GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 206 – CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

AOJ 206 Criminal Investigation 3 3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours

96-108 outside-of-class hours

144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

This course addresses the techniques, procedures, and ethical issues in the investigation of crime, including organization of the investigative process, crime scene searches, interviewing and interrogating, surveillance, source of information, utility of evidence, scientific analysis of evidence and the role of the investigator in the trial process.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Demonstrate ability to properly applydocumentation in the criminal investigative process;
2. Analyze, assess, and apply the proper processing methodologyof a given piece of evidence in a criminal investigation**;**
3. Analyze and explaincritical ethical issues relating to criminal investigation;
4. Assess and describe successive evolutionary stages of the criminal investigative process;
5. Analyze and explain procedures for first responders to crime scenes;
6. Describe the duties related to the basic functions of crime scene management (management control, evidence search and processing, general area investigation, chain of custody);
7. Explain therole of forensic examination in a criminal investigative process;
8. Analyze and explain the legalities of an interview and interrogation;
9. Compare and contrast the strategies of interview and interrogation;
10. Describekey information sources and data systems available to investigators;
11. Demonstrate knowledge ofthe role of the investigator in the judicial process;
12. Discuss the principles of case management from initial crime scene to the presentation of evidence in court;
13. Explain how professionalism, leadership, ethics, and moral standards relate to the pursuit of a career in public safety;
14. Explore career streams in criminal justice and public safety;
15. Demonstrate ability to work collaboratively in a group setting;
16. Conduct research and analytically write research studies on criminal investigation cases.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 206 – CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION Page 2

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

Access to a computer with internet capabilities.

7. Course Content

Course content includes an orientation to the field criminal investigations. Specific topic areas include:

1. Crime scene management.
2. Utility of evidence.
3. Documentation of evidence.
4. Follow-up investigation.
5. Interviewing (witness identification).
6. Interrogating techniques.
7. Physical evidence.
8. Laboratories.
9. Ethical challenges.
10. Surveillance.
11. Sources of information.
12. Trial process.

8. Method of Instruction

1. Lecture
2. Discussion
3. Instructional videos.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Quizzes that measure student’s ability to apply principles related to criminal investigation.
2. Case analysis including the written analysis of the principles of case management from initial crime scene to the presentation of evidence in court.
3. Written homework assignments**,** in-class exercises and presentations that critically analyze various components of a criminal investigation.
4. Exams including a comprehensive written final exam, which measure students’ ability to apply the evolutionary stages of the criminal investigative process.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Students will be required to read text and supplementary materials.

b. Critical-thinking and problem-solving written assignments which apply the analysis of the various stages of a criminal investigation.

11. Texts

Required Text(s):

1. Michelson, Richard. *Criminal Investigations: Concepts and Applications*. San Clemente, CA: LawTech Publishing, 2011.
2. Brandl, S. *Criminal Investigation*. 4th ed. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publishing. 2019

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 206 – CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION Page 3

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. Describe and explain the sequential conceptual stages in a criminal investigation.
2. Distinguish the relevant techniques and protocol of evidence collection, preservation, and linking analysis.
3. Recognize ethical principles in an investigation and present an appropriate response.
4. Examine the concept of probable cause, elements of a crime, and other appropriate basic criminal justice principles and their importance in the process of an investigation.

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 13, 2019