

Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2021
[Previous Value](#) [Spring 2013](#)

Course Change Information

What change is being proposed? (If more than one, what changes are being proposed?)

Change grading basis (to A-E, letter graded)

What is the rationale for the proposed change(s)?

Course will be used on a Criminal Justice certificate being developed by department now.

What are the programmatic implications of the proposed change(s)?

(e.g. program requirements to be added or removed, changes to be made in available resources, effect on other programs that use the course)?

None

Is approval of the request contingent upon the approval of other course or curricular program request? No

Is this a request to withdraw the course? No

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area	Sociology
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org	Sociology - D0777
College/Academic Group	Arts and Sciences
Level/Career	Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog	4189.03
Course Title	Criminal Investigation
Transcript Abbreviation	Criminal Investig
Course Description	Theory and practice of criminal investigation and prosecution in the U.S. Criminal Justice System with attention to: (1) the roles of the law enforcement officer, prosecutor, and court personnel; (2) familiarization with various investigative techniques; (3) the collection and preservation of physical evidence; and (4) constitutional limitations and ethical considerations.
Semester Credit Hours/Units	Fixed: 3

Offering Information

Length Of Course	14 Week, 12 Week, 8 Week, 7 Week, 6 Week, 4 Week
Flexibly Scheduled Course	Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component?	No
Grading Basis	Letter Grade
Previous Value	Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory
Repeatable	No
Course Components	Lecture
Grade Roster Component	Lecture
Credit Available by Exam	No
Admission Condition Course	No
Off Campus	Never
Campus of Offering	Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites	Prereq: Enrollment in Sociology or Criminology major, or permission of instructor.
Exclusions	
Electronically Enforced	No

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code	45.0401
Subsidy Level	Baccalaureate Course
Intended Rank	Junior, Senior

Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand the roles and responsibilities of the criminal investigator, prosecutor, and various court personnel in the criminal justice system.• Demonstrate an understanding of the use of various investigative techniques such as criminal profiling; physical and electronic surveillance; and interviewing and interrogation.• Participate in the collection and preservation of physical evidence.• Demonstrate their ability to testify in a trial-like setting.• Demonstrate an understanding of constitutional and ethical considerations related to criminal investigation.
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Content Topic List	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal and ethical considerations• Criminal definitions• Roles of law enforcement and court personnel• Crime scene investigation• Collection and preservation of physical evidence• Eyewitness testimony• Investigative tools (criminal profiling, interview and interrogation, physical and electronic surveillance, direct and circumstantial evidence)• Media management• Charging documents• Warrants• Victim assistance• Trial process
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Sought Concurrence	No
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Attachments

- SOCIOL 4189.03_Wagner_Spring 16.pdf: Previous syllabus
(Syllabus. Owner: VanPelt,Susan J)
- Sociology.Syllabus.Criminal Investigation.NEW_revised.pdf: Proposed syllabus
(Syllabus. Owner: VanPelt,Susan J)

Comments

- syllabus revised 2/21/20 *(by VanPelt,Susan J on 02/21/2020 06:12 PM)*
- See panel feedback emailed on 2-21-2020. *(by Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal on 02/21/2020 04:07 PM)*

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	VanPelt,Susan J	02/11/2020 12:37 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Downey,Douglas B	02/11/2020 12:40 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Haddad,Deborah Moore	02/11/2020 01:59 PM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	02/21/2020 04:07 PM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	VanPelt,Susan J	02/21/2020 06:13 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Downey,Douglas B	02/21/2020 09:16 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Haddad,Deborah Moore	02/22/2020 09:31 AM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Hanlin,Deborah Kay Oldroyd,Shelby Quinn Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	02/22/2020 09:31 AM	ASCCAO Approval

Sociology 4189.03 Criminal Investigations

Department of Sociology
238 Townshend Hall
The Ohio State University
1885 Neil Avenue Mall
Columbus OH 43210-1222
Telephone: (614) 292-6681



Scott W. Wagner, Lecturer

Office: Townsend 104
wagner.207@osu.edu

CLASS MEETING DAYS: Tues and Thurs
355 to 515pm. Jennings Hall 060

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

This course explores the theory and practice of criminal investigation and prosecution in the U.S. Criminal Justice System with particular attention given to: (1) the roles of the law enforcement officer, prosecutor, and court personnel; (2) familiarization with various

investigative techniques; (3) the collection and preservation of physical evidence; and (4) constitutional and ethical considerations related to criminal investigations.

CLASSROOM RULES:

1. **PERSONAL LAPTOP COMPUTERS WILL NOT BE USED/ALLOWED IN CLASS**
2. **NO TEXTING OR USE OF CELLPHONES IN CLASS. TURN YOUR CELLPHONES OFF WHILE IN CLASS**
3. **NO TOBACCO PRODUCTS ARE PERMITTED IN CLASS**
4. **COMMUNICATION WITH INSTRUCTOR-DO NOT USE PERSONAL EMAIL FOR CORRESPONDENCE WITH ME WILL BE CONDUCTED THROUGH THE OSU EMAIL SYSTEM AND **NOT** THROUGH PERSONAL EMAIL ACCOUNTS.**
5. **WHEN YOU SEND ME AN EMAIL, PLEASE TELL ME WHICH COURSE YOU ARE IN. I TEACH MULTIPLE CLASSES AT OSU.**

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will gain an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of involved in criminal investigation.
2. Students will gain an understanding the role of the street patrol officer in the process of criminal investigations.
3. Students will gain an understanding of various forms of specialized investigations, including background investigations, juvenile investigations, traffic accident investigations, narcotics investigations, crime scene search and homicide investigations.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the skills needed to produce a competent investigative narrative.
5. Students will develop an understanding of what skills are needed to become employed or appointed as an investigator.
6. Students will gain an understanding of the collection and preservation of physical evidence.
7. Students will gain an understanding of the components of a complete investigative report file.
8. Students will gain an understanding of constitutional and ethical considerations related to criminal investigation.

Grade Scale: As a seminar class, the grade scale is Pass/Fail. For the purpose of this class passing is based upon a **70%** minimum score for each assignment.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STATED DUE DATE. FAILURE TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS MAY RESULT IN AN INCOMPLETE OR FAILING SCORE FOR THE COURSE

COURSE MATERIALS REQUIRED

Textbook (Mandatory for Successful Completion of the Course): Introduction to Investigations, Dempsey. Wadsworth/Cengage. 2nd Edition.

ASSIGNMENTS

General Assignments are listed here on the syllabus. However, other assignments will be posted on the CARMEN system. All chapter tests and quizzes will be done by the student on CARMEN. Other assignments will be posted there as they develop through the Semester. You are responsible to check your student email and CARMEN to keep current on assignments.

UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN MONDAY APRIL 25, 2016 AT 1159 PM.

ASSIGNMENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK CARMEN ASSIGNMENTS SECTION FOR UPDATES. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TRY AND COMPLETE ALL YOUR ASSIGNMENTS OR THERE MAY BE UNANTICIPATED CONSEQUENCES THAT COULD EFFECT YOUR GRADE.

GRADING:

Grades will be based upon:

1. Chapter Quizzes:

THERE WILL BE A CHAPTER QUIZ OVER EACH ASSIGNED CHAPTER AND QUIZZES OVER MATERIAL PRESENTED DURING IN-CLASS LECTURES. .

2. FIELD TRIPS, GUESTS PRESENTATIONS, HANDS ON PROJECTS: 200 Points EACH. ATTENDANCE TAKEN.

3. FINAL PRESENTATION-SERVES AS THE FINAL EXAM

USING INFORMATION FROM CURRENT NEWS MEDIA STORIES AT A LOCAL, STATE OR NATIONAL LEVEL, YOU WILL SELECT A CURRENT CRIME EVENT **(ONE THAT OCCURRED AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS)** THAT INVOLVED A DOCUMENTED INVESTIGATION TO SOLVE. THIS SHOULD BE A CRIME THAT INTERESTS YOU AND THAT THE CLASS WOULD FIND INTERESTING.

FROM THE STORY YOU SELECT, YOU WILL IDENTIFY, USING A **POWERPOINT**, **PRESENT TO THE CLASS** THE INVESTIGATIVE ELEMENTS THAT WENT INTO SOLVING THE CRIME AND/OR OBTAINING A CONVICTION.

THE PRESENTATIONS MUST BE LONGER THAN 2 MINUTES BUT NO LONGER THAN THREE MINUTES. YOU WILL BE CUT OFF AT THREE MINUTES.

THIS IS A **300** POINT EXERCISE. SUPERLATIVE WORK WILL BE REWARDED BY EXTRA CREDIT. I URGE YOU TO ASK ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS WELL BEFORE YOU PRESENT TO SEE IF YOU ARE ON TRACK.

WE WILL BE USING THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS OF CLASS TO DO THE PRESENTATION.

UNITS OF INSTRUCTION: NOTE, SUBJECT TO CHANGE. QUIZZES AND

TESTS WILL BE OPENED THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER FOR YOU TO COMPLETE. FIELD TRIPS OR PRESENTATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED. CLASSROOM MATERIAL MAY NOT MATCH UP WITH THE INSTRUCTIONAL UNITS.

UNIT 1-**THE HISTORY OF INVESTIGATIONS**
READING CHAPTER 1

UNIT 2: **THE INVESTIGATION PROCESS**
READING CHAPTER 2

UNIT 3. **THE CRIME SCENE**
READING: CHAPTER 3

UNIT 4: **CASE MANAGEMENT AND REPORT WRITING**
READING: CHAPTER 4

UNIT 5: **LAW, EVIDENCE AND INVESTIGATING**
READING: CHAPTER 5

UNIT 6: **CRIMINALISTICS AND TECHNOLOGY**
READING: CHAPTER 6

UNIT 7: **INTERVIEWS AND INTERROGATION (IN CLASS PROJECTS)**
READING: CHAPTER 7

UNIT 8: **SOURCES AND INFORMATION**

READING: CHAPTER 8

UNIT 9: **SURVEILLANCE AND UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS**

READING: CHAPTER 9

UNIT 10: **INVESTIGATION OF VIOLENT AND PROPERTY
CRIMES**

READING: CHAPTER 10 AND 11

UNIT 11: **THE INVESTIGATION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND DRUG
OFFENSES**

READING: CHAPTER 12

UNIT 12: **THE INVESTIGATION OF COMPUTER CRIME**

READING: CHAPTER 14

UNIT 13: **PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTIGATIONS**

READING: CHAPTER 15

Additional Ohio State University Information

Academic Misconduct:

“It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.”

Disability Services:

“Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.”

General Education Goals and Expected Learning Outcomes

Writing and Communication

Goals:

Students are skilled in written communication and expression, reading, critical thinking, oral expression and visual expression.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Level One (1110)

1. Students communicate using the conventions of academic discourse.
2. Students can read critically and analytically.

Level Two (2367)

1. Through critical analysis, discussion, and writing, students demonstrate the ability to read carefully and express ideas effectively.
2. Students apply written, oral, and visual communication skills and conventions of academic discourse to the challenges of a specific discipline.
3. Students access and use information critically and analytically.

(STUDENTS WILL ACHIEVE LEARNING OUTCOMES BY CLASSROOM DISCUSSION, NARRATIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS, AND TOPIC SPECIFIC INTERROGATORIES WHICH EMPHASIZE CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF SUPPLIED INFORMATION)

Historical Study

Goals:

Students recognize how past events are studied and how they influence today's society and the human condition.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students construct an integrated perspective on history and the factors that shape human activity.
2. Students describe and analyze the origins and nature of contemporary issues.
3. Students speak and write critically about primary and secondary historical sources by examining diverse interpretations of past events and ideas in their historical contexts.

(THE ANALYSIS OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION WILL INCLUDE ATTENTION TO THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES.)

Social Science

Goals:

Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Individuals and Groups

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of individuals and groups.
2. Students understand the behavior of individuals, differences and similarities in social and cultural contexts of human existence, and the processes by which groups function.
3. Students comprehend and assess individual and group values and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

(TEXTBOOK AND CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION WILL ENCOMPASS THE SOCIAL CONTEXT ELEMENTS OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION. INSURING STUDENTS COMPREHEND MATERIAL WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE AFOREMENTIONED MEANS USED FOR OTHER OUTCOME AREAS)

Sociology 4189.03, Criminal Investigation
The Ohio State University
Autumn 20xx

CLASS TIME AND LOCATION:

INSTRUCTOR: Charlie LoFaso, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology
CONTACT INFORMATION: 163 Townshend Hall
Email: lofaso.2@osu.edu
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday/Thursday, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m., or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course presents criminal investigative techniques with an emphasis on understanding how criminal investigations are conducted. The course will also emphasize the legal environment in which criminal investigations are conducted. Specific objectives include:

1. To provide a foundation in the investigative process and techniques used in criminal investigations, covering areas such as documenting the crime scene, searches, forensics/physical evidence handling, identifying and arresting suspects (Part I of the course, Chapters 1 – 7).
2. To familiarize the student with the legal environment in which criminal investigations are conducted, covering areas such as searches, interrogations, and the right to counsel.
3. To examine criminal investigation of specific crimes, including violent crimes and property crimes (Part II of the course, Chapters 8 – 14).

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVE:

To think critically about the issues presented in the course, which will require preparation and your active participation in class discussions.

CLASS CONDUCT:

- Students are required to attend and participate in each/every class.
- Students are required to complete assigned readings prior to the class for which topics are scheduled in order to promote meaningful discussion and class participation for effective learning.
- Students are required to respect the right of others to a proper learning environment, which includes professional demeanor and language.
- Please be on time. Late arrivals and early departures are discourteous and disruptive to class continuity.
- Please turn off cell phones during class unless you are on call as an emergency service provider. Texting during class is prohibited.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Criminal Investigation, 11th Edition, Cengage Learning
Authors: Hess, Orthmann, and Cho

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Exams: there will be two exams, each worth 25% of your final grade (50 points total). The exams will cover material from the assigned readings and in-class lectures. The midterm exam will cover Part I of the course (Chapters 1 – 7) while the non-cumulative final exam will cover Part II of the course (Chapters 8-10, 12-13, and NYS Penal Law Article 155). The exams will most likely include multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions.

Student Presentation: each student will give a 20 – 30 minute power point presentation on a topic chosen by me. You'll have the opportunity to sign up for your topic by listing your top three choices. I will do my best to assign one of your choices. The presentation is worth 30 percent of your final grade (30 points). I'll discuss with you individually what I'd like you to cover in your presentation.

Class Participation: this is a small class and learning is enhanced by class discussion. I expect you to come to class prepared and to actively engage in class discussion. In addition to general participation, we will work group exercises in class that require your active engagement. Class participation is worth 20 percent of your final grade (20 points).

Grading Summary

Exams:	50 points, 50%
Presentation:	30 points 30%
Participation:	<u>20</u> points, 20%
Total Points:	100

COURSE POLICIES

I reserve the right to make minor changes to the Syllabus and deadlines stated therein but will discuss them with you in advance so you may prepare accordingly.

GRADING

The following grading scale will be applied:

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-92%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	60-66%
		B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	E	65% or below

MISSING AN EXAM

Legitimate reasons for missing an exam include verified illnesses, serious family emergencies, and certain documented university activities. Proper documentation is required to make up an exam. As soon as you are aware that you will miss an exam, please notify me, preferably by the end of the day of the exam, unless email communication is not possible due to documented emergency circumstances. However, I must hear from you by the end of the workday (5 p.m.) on the day following the exam. It is your responsibility to notify me that you need to schedule a makeup exam.

EMAIL ETIQUETTE

Please compose your emails in a professional manner. When emailing, please include a proper salutation, complete sentences, and appropriate language. Review your email for typos prior to hitting send. Remember, an email is not a text.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Any student suspected of cheating, plagiarizing, or engaging in any other form of academic misconduct will be referred to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (“COAM”). It is the responsibility of COAM to investigate all suspected cases of student academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations and writing papers. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to COAM (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, please see the Code of Student Conduct at <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

DIFFERING ABILITIES

Some students require modifications in the learning environment. Ohio State strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your differing ability(ies) (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options, which may include providing more time to answer quiz/exam questions. You may also register with Student Life Disability Services, which will establish reasonable accommodations appropriate for you. After registration, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely manner. Student Life Disability Services may be contacted at slds@osu.edu, (614) 292-3307, 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

STATEMENT ON MENTAL HEALTH

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student’s ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life’s Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

STATEMENT ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT/RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

Title IX makes clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at titleix@osu.edu.

STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	ASSIGNMENT
1	8/29/19	Chapter 1, Foundations of Investigations, pp. 2-6, 8-13, 15-35
2	9/05/19	Chapter 1, continued; Chapter 2, Crime Scene, pp. 46-48; pp. 57-58 (admissibility of photographs); Chapter 3, Reports, pp. 94 -96 (examples of reports and chapter summary).
3	9/12/19	Chapter 5, Evidence, pp. 134-136; pp. 138 (crime scene integrity) – 143 (packaging and preserving evidence; pp. 148 – 149; pp. 173-175.
4	9/19/19	Chapter 4: The 4 th Amendment
5	9/26/19	Chapter 6: Interviewing, Interrogation, the 5 th and 6 th Amendments, pp. 193 (Victims) – 215.
6	10/03/19	Chapter 7, Identifying and Arresting Suspects, pp. 228 (Field Identification) – 231; pp. 235 (locating suspects) – 262.
7	10/10/19	Chapter 7, continued; Do an internet search and read New York State Penal Law Article 35 (the defense of justification); Midterm Exam

8	10/17/19	Chapter 8, Death investigations
9	10/24/19	Chapter 8, continued
10	10/31/19	Chapter 9, Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking, pp. 314 – 335; Chapter 10, Sex Offenses, pp.350 – 355.
11	11/07/19	Chapter 10, continued, 350 – 367.
12	11/14/19	Chapter 12, Robbery
13	11/21/19	Chapter 13, Burglary
14	11/28/19	No Class: Happy Thanksgiving!
15	12/05/19	Larceny: NYS Penal Law Article 155; review for final exam
16	TBA	Final Exam