

West Los Angeles Community College
Spring Semester –2015

Criminal Investigations
A.J. 5, Section #3144, 3 Units
Meeting Wednesday 6:45pm-10:00 in GC 430
Instructor Thomas Gabor

Textbook – Criminal Investigation, 11th edition, Swanson and Chamelin

Course Content

Goal/Objective – To enlighten, engage, and prepare the student for an understanding of the many facets of Criminal Investigation. Examples include homicide, child abuse, sex crimes, and narcotics investigations. The student will understand the process, from initial field investigation by patrol officers, to the completion of the investigation by detectives, to the presentation of the investigation at court.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

1. Student will learn to present crime scene investigation findings in court as well as describe the basic steps in conducting a criminal investigation.
2. Understand and evaluate police performance for evaluations.
3. Identify different police strategies and tactics. Students will also identify current topics and issues in police community relations.

The Learning Process

The information and lessons from this course are divided between the lectures, handouts, and reading assignments from the text.

Attendance and Participation

5% of your total grade is attributed to the student's attendance and participation. If you miss four classes, you are subject to exclusion. Arriving late and leaving early without the instructors approval are subject to a half (1/2) of an absence. This policy is designed for the chronically tardy.

Professional Conduct in Class

I must ensure that the classroom learning environment is conducive for learning for all students. Thus students are required to follow these policies:

- No use of profanity or foul language.
- Common courtesy and decorum are to be followed.
- Tape recordings of lectures is not permitted.
- Academic dishonesty is not tolerated. This includes cheating, collaboration, and plagiarism. Board Rule 9803.28 states as follows: “Violations of academic integrity of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. Violations of Academic Integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one’s identity for the purpose of enhancing one’s grade. For more information on the Standards of Student Conduct refer to the college catalog available in hardcopy and online at www.lattc.edu.”

Dropping/Withdrawing from a Class

Students who stop attending class are responsible for withdrawing from the class to prevent being issued a failing "F" grade. The last date to drop without a “W” in person is Friday, February 21st. To drop WITH a “W”, is Friday, May 9th. It is your duty, not the instructor's, to drop or withdraw from a class. Please notify me if you intend to do so.

How to contact the instructor:

- Email - Thomas_Gabor@yahoo.com
- Phone - 310-990-7666
- In person - In classroom 30 minutes before or 30 minutes after class
- Disabled students - “Students with disabilities who need any assistance or accommodations should contact the instructor. Students should also contact the Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS) center located in SSB 320 or call 310-287-4420.” dsps@wlac.edu

Student Work Product/Grading

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| • Three quizzes (10 questions, half point per question) | 15 points |
| • Mid-term (50 question, half point per question, essay 5 points) | 30 points |
| • Final (same as mid-term) | 30 points |
| • Significant Event Project | 20 points |
| • Class Participation | 5 points |
| | Total 100 points |

Course Information

- The student is to read chapters as described below and be prepared for discussion.
- There will be four short quizzes, each with 10 questions, throughout the semester covering assigned reading and class discussion.
- There will be a mid-term held in the eighth week, consisting of 50 questions plus an essay.
- The final exam will be held in week 16 with the same format as the mid-term.
- Class presentation - Each student will give a five minute presentation. This will be discussed during the second week of class.
- Class participation – 5% of grade.
- Make-up tests – One quiz, the one with the lowest score, will be dropped. Thus, you may choose to miss a quiz, however, you must take the others. No make-ups for the mid term or final.
- Attendance – Two strikes you're out! A ½ absence may be given if you arrive late or leave early without prior discussion with the instructor.
- If you quit...What Happens? Discussion.

Agenda

Week	Date	Chapter	Topic
1	02/12	0	Intro/Class Orientation
2	02/19	2	Legal Aspects
3	02/26	5	Interviews/Interrogations
4	03/05	9	Homicide Investigations
5	03/12	10	Sex Crimes
6	03/19	11	Crimes Against Children
7	03/26	13	Robbery
8	04/02		Mid-Term Exam
9	04/09		Spring Break
10	04/16	19	Narcotics Investigations
11	04/23	21	Trial Court Preparations
12	04/30	3	Crime Scenes
13	05/07	4	Physical Preparation
14	05/14	8	Crime Laboratory
15	05/21	14	Burglary
16	05/28	16	Auto Theft
17	06/04		Final

Significant Event Project

Will be explained in class during week two.

