CRJS 2423 Introduction to Criminal Investigations and Identification
Summer I 2021

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Section # and CRN: Z01 CRN 32638
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Office Hours: Mon.-Thur. 3:30-4:30.
Mode of Instruction: Online
Course Location: Online
Class Days & Times: Online
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.


Recommended Texts: Any introductory investigations text.

Student Learning Outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Learning Outcome #</th>
<th>Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>describe the historical development of forensic science and understand common terms <strong>(critical thinking; social responsibility)</strong> – <em>as indicated by items on examinations and by essay.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>describe the general process of criminal investigations and of specialized investigations <strong>(quantitative and empirical skills; critical thinking; social responsibility)</strong> – <em>as indicated by examination items and assignments</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>identify the different types of evidence and related legal procedures for presenting evidence <strong>(critical thinking and communication)</strong> – <em>as indicated by items on examinations and by essay.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>explain interview and interrogation processes <strong>(critical thinking; communication)</strong> – <em>as indicated by items on examinations and by essay.</em></td>
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</table>
Major Course Requirements

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Grade Requirement</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination I</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination II</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination III</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination IV</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigation Essay</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forums</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 | **Examinations I and IV are worth 20% of final grade and the others worth 21% 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, matching 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 from this calendar year in a major newspaper or news source. Make a copy of the news story including the name and date of the publication. Write a 500 words essay outlining possible investigative directions to resolve the case. Your essay must be reviewed before you submit it to the instructor for final grading in Week 5. Persons to review and offer advice on your writing are in the Hilliard Hall Writing Lab, the library tutoring center, or by a College student tutor. The College student tutors are working virtually and may be reached at: mprudhomme@pvamu.edu or at: tolu.kutemi@gmail.com.

Do not wait until on the last minute to do this, as the tutors may then be too busy to respond in a timely fashion. You must also put the paper through Grammarly (see link in eCourses) before uploading it into eCourses. The upload is into Turnitin. After uploading, look at your originality match score. This should be less than 10% with things properly cited. Edit to get it to that level. If this is challenging for you, contact the instructor to discuss.

Discussion forums
Worth 12% of the final grade. There are discussion forums in four weeks of the course, each worth 3 points toward the final grade. For each of these, there will be a case or cases from the news. You need to write a well-written paragraph of at least 100 words on an investigative direction in the case, reflecting your course learning. A score of 3 = well-written, applies course knowledge, demonstrates depth of thought; 2 = adequately written (few errors), demonstrates some basic course knowledge, fair level of thought; 1 = responded, but with limited evidence of integration of the material; 0 = no substantive response. You may also comment on someone else’s response. All comments must be constructive with a polite tone.

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.

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 7th 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 1-6**

**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; complete discussion forum post #1 which includes introducing yourself.

**Week Two: June 7-13**

**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 10: Initial draft of investigative paper due for feedback; also inform instructor via email about the article that you plan to use.  
Complete discussion forum post #2.

**Examination I: Tuesday, June 8.**

**Week Three: June 14-20**

**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 17: Second draft of your investigative paper is due for feedback; email a copy of the article you plan to use and meet with me to discuss your progress in the designated zoom session.  
Complete discussion forum post #3.

**Examination II: Tuesday, June 15.**

**Week Four: June 21-27**

**Topic Description**

Arson and explosives investigation; terrorism and organized crime; illicit drug movements; using informants; searches and seizures; investigating terrorism; investigating organized crime; investigating cybercrime, white collar crime, frauds and scams; underwater investigations

**Readings:**

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): Examination III: Tuesday, June 22
Complete discussion forum post #4.

Week Five: June 28-July 6

Investigators in the courtroom - documenting and presenting evidence; expert testimony.

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

Assignment: Friday July 2: Investigative essay due for final grading in eCourses.

Examination IV: Thursday July 1.

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. Phone: 936-261-1500; Website: J. B. Coleman Library.

Academic Advising Services
Academic Advising Services offers students a variety of services that contributes to student success and leads towards graduation. We assist students with understanding university policies and procedures that affect academic progress. We support the early alert program to help students get connected to success early in the semester. We help refer students to the appropriate academic support services when the student is unsure of the best resource for their needs. Some students are supported by faculty advisors in their respective colleges. Your faculty advisor can be identified in PantherTracks. Advisors with Academic Advising Services are available to all students. We are located across campus. You can find your advisor’s location by academic major at the Academic Advising Website. Phone: 936-261-5911.

The University Tutoring Center
The University Tutoring Center (UTC) offers free tutoring and academic support to all registered PVAMU students. The mission of the UTC is to help provide a solid academic foundation that enables students to become confident, capable, independent learners. Competent and caring staff and peer tutors guide students in identifying, acquiring, and enhancing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to reach their desired goals. Tutoring and academic support is offered face-to-face in the UTC, in virtual face-to-face sessions, and through online sessions at PVPlace. Other support services available for students include Supplemental Instruction, Study Break, Academic Success Workshops, and Algebra Study Jam. Location: J. B. Coleman Library, Rm. 307; Phone: 936-261-1561; Email: pvtutoring@pvamu.edu; Website: University Tutoring Center.

The Writing Center
The Writing Center provides well-trained peer tutors that assist students with writing assignments at any stage of the writing process. Tutors help students with various writing tasks from understanding assignments, brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, researching, and integrating sources. Students have free access to Grammarly online writing assistance. Grammarly is an automated proofreading and plagiarism detection tool. Student must register for Grammarly by using their student email address. In addition, students have access to face-to-face as well as virtual tutoring services either asynchronously via email or synchronously via Zoom. Location: J. B. Coleman Library, Rm. 209; Phone: 936-261-3724; Website: The Writing Center; Grammarly Registration.

Academic Early Alert
Academic Early Alert is a proactive system of communication and collaboration between faculty, academic advisors, and PVAMU students that is designed to support student success by promptly identifying issues and allowing for intervention. Academic Early Alert helps students by providing a central location to schedule advising appointments, view advisor contact information, and request assistance. Students who recognize that they have a problem that is negatively affecting their academic performance or ability to continue school may self-refer an Academic Early Alert. To do so, students will log in to PVPlace and click on Academic Early Alert on the left sidebar. Phone: 936-261-5902; Website: Academic Early Alert.

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: Hobart Taylor, 2nd floor; Phone: 936-261-3564; Website: Student Counseling Services.

Office of Testing Services
Testing Services serves to create opportunities by offering suite of exams that aid in the students’ academic and professional success. Currently we administer entrance (HESI A2), college readiness (TSI assessment), Prior Learning (CLEP, DSST), and proctored exams. Location: Wilhelmina Delco, 3rd Floor, Rm. 305; Phone: 936-261-3627; Email: aetesting@pvamu.edu; Website: Testing Services.

Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services
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, contact the Office of 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 hardware and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, livescribe, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Hobart Taylor, Rm. 1D128; Phone: 936-261-3583; Website: Disability Services.

Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services (CIITS)
Distance Learning, also referred to as Distance Education, is the employment of alternative instructional delivery methods to extend programs and services to persons unable to attend college in the traditional manner. The Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services (CIITS) supports student learning through online, hybrid, web-assisted and 2-way video course delivery. For more details and contact information, visit: CIITS Student Webpage; Phone: 936-261-3283.

Veteran Affairs
Veteran 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. 102; Phone: 936-261-3563; Website: Veteran Affairs.

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; Website: Office for Student Engagement.

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: Anderson Hall, 2nd floor; Phone: 936-261-3570; Website: Career Services.

University Rules and Procedures

Academic Misconduct (See Student Planner)
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 Planner, especially the section on academic misconduct (see University Administrative Guidelines on Academic Integrity). Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures. As listed in the PVAMU Undergraduate Catalog, Graduate Catalog, and the Student Planner, the following are examples of prohibited conduct. This list is not designed to be all-inclusive or exhaustive. In addition to academic sanctions, any student found to have committed or to have attempted to commit the following academic misconduct may also be subject to disciplinary review and action as outlined in the PVAMU Student Planner.

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 learned, giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations. Examples: unauthorized use of notes for a test; using a “cheat sheet” on a quiz or exam; any alteration made on a graded test or exam which is then resubmitted to the teacher.

2. Plagiarism: Careless or deliberate use of the work or the ideas of another; representation of another’s work, words, ideas, or data as your own without permission or appropriate acknowledgment. Examples: copying another’s paper or answers, failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting or representing it as your own; submitting an assignment which has been partially or wholly done by another and claiming it as yours; not properly acknowledging a source which has been summarized or paraphrased in your work; failure to acknowledge the use of another’s words with quotation marks.

3. Multiple Submission: Submission of work from one course to satisfy a requirement in another course without explicit permission. Example: using a paper prepared and graded for credit in one course to fulfill a requirement and receive credit in a different course.

4. Conspiracy: Agreeing with one or more persons to commit an act of academic/scholastic dishonesty.

5. Fabrication of Information/Forgery: Use or submission of contrived, invented, forged, or altered information in any assignment, laboratory exercise, or test; tampering with or production of a counterfeit document, particularly documents which make up the student’s academic record. Examples: making up a source or citing nonexistent publication or article; representing made up data as real for an experiment in a science laboratory class; forging a change of grade or student withdrawal record; falsifying any document related to a student academic exercise.

Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Planner)
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, or (2) the ability of students to benefit from the instructional program, or (3) 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 Office for Student Conduct under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual Misconduct
Sexual harassment of students and employees at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating the university’s sexual harassment policy will be subject to disciplinary action. In accordance with the Texas A&M University System guidelines, your instructor is obligated to report to the Office of Title IX Compliance (titleixteam@pvamu.edu) any instance of sexual misconduct involving a student, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual
harassment, about which the instructor becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. The faculty and staff of PVAMU actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like assistance, or have questions, they may contact the Title IX Coordinator at 936-261-2144 or titleixteam@pvamu.edu. More information can be found at the Title IX Webpage including confidential resources available on campus.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services or the Dean of Students’ Office for additional information and to request accommodations. More information can be found at this webpage.

Non-Discrimination Statement
Prairie View A&M University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity in its programs and activities. The University 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 discrimination or harassment, we encourage you to report it. 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 Director of Equal Opportunity & Diversity has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies, and can be reached at Harrington Science Building, Suite 109 or by phone 936-261-1744 or 1792.

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 University Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint. Students can file Academic Complaints and/or Grade Appeals at this webpage.

Technical Considerations

Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:
- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 10 or later version; Mac with OS High Sierra*
- 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 or Firefox

*Smartphone, Google Chrome books and Android tablets may not be supported. iPads are the only tablets supported.
Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:

- Sending and receiving emails
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
- Acrobat PDF Reader
- Windows or Mac OS
- Video conferencing software

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. Do not use ALL CAPS for communicating to others AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS YELLING. Avoid slang terms such as “wassup?” and texting abbreviations such as “u” instead of “you.” Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons. Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and the message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.

Video Conferencing Etiquette
When using Zoom, WebEx or other video conferencing tools, confirm the visible area is tidy, clear of background clutter, inappropriate or offensive posters, and other distractions. Ensure you dress appropriately and avoid using high traffic or noisy areas. Stay muted when you are not speaking and avoid eating/drinking during session. Before class session begins, test audio, video and lighting to alleviate technology issues.

Technical Support
Students should go to the Password Reset Tool 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 Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services (CIITS) at 936-261-3283 or email ciits@pvamu.edu.

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. Examinations will be scored immediately when they close for everyone testing. Assignments will be graded within a week of them being submitted. See grades in the gradebook. Contact me with any questions via email or telephone.

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 such as Word 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, copy and paste to the discussion board.