab

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: Timothy Dinger

Email: timothy.dinger@gccisd.net

Office Phone: 281-421-4400 ext 86860

Office Location: GCM room SW210

Office Hours: 7am-3pm

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

This is a face-to face attendance class. CLASS ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. Participation is assessed through exercises completed in class. Activities may consist of class assignments, group activities and individual analysis of information from various sources including the text. GCCISD attendance Policy



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DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified date as listed in the College Calendar on the [Student Success](#) web page. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

COURSE CALENDAR

Note: All Readings are from the course required text and designated pages, as well as course-included PowerPoints which are available on Blackboard.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS / ASSESSMENTS
Week 1 Oct 19-23	Course Introduction; Current Forensics Review; Fire & Arson Evidence; Chemical Evidence; Evidence Collection and Packaging	Ch. 13-14	Discussion Board; Intro Assignment; Lab Exercises 1-2 Assignments 1 and 2 due 10/23/26
Week 2 Oct 26-30	Digital Evidence; Cybercrime; Forensic Art; Jane Doe and John List Case Studies	Ch. 15-16	Digital Evidence Assignment; Lab Exercise 3 Assignments 3 and 4 due 10/30/26
Week 3 Nov 2-6	Forensic Pathology; Death Investigation; Autopsies; Time of Death; Forensic Toxicology	Ch. 17-18	EXAM 1 (Ch. 13-18); Lab Exercises 4-5 Assignments 5 and 6 due 11/6/26
Week 4 Nov 9-13	Forensic Anthropology; Forensic Entomology; Human Remains Identification	Ch. 19-20	Case Analysis Assignment; Lab Exercise 6 Assignments 7 and 8 due 11/13/26
Week 5 Nov 16-20	Forensic Dentistry; Forensic Engineering; Accident Reconstruction; FBI ERT	Ch. 21-23	EXAM 2 (Ch. 19-23); Project Progress Check; Lab Exercises 7-8 Assignments 9 and 10 due 11/20/26
Week 6 THANKSGIVING BREAK Nov 23-27	NO CLASSES, ASSIGNMENTS, OR DUE DATES		
Week 7 Nov 30-Dec 2	Forensic Psychology; Major Case Studies; Crime Scene Reconstruction; Jurisprudence; Crime Scene Search Practical; Report Writing and Testimony	Ch. 23-26	EXAM 3; COURSE PROJECT DUE; Lab Exercises 9-10; All Remaining Assignments Due FINAL EXAM due 12/2/26

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Three Unit Tests 30 %
- Course Project 20 %
- Class Assignments 20 %

- Final Exam 15 %
- Lab/Online Exercise 5 %
- Participation 5 %
- Attendance 5 %

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

1. LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED. DUE DATES ARE NOT EXTENDED. If a student fails to complete the course work on the designated time/date(s) a GRADE of ZERO (0) will be recorded online Blackboard. NO MAKE UP WORK ACCEPTED.
2. Students should log into Blackboard a minimum of three (3) times a week to view ANNOUNCEMENTS, and work on and complete required Assignments, Projects, Research work and reviews for Exams.
3. Students will learn to explain the various aspects of theory and practice related to crime scene investigation.
4. Critical Thinking Analysis – Analyzation of current and or past criminal cases using the Scientific Theory or concept from the beginning crime scene to court room presentation will be a major part of the course from the learning objectives of Dr. Henry LEE and the Courses taught by the Texas Commission of Officer Education (TCOLE) – Crime Scene Investigation (2026)
5. Research and Practical Application Project – Students will research a past felony crime issue / topic of major significance and then complete a practical crime scene investigation to include search, photographing, sketching discovery and collection of evidence, written report and prepare for testifying in a mock court room case. The assignment will consist of a research report and presentation. Crime Scene mock exercise will be part of this course.
6. Exams – There will be three exams and a Final Exam. Each exam will cover 3-4 chapters of the text. Each Exam will cover specific Learning Objectives that the Crime Scene Investigator will utilize in their formal duties
7. All Assignments must be submitted online blackboard during the designated period(s).
8. PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE – Participation is assessed through exercises completed in class. Activities may consist of class assignments, group activities, individual analysis of information from various sources such as scientific journal articles, crime scene documentaries, crime scene investigation projects. Sources of learning include the Dr. Henry Lee Textbook, Course power points, instruction lectures and re-investigating past criminal/crime scene real cases. However, six (6) unexcused absences will result in a 50% reduction in the Participation/Attendance grade column
9. NOTE: This is a Face-to-Face Course/Class with LABS. Attendance is required.
10. LAB STUDY MANUAL EXERCISES (10) are required to complete the course.
11. The Course Calendar is subject to change without prior notice.