


**CRIJ 2314 Criminal Investigation  
(8-Week On-line Version)  
2021 Fall 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-weeks**

**Professor:** Dr. Randolph D. Hicks  
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**Office Hours:** by appointment

**MAIN TEXTBOOK FOR PURCHASE:**

 Kären M. Hess, Christine Hess Orthmann, & Henry Lim Cho (2016). *Criminal Investigation* (11<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Cengage Learning.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Topics for the course include instruction on investigative theory; collection and preservation of evidence; sources of information; interview and interrogation; uses of forensic sciences; case and trial preparation.

**Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Technical Skills Required for This Course**

As with all online courses, students must be able to operate a computer and have the necessary technical skills to navigate around a web page. Additional technical skills are not a prerequisite for this course. However your computer must meet certain [minimum requirements to operate Blackboard](#).

**Time Spent on this Course**

Students can expect to spend a minimum of 10 hours per week to complete all readings and assignments. The lessons themselves take as long as it requires the student to read the materials and watch or listen to media presentations.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

### **Course Objectives:**

- Provide the student with an Overview of Criminal and Preliminary Investigation.
- Familiarize the student with the tasks of Documentation and Report Writing.
- Give the student an understanding of thorough Crime Scene Search and of Physical Evidence.
- Cause learners to be aware of the tasks of Information Acquisition, Identification and of Undercover Operations.
- Make the student aware of investigative duties for Violent Crimes: Death, offenses against Acquaintances and Children.
- Enable the student to recognize the features of Robbery.
- Make the student aware of investigative duties for Crimes Against Property: Burglary, Theft and Fraud, Vehicles and Arson.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

As a result of completing this course, the student will be able to:

- Describe the basic features and processes of Criminal and Preliminary Investigation
- Describe police tasks of documentation and report writing.
- Describe procedures for search and evidence handling
- Articulate methods of acquiring information, identification and undercover operations.
- Enumerate Duties of investigating violent crimes against persons
- Provide features and investigation of robbery
- Discuss investigative duties applicable to crimes against property

## **GRADING POLICY:**

A student's final grade will be based upon the point breakdown below. You may approach me at any point during the semester, and I will provide you with feedback on your progress in the class. However, you will be given feedback with all assignments when they are graded and returned to you. Therefore, please "keep track" of your points throughout the semester.

<p><b>Module Quizzes (around 27.3%)</b></p> <p>The instructor requires students to take the total of 6 lesson-based fundamental quizzes (all multiple choice questions) at the conclusion of the lecture on each Lesson.</p>	<p><b>600 points</b></p>
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<p><b>Module Essay Assignments (around 27.3%)</b></p> <p>The instructor requires students to focus on lesson-based fundamental questions at the conclusion of the lecture on each Module except Module 7.</p>	<p><b>600 points</b></p>
<p><b>Midterm Exam (around 22.7%)</b></p> <p>During <b>Module 4</b>, the students will be required to take this 100 minute exam. The total of 50 questions will cover the materials discussed over the course. The exam will have two sections included:</p> <p>(1) A 40-item multiple choice section; and  (2) A 10-item true/false section.</p>	<p><b>500 points</b></p>
<p><b>Final Exam (around 22.7%)</b></p> <p>During <b>Module 7</b>, the students will be required to take this 100 minute exam. The total of 50 questions will cover the materials discussed over the course. The exam will have two sections included:</p> <p>(1) A 40-item multiple choice section; and  (2) A 10-item true/false section.</p>	<p><b>500 points</b></p>
<p><b>Total</b></p>	<p><b>2200 points</b></p>

### ***Final Grade***

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Cumulative Points</u>
A	1980 to 2200 (equal to 90 -100 %)
B	1760 to 1979 (equal to 80 -89 %)
C	1540 to 1759 (equal to 70 -79 %)
D	1320 to 1539 (equal to 60 -69 %)
F	1319 and below (equal to 59 % and below)

### **MAKE-UP EXAMS:**

No make-up exams will be given.

## **COURSE ORGANIZATION**

**Module 1:** When students complete this reading assignment, they should be familiar with the basic goals of criminal investigation, recognize characteristics of effective investigators, and have an overview of the investigative process. Of particular importance, they should be able to articulate the critical function of responding patrol officers and identify with priority their initial steps from the point of arrival through release to follow up officers.

**Module 2:** After completing this module, students should be acquainted with the basic forms and procedures of constructing initial field notes, employing the needed photography equipment effectively, and constructing sketches. Additionally, they should recognize the importance of reports, the characteristics of effective ones and the various types and their uses and applications.

**Module 3:** Subsequent to completing the reading assignment for this module, students should be familiar with the various laws and rulings regarding search. Specifically, they should know of the applications to stops, lawful arrests and consent, exigent circumstances, mobile vehicles, abandoned property and evidence in plain view. Likewise, students should be familiar with legal considerations which apply to the concepts of open fields and abandoned property. They should be acquainted with the most basic search methods, investigatory equipment and with features of physical evidence processing and the maintenance of the chain of custody.

**Module 4:** Upon completing the reading assigned for this module, students should be aware of the sources of information and rules and effective methods of interviewing and interrogation. Also, they should be able to articulate methods and sources for identifying criminal suspects, and explain special features of undercover and similar operations and rules which apply.

**Module 5:** After reading the available information pertaining to this module, students should be familiar with the investigation of major crimes against persons. This involves the various kinds of death investigations and their important features and techniques, inquiring into assaults, domestic violence incidents, elder abuse and the many manifestations of sexual abuse and the crimes against the neglect of children.

**Module 6:** When students have completed the reading for this module, they should have gained a familiarity with the investigation of the dangerous and volatile crime of robbery. They should be able to cite and explain the various natures of robbery and why its investigation is particularly dependent upon the effective preliminary actions of uniformed patrol officers. Additionally, they should be aware of the reasons why robbery is uniquely dangerous.

**Module 7:** Once the student has read the available text material pertaining to the investigation of crimes against property, the student should be able to discuss the investigatory duties regarding the traditional crime of burglary and distinguish them what

is practiced and required in dealing with larceny/theft, fraud and various forms of white collar crime. They should be able to explain the techniques and considerations of motor vehicle theft and compare them to the science based and challenging investigation of the various forms of arson, bomb and explosive analysis. Students should be able to explain which kinds of specialized agencies routinely handle crimes against property as well as their being investigated by police departments and sheriff's offices.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

<b>Module One</b>	<u>Ch 1. Criminal Investigation: An Overview</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>1<sup>st</sup> Quiz and 1<sup>st</sup> Essay Assignment</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, October 22</li> </ul>
<b>Module Two</b>	<u>Ch 2. Documentation</u> <u>Ch 3. Report Writing</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Quiz and 2<sup>nd</sup> Essay Assignment</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, October 29</li> </ul>
<b>Module Three</b>	<u>Ch 4. Searches</u> <u>Ch 5. Forensics and Physical Evidence</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Quiz and 3<sup>rd</sup> Essay Assignment</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, November 5</li> </ul>
<b>Module Four</b> <b>(two weeks long)</b>	<u>Ch 6. Information Acquisition</u> <u>Ch 7. Identification and Undercover Operations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>4<sup>th</sup> Quiz and 4<sup>th</sup> Essay Assignment</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, November 19</li> </ul>
<b><u>Midterm Exam</u></b>	<b>Chapters 1-7</b> <i>The midterm exam will be posted at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, November 19 - Due by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, November 20</i>
<b>Module Five</b>	<u>Ch 8. Death Investigation</u> <u>Ch 9. Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking and Elder Abuse</u> <u>Ch 10. Sex Offenses</u> <u>Ch 11. Crimes Against Children</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>5<sup>th</sup> Quiz and 5<sup>th</sup> Essay Assignment</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, November 26</li> </ul>
<b>Module Six</b>	<u>Ch 12. Robbery</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>6<sup>th</sup> Quiz and 6<sup>th</sup> Essay Assignment</u> due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, December 3</li> </ul>
<b>Module Seven</b>	<u>Ch 13. Burglary</u>

Ch 14. Larceny, Fraud and White Collar Crime

Ch 15. Motor Vehicle Theft

Ch 16. Arson, Bombs and Explosives

**Final Exam**

**Chapters 8-16**

*The final exam will be posted at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, December 10 – Due by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, December 11*

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Academic Integrity**

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university [Academic Honor Code](#) and the [ASU Student Handbook](#).

**Accommodations for Disability**

The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at [Student.Life@angelo.edu](mailto:Student.Life@angelo.edu) to begin the process. The Student Life Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

**Student absence for religious holidays**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Title IX at Angelo State University**

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

**Michelle Boone, J.D.**

*Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator*

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

325-942-2022

[michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

**You may also file a report online 24/7 at [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form).**

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the *University Health Clinic and Counseling Center* at 325-942-2173 or the *ASU Crisis Helpline* at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).