



CRJS 2423 Introduction to Criminal Investigations and Identification Summer I 2019

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Section # and CRN: P01 CRN 32638
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Mode of Instruction: Face to Face

Course Location: Don Clark, 236
Class Days & Times: Mon-Thur. 1-3:20 p.m.
Catalog Description: **CRJS 2423: Introduction to Criminal Investigation and Identification.** Credit 3. A survey of scientific crime detection methods, the identification and presentation of evidence, instrumentation, and crime report writing. ** (CRIJ 2314). **Transfer equivalent from Texas Community/Junior Colleges.

Prerequisites: None.
Co-requisites: None.

Required Text: *Criminal Investigation, 5th edition* (2018) by Aric W. Dutelle and Ronald F. Becker. Jones and Bartlett Learnings Publisher.

Recommended Texts: Any introductory investigations text.

Student Learning Outcomes:

	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Program Learning Outcome # Alignment	Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment
1	describe the historical development of forensic science and understand common terms {critical thinking; social responsibility} – as indicated by items on examinations and by essay.	5	1, 4
2	describe the general process of criminal investigations and of specialized investigations {quantitative and empirical skills; critical thinking; social responsibility} – as indicated by examination items and assignments	5	1, 3, 4
3	identify the different types of evidence and related legal procedures for presenting evidence {critical thinking and communication} – as indicated by items on examinations and by essay.	5	1,2
	explain interview and interrogation processes {critical thinking; communication} - as indicated by items on examinations and by essay	5	1, 2

Major Course Requirements

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Course Grade Requirement	Value	Total
Examination I	21	21
Examination II	23	23
Examination III	23	23
Examination IV	23	23
Investigation Essay	06	06
Study Group	04	04
Total:	100	100

Grading Criteria and Conversion:

A = 100 – 90pts;

B = 89 – 80pts;

C = 79 – 70pts;

D = 69 – 60pts;

F = 59 pts or below

Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

Assignment Title or Grade Requirement

Description

Four examinations

Examination I worth 21% of final grade and the others worth 23% of the final grade. Each examination will have approximately 30 questions (more if cumulative). The questions will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/ false, short answer and short essay items. It is most ill-advised to miss any of the exams! Make-ups will be given **ONLY** in instances of a documented emergency (i.e. death of someone close, hospitalization of oneself or one's child, or a spouse (near death), surprise work audit, etc.). Expect such tests to be more challenging than regularly scheduled exams.

If most of the class does not pass an examination then the next examination may be cumulative (i.e. on old, plus new materials). The point is that you learn – if not sooner, later.

Investigation essay

Worth 6% of the final grade. You are required to find a news story in a major newspaper or news source. Make a copy of the news story including the name and date of the publication. If there are multiple news stories on that case. Copy as many as are relevant. Write a 500 to 750 words essay outlining possible investigative directions to resolve the case. Your essay must be reviewed by a tutor in Hilliard Hall or the library tutoring centers before you submit it to me for grading.

Study group participation

Worth 4% of the final grade. This score will reflect the report of your group members regarding your contribution to study group's efforts. It is likely that given tight summer schedules that some persons will not be able to meet face to face. In such cases, it is expected that groups study via online tools and, or by using free telephone conference call services. The point is that you learn about teamwork and that in the process, it helps you to get the best grades in the course.

Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

Taskstream

Taskstream is a tool that Prairie View A&M University uses for assessment purposes. One of your assignments may be considered an "artifact," an item of coursework that serves as evidence that course objectives are met. More information will be provided during the semester, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link in eCourses.

Department Policy on Mobile Devices and Technology

It is imperative that instructors be afforded reasonable authority to manage the classroom learning environment. An important component of management of the classroom environment is control of topic and pedagogical method. Empirical data shows that student use of mobile devices and other forms of technology that are not approved by the instructor for the educational endeavor of interest serve as distractors to student attention. When students attempt to divide their time between paying attention to the classroom topic and/or pedagogical method used by the instructor and the use of a mobile device, the student may miss important course content or details. Unsanctioned use of mobile devices or technology by a student may also serve as a substantial distraction to other students enrolled in the course.

It is the policy of the Department of Justice Studies that during examinations no mobile device or other form of technology be placed in the student's work area, visible by the student, or within an arm's length reach of the student. The instructor of record may and is encouraged to further elaborate his or her own course-specific mobile device policies in writing in the course syllabus.

NOTE: Syllabi subject to change with advance notice.

Tardiness and absenteeism are NOT encouraged a considerable amount of information will be covered each week. Of course, classes will begin on time. If for some reason you will be absent for more than one class during the semester, call the instructor to let her know. **YOU** are responsible for materials covered in any classes that you miss. The instructor will be available for clarification on lecture materials. Please see the latest version of the undergraduate handbook for the university attendance policy.

Late assignments are discouraged and may result in a grade penalty.

Expect no extra credit assignments.

Incompletes are rarely given. Please see the university handbook for the university policy on the assignment of "incomplete" grades. NOTE: Students who have a failing average in a course cannot receive an incomplete grade.

Academic misconduct: (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) [see Student Handbook] will not be tolerated!!! Anyone caught engaging in any such activities – FAILS the course!!! Having an electronic device on during a closed book examination will result in an assumption of cheating and an "F" in the course. Criminal Justice demands persons of impeccable integrity.

*** If you encounter problems in meeting any of these requirements, do not hesitate to utilize my office hours.**

Submission of Assignments:

Written assignments should be typed, double-spaced and in APA format per the 6th edition of the manual. Assignments are due as indicated. They may be required to also be submitted electronically into an electronic program – to be announced. Late penalty = 3% points off of the final grade.

Formatting Documents:

Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you are using other word processors, be sure to use the "save as" tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format.

Semester Calendar

Week One: June 3-6

Topic Description

Introductions; review of the syllabus; the evolution of forensic science and criminal investigations; types of investigations; types of evidence; the crime scene; documenting evidence; laws of search and seizure.

Readings:

Chapter 1: Introduction to Criminal Investigation
Chapter 2: The Laws of Search and Seizure
Chapter 3: Managing Criminal Investigations and Cultivating Sources of Information
Chapter 4: The Crime Scene

Assignment (s):

Select the news article for the writing assignment; meet your study group partners, exchange contact information, prepare and use study index cards for next week's Examination I.

Week Two: June 10-13

Topic Description

Physical evidence (continued); blood evidence; surveillance; profiling; interrogation; the Reid Technique; confessions and false confessions; detecting deception; witness intimidation firearms; re-interviews; investigative resources; eyewitness identifications

Readings:

Chapter 5: Physical Evidence
Chapter 6: Suspect Identification
Chapter 7: Interviewing and Interrogation
Chapter 8: Firearms Investigation

Assignment (s):

June 13: Initial draft of investigative paper due for feedback; also bring in a copy of the article you plan to use.

Study group - prepare and use study index cards for next week's Examination II.

Examination I: Tuesday, June 11th at 1:00 p.m. (*class will resume at approximately 2:15 p.m.*)

Week Three: June 17-20

Topic Description

The crime laboratory; death investigations; assault (domestic violence; sexual assault; child sexual exploitation; sex trafficking; aggravated assault); child abduction; robbery; theft; motor vehicle theft and related offenses; marine theft; aircraft theft; agrichemicals theft; livestock and related theft; wildlife crimes; burglary; drug offenses.

Readings:

Chapter 9: Death Investigation
Chapter 10: Theft, Burglary and Robbery
Chapter 11: Assault Investigation
Chapter 12: Drug Offenses

Assignment (s):

June 19 and 20: Second draft of your investigative paper is due for feedback; bring a copy of the article you plan to use with you and meet with me to discuss your progress.

Study group - prepare and use study index cards for next week's Examination III.

Examination II: Tuesday, June 18th at 1:00 p.m. (*class will resume at approximately 2:15 p.m.*)

Week Four: June 24-27

Topic Description

Arson and explosives investigation; terrorism and organized crime; illicit drug movements; using informants; searches and seizures; investigating

Readings: terrorism; investigating organized crime; investigating cybercrime, white collar crime, frauds and scams; underwater investigations
Chapter 13: Arson and Explosives Investigation
Chapter 14: Computer Crime and Digital Evidence
Chapter 15: Terrorism and Homeland Security
Chapter 16: Underwater Investigation

Assignment (s): Study group - prepare and use study index cards for next week's Examination IV

Examination III: Tuesday, June 25th at 1:00 p.m. (class will resume at approximately 2:15 p.m.)

Week Five: July 1-3
Topic Description

NOTE: July 4- No class- Independence Day. Investigators in the courtroom- documenting and presenting evidence; expert testimony.

Readings: Chapter 17: Defense Lawyers, Prosecutors, and Investigators
Chapter 18: Expert Testimony

Assignment: **July 1: Investigative essay due for final grading at 1:00 p.m.**

Study group - prepare and use study index cards for this week's Examination IV.

Examination IV: Wednesday, July 3 at 1:00 p.m.

Student Support and Success

John B. Coleman Library

The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University's core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty. <https://www.pvamu.edu/library/> Phone: 936-261-1500

The Learning Curve (Center for Academic Support)

The Learning Curve offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Learning Curve is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 207F. Phone: 936-261-1561

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS)

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 306. Phone: 936-261-1040

Writing Center

The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Students taking on-line courses or courses at the Northwest Houston Center or College of Nursing may consult remotely or by email. Location: Hilliard Hall Rm. 121. Phone: 936-261-3724.

Student Counseling Services

The Student Counseling Services unit offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and provides assistance to students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Owens-Franklin Health Center Rm. 226. Phone: 936-261-3564

Testing

The Department of Testing administers College Board CLEP examinations, the HESI A2 for pre-nursing majors, LSAT for law school applicants and MPRE for second-year law students, the Experiential Learning Portfolio option, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment, which determines college readiness in the state, and exam proctoring, among other service such as SAT and ACT for high school students. Location: Delco Rm. 141. Phone: 936-261-4286

Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services

As a federally-mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For persons with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include: learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hard and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, livescribe, Kurtzweil, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 317. Phone: 936-261-3585

Veteran Affairs

Veterans Services works with student veterans, current military and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 323. Phone: 936-261-3563

Office for Student Engagement

The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the co-curricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center Rm. 221. Phone: 936-261-1340

Career Services

Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Distance Learning students are encouraged to visit the Career Services website for information regarding services provided. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 217. Phone: 936-261-3570

University Rules and Procedures

Disability Statement (Also See Student Handbook):

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Evans Hall, Room 317, or call 936-261-3585/3.

Academic Misconduct (See Student Handbook):

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty:

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Handbook)

The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual Misconduct (See Student Handbook):

Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Title IX Statement

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is committed to supporting students and complying with the Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, the faculty member must report the basic facts of your experience to Ms. Alexia Taylor, PVAMU's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and can assist you with understanding your options and connect you with on- and off-campus resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached by phone at 936-261-2123 or in Suite 013 in the A.I. Thomas Administration Building.

Class Attendance Policy (See Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports full academic development of each learner whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or internet.

Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms. Each faculty member will include the University's attendance policy in each course syllabus.

Student Academic Appeals Process

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:

- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 7; Mac with OS X; Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi
- High speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer or Firefox

Note: Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups in the Web browser preferences

Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:

- Sending and receiving email
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
- Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
- Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

Netiquette (online etiquette):

Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others on discussions boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

Technical Support:

Students should go to <https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/> if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3283

Communication Expectations and Standards:

Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.

Discussion Requirement:

Online courses often require minimal to no face-to-face meetings. However, conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course can take place in a seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of the discussion board. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it/they should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.