

**Department of Social Work, Sociology, and Criminal Justice  
Tarleton State University**

**Master Course Syllabus**

Course Prefix/Number: CJ 235

Official Course Title: The Courts and Criminal Procedure

Master Syllabus Approved by Department on: 12 / 15 / 2008  
month date year

**I. Catalog Description:** Investigative theory, collection and preservation of evidence, sources of information, interview and interrogation, uses of forensic science, and case preparation.

**II. Prerequisites:** CJ 131 or approval of instructor.

**III. Expanded Course Description:** This course looks at the complex responsibilities of criminal investigation with an emphasis in key areas such as forensic science, evidence collection, and death investigation. Constitutional safeguards and case law is examined to give the student an understanding of the parameters within which investigators must work.

**IV. Course Objectives:**

1. Students will demonstrate writing skills appropriate to the discipline of Criminal Justice.
2. Students will demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology appropriate to the discipline of Criminal Justice.
3. Students will understand and value the ethics of Criminal Justice.
4. Students will demonstrate multi-cultural awareness and respect for cultural diversity.
5. Students will understand key concepts of Criminal Justice.
  - A. Students will have a basic understanding of the goals of criminal investigation.
  - B. Students will exhibit an understanding of the constitutional parameters as set forth in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments of the United States Constitution.
  - C. Students will demonstrate through class discussion a basic understanding of the two general categories of crime.
  - D. Students will exhibit a discernment of the principal mechanisms of postmortem change.
  - E. Students will display through classroom interaction the processes of interviewing and interrogating.
  - F. Students will demonstrate through classroom practical applications the process of evidence collection and analysis.

**V. Course Requirements:** Text(s) and other course requirements such as grading/evaluating procedures, class attendance policy, term papers, projects, collateral readings, etc. will be at the discretion of each faculty member teaching the course and will be described in the faculty member's course syllabus.

Department Head Signature/Date:

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Signature

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Date