

San Jose State University
JS020 – Principles of Investigation
Section 1, Thursday 6:00 PM – 8:45 PM, DM133
Spring Semester, 2011

INSTRUCTOR

Chief Eric Sills, Office Number MH 527
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REQUIRED TEXT

Wayne W. Bennett and Kären M. Hess, Criminal Investigation, 9th Edition, Wadsworth Publishing, Belmont, CA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will provide an introduction to criminal investigation. Students will first learn the step by step process of any investigation, beginning with the preliminary investigation, the processing of a crime scene, the collection of evidence and the identification, interviewing and arresting of suspects. They will then learn about the procedures involved in conducting investigations for crimes against persons and property.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The class will meet each Thursday night from 6:00 PM – 8:45 PM. The lecture and reading assignments are tentative pending class discussion, guest speakers and overall pace of the class. (See reverse side for class schedule.)

GRADING

Students will be graded on a **100 point system**. (100-90 points = A, 80-89 points = B, 70-79 points = C), the points will be awarded according to the following guidelines:

1. One **MIDTERM EXAM, Thursday, March 17, (6:00 PM – 8:45 PM)** worth **25 points**.
2. One **FINAL EXAM, Thursday, May 19, (6:00 PM -8:45 PM)** worth **25 points**.
3. One **GROUP ORAL PRESENTATION** which will be worth **25 points**.
 - ◆ 10 minutes on any related topic of private or criminal investigation.
 - ◆ Students must prepare an **outline and bibliography** for me which must be turned in the day of the presentation.
 - ◆ Prepare **one multiple choice question** (on a separate piece of paper) from your presentation which I may use on either the midterm or final exam.
4. One **ESSAY** related to a topic presented by the instructor worth **15 points** **due March 24th**.
5. **CLASS PARTICIPATION** which will be worth **10 points**.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
January 27	Course Introduction, Oral Presentation Skills (Instructor's notes)
February 3	Chapter 1 – Criminal Investigation: An Overview
February 10	Chapter 2 – Documenting the Scene: Note Taking / Photographing the Crime Scene
February 17	Chapter 2 – Photographing (continued) / Sketching the Crime Scene Chapter 4 – Searches, <u>Department of Justice Legal Sourcebook</u> (Not required reading)
February 24	Chapter 4 – Searches (continued)
March 3	Chapter 4 – Searches (continued), Chapter 5 Forensics / Physical Evidence
March 10	Chapter 5 – Forensics / Physical Evidence Barry A. Fisher, <u>Techniques of Crime Scene Investigation</u> (Not required reading) Charles E Ohara., <u>Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation</u> (Not required reading)
<u>March 17</u>	<u>MID-TERM EXAM (5:30 PM – 8:15 PM)</u>
March 24	Chapter 6 – Interview and Interrogation / <u>ESSAY PAPERS DUE</u>
<u>March 31</u>	<u>SPRING BREAK</u>
April 7	Chapter 6 – Interview and Interrogation (continued)
April 14	Chapter 7 – Identifying and Arresting Suspects
April 21	Chapter 7 – Identifying and Arresting Suspects (continued)
April 28	Chapter 8 – Death Investigations
May 5	Chapter 8 – Death Investigations (continued)
May 12	Chapter 10 – Sex Offenses
<u>May 19 (Thursday)</u>	<u>FINAL EXAM (6:00 PM – 8:45 PM)</u>

Syllabus Addendum

Course Add/Drop Statement

For information regarding adding and dropping a course, please refer to the Schedule of Instructions, Policies, and Procedures:

<http://info.sjsu.edu/cgi-bin/socfiles?command=ftok&arg=soc-spring-narrative>

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Some instructors will drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. However, instructors are not required to drop a student from their course. *It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped.*

Academic Integrity Statement

In accordance with University policy this course strives to uphold academic honesty. "Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs." A student may be reprimanded, receive a failing grade on their evaluation instrument (exam, paper, etc.), have their grade lowered, or receive an "F" in the course, and referred to administrative sanctions if they are suspected of plagiarism or cheating. The policy on academic integrity can be found at:

<http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>

To better understand plagiarism and to aid you in making sure that you are not plagiarizing, please see me or visit:

<http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm>

American with Disabilities Act

"If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability."

Spring Semester 2008 – Justice Studies Department