

Criminal Investigation

CJE-4610/Spring/2025

Course Number: CJE 4610

Course Credit Hours: 3 Hours

Course Modality: Online

Prerequisites or Corequisites: None

Office Hours: *Online Course*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Whit Majors

Email: wmajors@uwf.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Location: Zoom

Course Description

An introduction to criminal investigation. Topics will include investigative theory, collection and preservation of evidence, sources of information, interview and interrogation, uses of forensic sciences, and case and trial preparation.

Required Texts/Materials

- **Hess, K.M., Hess, Orthmann, C.H., Cho, J.M. and Cho, H.L. (2023) Criminal Investigation (12th Ed.). Cengage Learning. ISBN 978-0-357-51167-1.**

Required textbooks for 1000-4000 level courses are available on Reserve at the Circulation Desk at the UWF Libraries for a 2-hour loan period (book must stay in the Library). Please keep in mind that copies of textbooks for each course are limited and may be used by another student, particularly right before an assignment or reading is due, so plan use accordingly. This service is available for print-format textbooks only.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

- Understand the history and future of criminal investigation
- Apply the fourth, fifth and sixth amendments to investigating crimes
- Identify the characteristics of specific crimes
- Investigate crimes from an act to the prosecution
- Describe the criteria of a successful investigation

Attendance Policy

Because this is an online course, your attendance will be evaluated based on your activity within the Canvas learning management system. Attendance will be verified the first week of class once you complete the academic integrity quiz located in the first module.

Students are encouraged to **interact with this course on a frequent basis--optimally daily**. Early and frequent interaction in the course will afford students more time to reflect on the learning objectives each week.

Attendance is also important for students who receive financial aid. Agencies that distribute financial aid require that we confirm your attendance in the class before payments are made for tuition and other costs.

Grading/Evaluation

Grade Distribution by Points

Assignments	Point Values
Academic Integrity Quiz	10 points
Discussion posts (2 at 20 points each)	40 points
Quizzes (18 at 20 points each)	360 points
Final Exam	100 points
Total:	510 points

Quizzes

Each week, a chapter test will be assigned that may cover up to 2 chapters. Each quiz is open book and open notes. There is no time limit. You can take each exam 2 times and Canvas will only keep the highest score in calculating your grade. Quiz questions are a mixture of multiple choice and true false questions pulled from a test bank, so each attempt will pull new questions each time. There is no time limit. Chapter quizzes are due on Sunday at 11:59pm for the week they are assigned.

Discussions

Several discussion questions will be assigned throughout the semester that may not necessarily correspond with the topic of that week's assignment. The purpose is to promote critical thinking and conversation between you and your classmates. Make sure that you read the instructions carefully before responding. Discussions are due on Sunday at 11:59pm for the week they are assigned.

Final Exam

The final exam will be 100 questions. You get one opportunity to take this exam, so make sure that you are in a location with reliable access to internet service before starting the exam. There is no time limit. The exam is open book/open notes. The exam will be comprised of multiple choice, true false, and short answer questions. The final exam will be due on Sunday of the final week of class.

Extra Credit

Several opportunities for extra credit will be offered. These assignments/tasks are optional and are meant to serve as added exposure in the criminal justice field.

Grading Scheme

Letter Grade	Range
A	94% to 100%
A-	90% to 93.9%
B+	87% to 89.9%
B	84% to 86.9%
B-	80% to 83.9%
C+	77% to 79.9%
C	74% to 76.9%
C-	70% to 73.9%
D	61% to 69.9%
F	0% to 60.9%

Student Accessibility Resources

The University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must [register with Student Accessibility Resources](#) and submit a semester request each semester. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information regarding the registration process, visit [the SAR website](#), e-mail sar@uwf.edu or call 850-474-2387.

Important Information and Updates

Faculty members must sometimes update course elements such as schedules or assignment details in response to student needs and external events (e.g., severe weather or public health emergencies). If updates become necessary as the course progresses, students will be notified through Canvas and/or UWF Email.

eLearning (Canvas)

UWF's online courses are made available through eLearning, which is hosted by Canvas, one of the leaders in online learning. eLearning is widely used by UWF instructors for fully online courses and to supplement traditional courses with online content. Visit the [eLearning Help for Students](#) page to get started and find support for Canvas. **Canvas Support is available 24/7 at the Canvas Support Hotline for Students: 1-844-866-3349.**

A mobile app (Canvas Student) is available from your phone's app store. This app allows you to stay connected with the instructor and your fellow classmates. It also allows you to have the most up-to-date information about your class assignments and deadlines.

Zoom

Zoom is a cloud-based software that allows your instructor to moderate an online meeting with students. Learn more about [using Zoom as a student](#).

Academic Conduct

The [Student Code of Academic Conduct](#) defines various forms of academic misconduct, including cheating and plagiarism, and describes the process for addressing these types of allegations. All students are expected to read the Student Code of Academic Conduct and comply with the expectations. More information and links to the University regulation governing academic conduct can be found on the [Dean of Students website](#).

Course Schedule

The schedule below is accurate as of the first day of the semester. If any changes occur, you will be notified.

Week #	TOPIC	CHAPTER
Week 1	Welcome/Meet your Instructor Chapter 1 - Criminal Investigation - An Overview	Discussion 1 - Intro to Classmates Chapter 1 Quiz
Week 2	Chapter 2 - Documenting the Crime Scene	Chapter 2/3 Quiz
Week 3	Chapter 4 - Searches	Chapter 4 Quiz
Week 4	Chapter 5 - Forensics & Physical Evidence	Chapter 5 Quiz
Week 5	Chapter 6 - Obtaining Information & Intelligence Chapter 7 - Identifying & Arresting Suspects	Chapter 6/7 Quiz
Week 6	Chapter 8 - Death Investigations	Chapter 8 Quiz
Week 7	Chapter 9 - Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking & Elder Abuse	Chapter 9/10 Quiz
Week 8	Chapter 11 - Crimes Against Children	Chapter 11 Quiz
Week 9	Chapter 12 - Robbery Chapter 13 - Burglary	Chapter 12 Quiz Chapter 13 Quiz
Week 10	Chapter 14 - Larceny/Theft, Fraud & White Collar Crime Chapter 15 - Motor Vehicle Theft	Chapter 14 Quiz Chapter 15 Quiz
Week 11	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
Week 12	Chapter 16 - Arson, Bombs, and Explosives	Chapter 16 Quiz
Week 13	Chapter 17 - Computer Crime & Digital Evidence	Chapter 17 Quiz

Week #	TOPIC	CHAPTER
Week 14	Chapter 18 - Dual Threat: Drug Related Crime & Organized Crime Chapter 19 - Criminal Gangs & Other Dangerous Groups	Chapter 18 Quiz Chapter 19 Quiz
Week 15	Chapter 21 - Preparing for and Presenting Cases in Court	Chapter 21 Quiz
Week 16 (Last Week)	Final Exam	Final Exam