



Criminalistics I (CJSA 1308 9J1)

CREDIT

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the field of Criminalistics. Topics include the appreciation of scientific and technical methods in the investigation of crime including location, identification, and handling of evidence for scientific analysis.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Describe the various roles of the Forensic Scientist from the crime scene technician, to the medical-legal forensic pathologist to the courtroom testimony of a criminal case.
- Explain and apply the scientific method to both research and to the actual crime scene.
- Explain and utilize the Locard's Theory and different crime scene search patterns.
- Demonstrate understanding of the actual participation of a mock crime scene and complete the on-scene investigation to include a written report.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Mary Franklin

Email: mafranklin@eagle.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

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.

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	Definitions, Scientific Method. Introduction to Forensic Science The Forensic Pathologist The Medical Legal Autopsy (Cause and Manner of Death) The Sexual Assault Nursing Expert Investigation I (The Basics)	Class Exercise	08/28/26 Assignment 1
Week 2	Chapter 2 Crime Scene Investigation I (The Basics)	Handout Class/Online Documentary Presentation Chapter Reference Power Point	09/03/2026 Chapter 2 Assignment
Week 3	Chapter 3 Crime Scene Investigation II (The Physical Evidence) Chapter 3 Assignment 3 Crime Scene Investigation	Handout Discussion Real CSI Chapter Reference Power Point Crime Lab Power Point	09/11/26 Chapter 3 Assignment
Week 4	Chapter 4 Fingerprints	Handout Discussion Real CSI Chapter Reference Power Point Crime Lab Power Point	09/17/26 Chapter 4 Assignment 09/18/26 Exam 1
Week 5	Chapter 5 Trace Evidence	Discussion	09/25/26 Chapter 5 Assignment

		Documentary Definition and Discussion / Method of Discovery Glass, Soil, Hair, Fibers. Documenting and Collecting Trace Evidence	
Week 6	Chapter 6 Drug Evidence	Types, Collection of Samples: Drugs and Poisoning Readings. Discussion, Power Point, Narcotics Task Force	10/02/26 Chapter 6 Assignment
Week 7	Chapter 7 Forensic Serology	Handouts Online Study Blood Spatter Cases References Power Point Blood Spatter Cases References Power Point	10/08/26 Chapter 7 Assignment
Week 8	Chapter 8 DNA Evidence	Handouts Online Study Blood Spatter Cases Exercise Power Point / References Definitions CODIS DNA Today, The Innocence Project Sample Case Analysis – Dr. Henry Lee	10/15/26 Chapter 8 Assignment 10/16/26 Exam 2
Week 9	Chapter 9 Blood Stain Patterns Blood Stains/Jodi Aries Case “The House That Roared”	Continued / Cases of Blood Spatter “Forensic Files” Documentary	10/23/26 Chapter 9 Assignment
Week 10	Chapter 10 Questioned Documents	Documentary Forensic Investigation	10/30/26 Chapter 10 Assignment
Week 11	Chapter 11 Imprints and Impression “In Cold Blood” “The State Trooper Case”	Lab Exercise Making Casts Documentary	11/06/26 Chapter 11 Assignment

Week 12	Chapter 12 Tool Marks and Firearms Evidence Firearms Evidence Blood Impressions Bullets and Spent Cartridge Cases Shooting Scenes	Definitions, Class/Online Discussion Class Lab Exercise Firearms Identification	11/13/26 Chapter 12 Assignment
Week 13	Blood Impressions “The State Trooper Case” Firearms Evidence (Continued)	Documentary Definitions, Class/Online Identification Class Lab Exercise Firearms Identification	11/13/26
Week 14	No class Thanksgiving 11/23/26 – 11/27/26	No class	No class
Week 15	Additional Documentaries	Documentary	12/04/26 Final EXAM Review
Week 16	Final Exam		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%
- Project 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.