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| seal2 | Criminal Investigation: SOC 4189.03 Fall 2012  Instructor: Harry W. Trombitas E-mail:trombitas.1@osu.edu Classroom: Phone:  Class Time: |

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course combines an exploration of the theory and the practical application of criminal investigation and prosecution in the U.S. Criminal Justice System. The course has three theoretical components that will be covered in lecture: (1) the roles of the law enforcement officer, prosecutor, and court personnel; (2) constitutional limitations and (3) ethical considerations related to criminal investigations and two fieldwork/applied components that will be taught through small group and in-class assignments:(4) familiarization with various investigative techniques; (5) experience with the collection and preservation of physical evidence.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

**Theoretical Components:**

1. Through lecture, students will understand the roles and responsibilities of the criminal investigator, prosecutor, and various court personnel in the criminal justice system;
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the use of various investigative techniques such as criminal profiling; physical and electronic surveillance; and interviewing and interrogation;
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of constitutional and ethical considerations related to criminal investigation.

**Experiential Learning/Fieldwork Components**:

1. In small group exercises, demonstrations, and in-class assignments, students will participate in the collection and preservation of physical evidence;
2. Students will learn how to document their investigative efforts for future court testimony;
3. Students will demonstrate their ability to testify in a trial-like setting.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

There will be no textbook required. Class attendance and participation will be emphasized.

**GRADING:**

This course is offered on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis. In order to receive a passing grade in this course, a student must meet the following requirements:

1) Demonstrate an understanding of the course objectives above by regular class attendance and participation.

2) A student can miss no more than three (3) classes and still receive a grade of “Satisfactory.”

3) Students must receive a grade of “satisfactory” on 7 required Assignments which will include both written work completed outside of class and in-class demonstrations. Students not receiving a grade of satisfactory will be provided one opportunity to revise the assignment or demonstration. See the course schedule for due dates of assignments. Specific instructions for each assignment will be distributed in class.

4) “Fieldwork Final”: Each student will prepare an “investigative package” containing required content necessary for the successful prosecution of “their case” and deliver a brief presentation of the highlights of the case and its investigation during the last week of class.

**Unpaid Fees:** Faculty rules specify that students are to have their fees paid by the first day of enrollment for the quarter. [Faculty Rule 3335-9-12].  If you have not paid your fees, you will not be allowed to continue attending class until: 1. your fees are paid, OR 2. you have met with a Sociology Advisor and Financial Aid and are working to get your fees paid.

Disposition of Assignments: ALL PAPERS WILL BE DISCARDED at the end of Fall quarter 2013. If you have questions about individual grades or your final course grade, please raise them immediately so that they can be resolved well before this deadline.

**Academic Misconduct**: The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University’s Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University’s Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute “Academic Misconduct.”

The Ohio State University’s Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: “Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process.” Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University’s Code of Student Conduct is never considered an “excuse” for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University’s Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

**SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS:**

**Any student who needs an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307** TDD 292-0901; (http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu) **in room 150 Pomerene Hall.** Students with documented disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor and seeking available assistance in a timely manner. This syllabus is available in alternative formats on request from the Sociology Advising Office in Townshend Hall.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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| Week | Topics | | Activities & Assignments |
| 1 | Course introduction | |  |
|  | Legal and ethical considerations in criminal investigations | | In-class discussion: criminal investigations ethics vignettes |
| Section 1: Criminal Definitions | | | |
| 2 | Definitions of crime and relevant federal and state laws | Small group work and larger discussion: Misconceptions about crime & criminal investigations in television and media | |
| Section 2: Roles of Law Enforcement and Court Personnel in Criminal Investigation & Prosecution | | | |
| 3 | Roles of dispatcher, patrol officer, detective/agent, prosecutor/Assistant U.S. Attorney, Judge | Assignment 1 (In-Class): Complete roles and responsibilities grid | |
| Section 3: Crime Scene Investigation | | | |
| 4 | Collection and preservation of physical evidence | | Assignment 2: Preliminary worksheet and outline of course project due in class at beginning of week 4 |
| 5 | Eyewitness testimony | | Film clip on eyewitness testimony accuracy and in-class discussion; Assignment 3 (In-class demonstration): Role-playing exercises on collecting /providing eyewitness testimony. |
| Section 4: Investigative Tools | | | |
| 6 | Criminal profiling | | Film clip; Small group work on profiling vignettes and in-class discussion |
| 7 | Interview and Interrogation | | Assignment 4 (In-class demonstration): Interview and interrogation techniques |
| 8 | Direct and Circumstantial Evidence | | Assignment 5: Collection and description of direct and circumstantial evidence for Fieldwork Final project |
| 9 | Physical and Electronic Surveillance | | Small group work and in-class discussion of strengths and limitations of various investigative tools |
| Section 5: Media Management | | | |
| 10 | Press Releases and Media Interviews | | Film clips and in-class discussion of high-profile criminal investigations |
| Section 6: Charging Documents | | | |
| 11 | Complaint, Information, Indictment | | Assignment 6: Complete these documents for the crime you will be investigating in your Fieldwork Final project |
| Section 7: Court Orders – Warrants | | | |
| 12 | Arrest and Search & Seizure warrants | | Assignment 7: Complete relevant warrants for the crime you will be investigating in Fieldwork Final project |
| Section 8: Victim Assistance | | | |
| 13 | Victim Assistance | | Small group work and in-class discussion on history and ethical issues related to victim assistance. |
| Section 9: Trial Process | | | |
| 14 | Analysis and presentation of evidence at trial | | Film clips, analysis and in-class discussion of evidence presentation; Fieldwork Final class project due at the beginning of class on second class meeting of week 14; In class presentations of Fieldwork Final Investigative package course project |
| 15 | In class presentations of “Investigative package” course projects | | |