

CJ380 Death Investigations**Credit hours:** 3**Scheduled hours per week**

Lecture:	3
Lab:	0
Other:	0

Catalog course description:

This course will cover the procedures in conducting death investigations from crime scene through courtroom trial of death investigations. Topics include the role of the medical examiner/coroner, cause and manner of death, identifying human remains, the autopsy and interpretation of various types of injuries, equivocal death investigations, common mistakes made in the investigations process, legal considerations in death cases, and advances in forensic science as they relate to investigative techniques.

Pre-requisites: None**Co-requisites:** None**Course learning outcomes:**

- identify the causes and manners of death
- explain legal issues in conducting death investigations
- describe the process of securing and investigating a death scene
- demonstrate the steps in conducting a death investigation from the initial scene to the courtroom
- evaluate death investigations cases for mistakes
- integrate advances in forensic science into the death investigations process

Topics to be studied:

This course will cover causes and manners of death, determining time and location of death, the death investigative process, victimology assessments, legal issues in death investigations, and testifying in court.

Relationship of course to program or discipline learning outcomes:

Demonstrate proficiency in the vocabulary pertaining to the Criminal Justice field.	
Explain the history and evolution of the CJ system in the US.	
Explain the investigative process and applicable laws.	X
Demonstrate a basic understanding of the law and the legal system in the US.	
Examine the history and theories of and current practices within the corrections system.	
Explain ethics and how it applies to the CJ system and various CJ professionals.	
Recognize the root causes of crime and criminal behavior and the role criminological theory plays in the study of CJ.	
Display decision making and critical thinking skills as they relate to CJ.	X
Apply learned concepts by bridging the gap between theories and practice.	
Display an advanced level of understanding of CJ theories and concepts.	
Demonstrate a proficiency in writing, research, and critical thinking pertaining to the CJ field.	X

Recognize the underlying societal problems that lead to crime and victimization.	
Utilize CJ theories and concepts to combat social problems and distribute resources effectively.	

Relationship of course to general education learning outcomes:

Composition and Rhetoric: Students illustrate a fundamental understanding of the best practices of communicating in English and meet the writing standards of their college or program-based communication requirements.	
Science and Technology: Students successfully apply systematic methods of analysis to the natural and physical world, understand scientific knowledge as empirical, and refer to data as a basis for conclusions.	X
Mathematics and Quantitative Skills: Students effectively use quantitative techniques and the practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts.	
Society, Diversity, and Connections: Students demonstrate understanding of and a logical ability to successfully analyze human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication.	
Human Inquiry and the Past: Students interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives by identifying patterns, applying analytical reasoning, employing methods of critical inquiry, or expanding problem-solving skills.	
The Arts and Creativity: Students successfully articulate and apply methods and principles of critical and creative inquiry to the production or analysis of works of art.	
<i>Updated 05-03-2016</i>	

Special requirements of the course:

None

Additional information:

None

Prepared by:

Andrew Walker

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