

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

**Master Course Syllabus**

Course Prefix/Number: CJ 425

Official Course Title: Advanced Investigation

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

**I. Catalog Description:** Advanced criminal and civil investigation topics will be covered. An examination of frequently used, yet special investigative techniques will also be introduced. Emphasis will be placed on crime scene processing, crime scene analysis, forensic evaluations, investigative techniques, and investigative surveys.

**II. Prerequisites:** CJ 235.

**III. Expanded Course Description:** In CJ 235, the students were introduced to the basic principles of criminal investigation. The aim of this course is to expand on the scope of the material previously presented, to help the students better understand the decision making process for solving problems in the course of an investigation and to introduce frequently used, yet special investigative techniques. The course presents investigative activities that point to likely suspects in both crimes against persons and crimes against property. Supreme Court decisions affecting investigative activities are also presented. The course examines how analysis of the crime scene and the scientific laboratory examination of physical evidence form the foundation of crime scene reconstruction. Unique crime scene techniques such as bloodstain pattern analysis and scene profile patterns are discussed. Investigative tools, goals, and legal issues involved in operational planning and intelligence analysis are discussed. The instructor may choose to emphasize certain topics directly related to investigative efforts, such as terrorism and computer related crime, because they are timely and considered important to the investigator.

**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 demonstrate a basic understanding of the duties and responsibilities of the investigator.
  - b. Students will develop an understanding of acceptable techniques involving collection of physical evidence.
  - c. Students will demonstrate knowledge of important legal decisions affecting investigative activities.
  - d. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the steps to follow in crime scene reconstruction.

- e. Students will exhibit an understanding of basic crime scene facts and determine the series of crime scene events.
- f. Students will develop an understanding of the basic methodology in bloodstain pattern interpretation.
- 6. Students will apply key concepts to Criminal Justice create operational strategies and formulate justice policy.
  - a. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the theories and major problems encountered in operational planning.

**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