I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

CRIM-2260
Criminal Investigation
Prerequisite: ACFS-0060R or ACFS-0065 or eCOMPASS

This course is an introduction to criminal investigation procedures. A review of the historical development and how investigative processes relate to law enforcement function. A study of the procedures including, but are not limited to, properly collect, organize, and preserve evidence, using basic investigative tools, examine the primary sources of information, analyze the importance of writing skills, and review the constitutional (legal) limitations of the investigation.

(3/45/0/0/0/3)

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES:

Students will be able to:

A. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical evolution of the criminal investigative process. [GE Goals: 1, 2, 4 & 5; SS 3]

B. Articulate the various types of criminal investigations and their importance as related to criminal justice. [GE Goals: 1, 2 & 5; SS 3]

C. Analyze basic techniques of collection, preservation, and documentation of evidence. [GE Goals; 1, 2 & 3]

D. Discuss the relationship between suspects, victims, witnesses, and investigators during the interview process. [GE Goal: 1]

E. Explain the constitutional and legal limitations as well as the ethical concerns regarding criminal investigations. [GE Goals: 1, 2 & 4]

F. Define the desirable traits of an investigator. [GE Goals: 1, 4 & 5]

G. Demonstrate the importance of writing skills in relation to investigative reports. [GE Goals: 1, 2, 4 & 5; SS 3]

H. Describe the elements of Part I and Part II crimes tracked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as Part I and Part II crimes (Uniform Crime Reports) and Group A and Group B crimes (National Incident Based Reporting System). [GE Goals: 1, 2 & 3]

I. Identify the informational resources available to the investigative process. [GE Goals: 1 & 2; SS 3]
J. Discuss how psychological profiling can affect the criminal investigation process. [GE Goals: 1, 2 & 5]

K. Recognize the different surveillance techniques. [GE Goals: 1, 2 & 3]

L. Define the function of forensic science as it relates to the criminal investigative process. [GE Goals: 1, 2, 4 & 5; SS 3]

M. Describe the role of the criminal prosecutor during and after the criminal investigation. [GE Goals: 1 & 2]

N. Explain interagency relationships and their importance to criminal investigations. [GE Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5; SS 3]

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

A. Required Textbooks:


B. Supplemental materials (Supplied by the instructor)

1. Handouts
2. Exercises
3. Projects
4. Audio-Visual Aids
   a) Audio Recordings
   b) PowerPoint Slides/Presentations
   c) DVDs and Videotapes

C. Outside Reading/Research

1. Criminal Justice Library and Internet Research
2. Criminal Justice Current Event Research

IV. COURSE OUTLINE:
A. Section 1: Introduction
   1. Criminal Investigation: An Overview

B. Section 2: Basic Investigative Responsibilities
   1. Documenting the Crime Scene: Note Taking, Photographing, and Sketching
   2. Writing Effective Reports
   3. Searches
   4. Forensic/Physical Evidence
   5. Obtaining Information
   6. Identifying and Arresting Suspects

C. Section 3: Investigating Violent Crimes
   1. Death Investigations
   2. Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Elder Abuse
   3. Sex Offenses
   4. Crimes against Children and Youths
   5. Robbery

D. Section 4: Investigating Crimes against Property
   1. Burglary
   2. Larceny/Theft, Fraud, and White-Collar Crime
   3. Motor Vehicle Theft
   4. Arson, Bombs, and Explosives

E. Section 5: Other Challenges to the Criminal Investigator
   1. Computer Crime and Its Evolution into Cyberspace
   2. A Dual Threat: Drug-Related Crime and Organized Crime
   3. Criminal Activities of Gangs and Other Dangerous Groups
   4. Terrorism and Homeland Security
Preparing for and Presenting Cases in Court

V. METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

A. Methods of presentation, although determined by the individual instructor, traditionally include:

1. Lecture
2. Class Discussion
3. Small Group Activities
4. Oral Reports and Presentations
5. Criminal Justice Site Visits
6. Guest Speakers

VI. METHOD OF EVALUATION:

A. Methods of evaluation, although determined by the individual instructor, traditionally include:

1. Traditional examinations consisting of multiple-choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions
2. Announced and unannounced quizzes
3. Critical thinking exercises and reflection papers/assignments
4. Journal and professional criminal justice research reviews
5. Contemporary film analysis project
6. Individual and/or small group presentations
7. Traditional research papers
8. Class participation and attendance

B. All students will receive a course syllabus, which includes an outline of the course, course requirements, attendance and participation policy, and the specific grading criteria.

VII. SPECIAL OBJECTIVES:

A. None
VIII. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Academic integrity forms a fundamental bond of trust between colleagues, peers, teachers, and students, and it underlies all genuine learning. At WNCC, there is no tolerance for plagiarism or academic dishonesty in any form, including unacknowledged “borrowing” of proprietary material, copying answers or papers, using crib sheets, unauthorized help during exams, altering tests, or passing off someone else’s work as one’s own.

A breach of ethics or act of dishonesty can result in:

- failure of a paper or exam within a course (instructor level)
- failure of an entire course (institutional level)
- suspension or expulsion from the college (institutional level)

IX. EQUAL ACCESS:

Western Nebraska Community College seeks to make all programs and services, including electronic and information technology, accessible to people with disabilities. In this spirit, and in accordance with the provisions of Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the College provides students, faculty, staff, and visitors with reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to the programs and activities of the College. For assistance or further information, students with disabilities should contact the WNCC Disability Services Officer, Norman Stephenson, at 308.635.6050 or stephens@wncc.edu. Helpful information may also be found in the “Disability Services Transition Guide” on the WNCC web-site under Disability Services.

1-28-14