

AS 20 Basic Investigation. MH 526. T&Th. 1030-1145 hrs.

Instructor: Peter Charles Unsinger.

Qualifications: Has worked as background investigator in deputy selection and CCW permits (Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, 1972-76). Surveillance activity. Employed on occasion by copyright firms and manufacturers in product counterfeiting cases in Asia. Developmental work conducted on fraudulent travel documents for a variety of clients. Other consulting jobs in security and policing fields both in Taiwan and Singapore.

Course Description:

The examination of investigations as an industry and as a process used in a variety of situations. The emphasis here will be how it's used in what is termed investigation industry and in law enforcement, although there are other usages. As a process, the various phases will be explored and techniques explained. Overall the emphasis will be on private investigation and criminal investigation.

This course has an equivalent in the Community Colleges. Also, the content is taught in all basic academies and introduction courses for civil servants needing some investigation background.

Text Book:

There is one textbook employed in this course. It is John S. Dempsey's An Introduction to Public and Private Investigations. (Minneapolis: West Publishing Company, 1996), paper cover. ISBN: 0-314-06765-5.

Beside the text book, there are many others in the library and in used book stores that will prove useful. There are even some sources available on the internet. All sources should be used by the student to enrich themselves in the study.

Office and Office Hours:

Macquarrie Hall 521.

1230-1730 hours, Tuesday

Phone: 408 924 1350; Fax: 408 924 2953; email: [Unsinger@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:Unsinger@email.sjsu.edu)

Use phone sparingly as it costs to return phone calls. Be sure the contact is really necessary. Also, since the instructor is here only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, many phone calls cannot be returned in time to solve whatever problem necessitated the call.

University Safety Features:

Each class room is equipped with a telephone for emergency purposes. The emergency number on campus is 911.

Should the class room need to be evacuated, use the stairways. Avoid elevators. If you have any difficulty using a stairway, advise the instructor so other arrangements can be made for your evacuation.

Course Requirements:

There are three examinations, a power point presentation and a paper used for grading purposes. The examinations will be identification of terms, essay questions and matching.

The power point presentation will be on a case recently in the news. The paper will be a written report on the case chosen for power point presentation.

The three examinations will require a bluebook of 8.5X11 inch dimensions. These may be purchased at the bookstore. The instructor does not supply them. These exams are 75% of the course grade.

The power point will be presented in a hard copy form and represents 10% of the grade. The remaining 15% will be the written case paper (about 5-10 pages).

Grade Criteria: examination/overall grade. Generalized statements.

A: Excellent. (Mastery of the material: Thorough familiarity with course content and ability to apply concepts to material not covered in class).

The top 10% of the class.

B. Above Average. (Understanding of the material: good familiarity with course content and ability to manipulate concepts with course context).

The next 20% of the class.

C. Average. (Meets minimum class standards: general familiarity with course content and ability to repeat lecture and reading notes on tests; answers are mostly descriptive).

The majority of students, about 60% of a class.

D. Below average. (Needs further work to bring it up to minimum standards).

The lowest 10% of the class.

F. Failure. (Exams are missed or shows complete lack of understanding of material).

Not considered in class curve.

Other grading criteria:

Besides mastery of the material, there are other features considered in grading. Some of these would be: grammar and spelling, thoroughness, materiality/relevancy of materials, organization and degree of difficulty, to name a few.

Crucial Study Note:

There is a strong correlation between attendance and being in the upper percentile in grades. Also, the use of materials found outside the classroom is highly recommended in applicable answers and has some effect on grades.

Lateness?

There is absolutely NO reason why the paper or the power point will be late. They can be turned in anytime prior to last date.

Examinations missed means the material in the examination has been compromised.

Therefore, any late taking of an examination means the grade for the exam will be no higher than the average score.

Class Schedule:

27 Aug. Course Introduction. All grading criteria and exam, power point and paper requirements explained. The investigation industry.

29 Aug. The investigation industry - overview

03 Sep. Ethics in Investigation.

05 Sep. Case Management.

10 Sep. Crime and Security in the USA

12 Sep. – ditto -

17 Sep. The Investigation Industry

19 Sep. – ditto -

24 Sep. History of Investigation

26 Sep. – ditto –

01 Oct. Types of Investigation

03 Oct. – ditto –

08 Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> examination.

10 Oct. Crime Scene & Investigation

15 Oct. Video: Detection of Deceit in Interviewing.

17 Oct. Video: Arson

22 Oct. Interviewing & Interrogation.

24 Oct. - ditto -

29 Oct. Sources of Information

31 Oct. – ditto -

05 Nov. Surveillance

07 Nov. Undercover

12 Nov. Report Writing in Investigation

14 Nov. – ditto -

19 Nov. Rules of evidence (in brief); courtroom testimony

21 Nov. – ditto -

26 Nov. Examination #2.

28 Nov. Thanksgiving Holiday.

03 Dec. Computers in Investigation. Paper and Power Point Turned in.

05 Dec. Criminalistics

10 Dec. – ditto -

Final examination on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December @ 0945 hrs.