Warren County Community College

CRJ 170 Criminal Investigation

Course Master Syllabus

Catalog Description: This course focuses on the analysis of problems encountered by investigators. Students identify the methods of searching for truth and relevant information, and learn investigative processes, techniques, and approaches to solving crimes.

Prerequisite(s): CRJ 105 - Introduction to Criminal Justice or CRJ 110 -Criminology

Corequisite(s): None

Credits: 3

Hours: 3

Required Text(s): MindTap Criminal Justice for Hess/Hess Orthmann/Cho's Criminal Investigation, 11th edition

Supplemental Materials:

Instructor Information:

Office Hours:

Program Goals:

1. Describe the structure, functions, and processes of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, courts, and corrections.
2. Analyze legal principles, constitutional rights, and ethical considerations in criminal justice practices.
3. Apply knowledge of criminal law, due process, and legal procedures in the investigation and prosecution of crimes.
4. Evaluate criminological theories and their application to crime prevention, policing strategies, and rehabilitation efforts.
5. Examine correctional policies, rehabilitation programs, and alternatives to incarceration, considering their impact on individuals and society.
6. Assess modern policing strategies, investigative techniques, and community-based approaches to maintaining public safety.
7. Utilize research methods and data analysis techniques to examine crime trends, policy effectiveness, and criminal behavior.
8. Analyze contemporary issues in criminal justice and propose evidence-based policy recommendations.

CORE COMPETENCIES: The following core competencies are embedded in this curriculum: Communicate effectively in both speech and writing; Use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens; Understand ethical issues and situations; Address an information need by locating, evaluating and effectively using information.	
LEARNING ASSESSMENT	
Student Learning Outcomes:	***Suggested Means of Assessment:***
Explain the complexities of a criminal investigation	Attendance & participation, homework, article journal, exams.
Recognize the importance of ethical conduct during an investigation	Attendance & participation, homework, article journal, exams.
Describe the significance of proper documentation of a crime scene with the collection and preservation of physical evidence	Attendance & participation, homework, article journal, exams.
Demonstrate the ability to analyze the procedures for conducting a systematic search of a crime scene	Attendance & participation, homework, article journal, exams.
Demonstrate the ability to apply various techniques employed in the interviewing and interrogation of witnesses, victims, and suspects	Attendance & participation, homework, article journal, exams.
Recognize the importance of report writing, case preparation and court testimony	Attendance & participation, homework, article journal, exams.
Demonstrate proper techniques employed while conducting various types of criminal investigations	Attendance & participation, homework, article journal, exams.
GRADING SYSTEM:	C+ = 77 < 80
A = 90 < 100	C = 70 < 77
B+ = 87 < 90	D = 60< 70
B = 80 < 87	F = Below 60

Disability Services

https://www.warren.edu/admissions/disability-services/

Statement and Policy on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Conduct

https://www.warren.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Policy-304-304.3-Student-Rights-Responsibilites-and-Academic-Conduct.pdf

Students are required to perform all the work specified by the instructor and are responsible for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted. A violation of academic integrity will occur if a student: (1) knowingly represents work of others as

one's own, (2) uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in any academic work, (3) gives fraudulent assistance to another student, or (4) furnishes false information or other misuse of college documents.

Unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is prohibited unless the instructor explicitly permits it in the syllabus or assignments. If tools such as ChatGPT are permitted by an instructor to be used for an assignment, they should be used with caution and with proper citation. In all such cases, you may only use the specific tools identified as acceptable and you must adhere to the College's standards for attribution, validation, and transparency.

In cases of suspected violation of academic integrity, the incident is to be reported to the Office of Academics. A student found guilty of violating the rule of academic integrity by the Vice President of Academics will be considered to have failed in personal obligation to the College; such failure will be subject to disciplinary action by the College. Unless otherwise notified, the instructor will allow students who are pending disciplinary action to attend class.

Tutoring and Testing at the Instructional Support Center (ISC)

https://www.warren.edu/academics/tutoring-and-testing/

WCCC Library Services

https://warren.libguides.com/library/WCCCStudents

Citation Styles and Formatting

Work submitted for any Warren County Community College course must conform to the required formatting and citation style that are specified by the instructor. The Library and Instructional Support Center can assist students with formatting and citations for assignments and papers.

WCCC Attendance Expectations

The College expects students to attend and participate in all classes. This involves sharing discussions and lectures in class, as well as interacting with other students. Grades are based on the quality of work students complete in meeting the requirements for a particular course, as stated in the course syllabus and catalog description. Attendance, among other factors, may be an additional criterion for assigning grades. Students should realize that they are responsible for all class meetings and that work missed because of absences may affect their grades. Attendance in online classes is determined by the completion of assignments/ tests. Students who have not completed any assignments or tests will be considered non-attending and receive an NF grade in online classes.

Class Attendance Expectations

Topical Outline

- Introduction to criminal investigations
- Basic investigative responsibilities
- Investigating violent crimes
- Investigating crimes against property
- Other challenges to the criminal investigator

Grading Methods

Itinerary