

**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE
FALL 2008
AUGUST 25 – DECEMBER 13, 2008
JUSTICE 255-601**

COURSE TITLE: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
CREDIT HOURS: 3
DEPARTMENT: JUSTICE CENTER
CLASS: TUESDAY/THURSDAY, 2:30PM – 3:45PM, SSB 251

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lawrence C. Trostle
OFFICE: LIB 213R
TELEPHONE: (907) 786-1816 (Voice Mail)
OFFICE HOURS: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Fundamentals of Investigation. Crime scene search and recording, collection and preservation of physical evidence, and scientific aids. Modus operandi, sources of information, interviews and interrogations, follow-up, and case preparation.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- A. The goal of this course is to provide the student with an awareness of the basic information from various disciplines needed to conduct a successful criminal investigation
- B. The instructional objectives are to ensure that by the end of the course, the student will be able to:
 1. Conduct a successful crime scene investigation.
 2. Take notes and write a good, complete, and accurate crime report.
 3. Discuss interviewing techniques and demonstrate an understanding of the laws that guide criminal investigations.
 4. Discuss certain approaches to conducting interviews and interrogations which will lead to greater success in obtaining confessions and admissions.
 5. Discuss the laws relevant to:
 - a. Arson
 - b. Narcotics
 - c. Sex Offenses
 - d. Homicide
 - e. Property Crimes
 6. Demonstrate an understanding of:
 - a. Rules of evidence and courtroom testimony
 - b. Identification and criminal profiling
 - c. Scientific methods of investigation including computer applications

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REQUIRED TEXTS:

Jeffery Deaver. (2001). *The Empty Chair: A Lincoln Rhyme Novel*. New York: Pocket Books.

James N. Gilbert. (2004). *Criminal Investigation* (6th edition). Prentice Hall.

Steve Weinberg. (2002). *The Reporter's Handbook. An Investigator's Guide to Documents and Techniques*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attend class*
2. Read required materials on time
3. Complete all examinations on date given
4. Complete all class projects on time

*There will be several in-class activities that cannot be made up. If you miss them it will hurt your overall grade.

EXAMINATIONS:

There will be several exams given during the course of the semester. There will also be a final examination on Thursday, December 11, 2008. The examinations will contain true and false, multiple choice, matching, fill-in and essay questions. There will also be several research projects assigned during the course of the semester. Each project will be announced in class well in advance of the date it will be due. All examinations and projects will be weighted the same. As a rule I do not give surprise quizzes or examination, **however, I reserve the right to do so**. If you miss one of these examinations **you will not be allowed to make it up**. Attending class is your decisions but remember there may be consequences for not attending. Also note I do not give make up exams.

The final exam will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2008 from 1:00p.m.-3:45p.m. The final exam will be comprehensive in nature and will consist of questions concerning all materials presented in class as well as assigned readings and guest lectures. **(NOTE: I am aware that the final is approximately ten days before Christmas. However, the final exam may not be taken at an earlier time than it is scheduled by the University, so please do not even ask me about it.)**

GRADES:

Grades will be assigned on an absolute basis, that is, no grades will be based on a "curve." However, the highest student grade obtained on any examination will establish the maximum points possible for that examination. For example, if the highest single student score on the first exam is 98 out of a possible of 100 points then the maximum points available for that examination is 98 not 100. This is not the case for written assignments and term papers. For these assignments there is a fixed value that will remain constant regardless if anyone in the class obtains that value or not. Final grades will be figured in 10 percent increments based on the highest student score obtained at the end of the semester.

<u>SCORE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C

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60-69
Below 60

D
F

Consistent with UAA policy, failure to attend class MAY be taken into consideration in calculating a student's final grade for the course.

UAA regulations restrict the awarding of the grade of incomplete ("I") to situations such as unavoidable absences or other conditions beyond the control of the student where work completed is already "C" level or better. **No grade of "I" will be submitted without the completion of a formal contract between the student and the instructor.** The student is responsible for initiating action for such a contract.

CAMPUS SAFETY:

We care about your safety on campus. While relatively safe, our campus is NOT a sanctuary from crime and accidents still occur no matter how hard we try to prevent them. You are encouraged to be responsible for your own safety and to bring safety concerns to the attention of UAA faculty or staff, or to contact Campus Police at 786-1120 when you observe an unsafe environment. For your own safety, please also take the time to locate the nearest exit and emergency telephone when you are in campus buildings.

READING OUTLINE:

This outline is just that -- an outline--and is subject to change. However, you will be notified of any modifications ahead of time. This is your course. There are no surprises and everything is intended to be straightforward. If you find otherwise, please bring it to my attention. Please note that the lectures may not always parallel the reading blocks. However, the examination material that you will be responsible for will be directly tied to the readings unless you are notified otherwise.

In order to do well in the class you must keep up with the readings. Not all of the material will be addressed in lectures, but I expect you to be familiar with the readings. I will be looking for references to this material in your written projects. Additionally, you will be held responsible for the material during our examination.

WEEK OF:

READING ASSIGNMENT:

August 25

Introduction
-- James N. Gilbert, Ch 1, Historical Origins of Criminal Investigation
-- Weinberg, Ch 1, 4, & 5

SEPTEMBER 1
SEPTEMBER 2

NO CLASS - LABOR DAY HOLIDAY (UAA CLOSED)
NO UAA CLASSES (UAA OPEN)

September 8

-- Gilbert, Ch 2, Introduction to Basic Concepts.
-- J. Gilbert, Ch 3, The Investigative Method.

September 15

-- J. Gilbert, Ch 4, Note-Taking and Reports.
-- Weinberg, Ch 2 & 3

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- September 22 -- J. Gilbert, Ch 5, The Crime-Scene Focus & Ch 7, Sources of Information.
-- Weinberg, Ch 6 & 7
-- J. Gilbert, Ch 7, Interviewing continued & Gilbert, Ch 6 Interviewing.
- September 29 -- Weinberg, Ch 5
-- J. Gilbert, Ch 8, Burglary.
- October 6 -- J. Gilbert, Ch 9, Robbery.
-- Weinberg, Ch 10 & 11
- October 13 -- J. Gilbert, Ch 10, Homicide and Aggravated Assault.
-- Weinberg, Ch 12 & 13
- October 20 -- J. Gilbert, Ch 11, Rape and Sexual Assault.
-- Weinberg, Ch 21
- October 27 -- J. Gilbert, Ch 12, Larceny.
-- Weinberg, Ch 9
- November 3 -- J. Gilbert, Ch 13, Narcotics and Drug Investigations.
- November 10 -- J. Gilbert, Ch 14, Suspect Identification.
- November 17 -- J. Gilbert, Ch 15, Special Investigations.
--also review of *Empty Chair* due

NOVEMBER 26 - 28 NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (UAA CLOSED)

December 1 -- J. Gilbert, Ch 16, The Investigator in Court.
Students will be required to attend a session of a criminal trial and report on the testimony of an investigative officer; guideline will be presented in class.

-- J. Gilbert, Ch 17, The Future of Criminal Investigation.
-- Weinberg

DECEMBER 11, 2008 FINAL EXAM 1:00 PM - 3:45 PM

* It is anticipated that one class exercise will involve a traffic accident investigation and one class exercise will involve a trip to an Alaska Court room.

-(ANCILLARY COURSE OUTLINE)-

For a successful investigation follow the advice of the King to Alice in Wonderland:

Begin at the beginning, and go on till you come to the end: THEN STOP.

- REMEMBER THERE WILL BE NO PLACE TO HIDE -

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APA STYLE

The American Psychological Association (APA) has advocated clear and effective written communication for over half a century, especially manuscripts for publication. Today the Publication Manual (1983) is in its third edition, and defines what is known as "APA style" the standard for Psychology and recognized in many disciplines. Although created for journal manuscripts, APA style is followed for most documents in Psychology (textbooks, dissertations, theses, and term papers), as well as in other disciplines.

This course specifies APA style for student written work. The publication manual is for sale in the UAA bookstore; a reference copy is on two-hour reserve in the library under the label "Psychology." Students should purchase a personal copy or become familiar with the reserve copy to appreciate it as a resource. The manual is remarkably thorough in answering technical questions on APA format. There are also many helpful suggestions for generally effective writing. Summarized below are key elements of APA style as it applies to student documents submitted for this course.

Content and Organization

APA style is best summarized in the word "efficient." Every word should contribute to clear and concise communication; organization should be logical and efficient. Redundancy, wordiness, embellishments, asides and irrelevancies are discouraged. Most documents are improved by removing excess verbiage from the rough draft. "Say it well, and say it once."

Sex-specific language should be avoided unless gender is the topic under discussion. It is usually possible to recast the sentence to avoid the editorial "he, she, his, her," etc. If unavoidable, use "or" (her or his) to maintain impartiality. Avoid referring to the human species as "man, mankind" etc. Be sensitive to potential stereotyping (i.e. "men & girls") not only for gender, but race, ethnicity, nationality, occupation, politics or life style.

Scholarly manuscripts generally fall into three categories: research reports, review articles, and theoretical papers. The research report is a chronological summary of the research process, usually in this order: 1) introduction, 2) method, 3) results, 4) discussion. Review articles survey the published literature on a specific topic and summarize the current state and project future trends. Theoretical articles propose a new theory or review an existing theory, and relate it to the relevant current empirical data. Review and theoretical articles are usually arranged by the relationships developed in the document, but frequently follow this order: 1) statement of problem, 2) summarize current research, 3) identify gaps and problems, 4) suggest future developments.

Manuscripts must also contain a cover page, an abstract, and references. While term papers may vary between courses and instructors, any research document requires a reference section identifying the source for factual material cited in the text.

Format

The document should be machine written on bond paper with an adequate ribbon and a legible font. The text is double-spaced, with a 1-1/2 inch margin all around. Footnotes are avoided. Abbreviations and acronyms are used sparingly, and are introduced in parentheses when the full term is first used (See APA and UAA above).

Graphs, tables, and illustrations should be selected carefully for their contribution to the document. Manuscripts to be typeset require illustrations on a separate page, student papers should position the material for reading efficiency.

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Citations provide the author's last name and the year of publication in parentheses. (Smith, 1985) or "Smith (1985) found that..." If necessary, use a suffix (1988a, 1988b). Coauthored works list both names (Smith & Jones, 1985). If a reference has more than two coauthors, list all authors the first time, and "et al." in subsequent citations. Direct quotes are so marked and the page of the quoted material is added to the citation (Jones, 1982, p. 135). If the quotation exceeds 40 words, the quoted material is displayed as a double spaced block indented five additional spaces (left margin only).

References are listed in alphabetical order and double-spaced. References include four elements: 1) author, 2) date of publication, 3) title, and 4) publication information. Each entry should be unambiguous without redundancies. Details vary; the list below samples only a few of the examples available in the APA Publication Manual (single spaced to save paper).

BOOK, CORPORATE AUTHOR, 3rd EDITION, AUTHOR AS PUBLISHER

American Psychiatric Association. (1980). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (3rd ed.). Washington DC: Author.

JOURNAL ARTICLE, TWO-AUTHORS, PAGINATED BY ISSUE

Becker, L. J., & Seligman, C. (1981). Welcome to the energy crisis. *Journal of Social Issues*, 37(2), 1-7.

BOOK, NO AUTHOR, NO EDITOR

College Bound Seniors. (1979). Princeton, NJ: College Board Publications.

MAGAZINE ARTICLE

Gardiner, H. (1981, December). Do babies sing a universal song? *Psychology Today*, pp. 70-76.

JOURNAL ARTICLE, PAGINATED BY VOLUME

Holding, D. H. (1989). Counting backward during chess move choice. *Bulletin of the Psychonomic Society*, 27, 421-424.

EDITED BOOK

Lethridge, S., & Cannon, C. R. (Eds.). (1980). *Bilingual education: Teaching English as a second language*. New York: Praeger.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, NO AUTHOR

Man skips court hearing. (1989, February 1). *Anchorage Daily News*. p. B-2.

MASTER'S THESIS

Ryerson, J. F. (1983). *Effective management in training: Two models*. Unpublished master's thesis, Clarkson College of Technology, Potsdam, NY.

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