CRJ 340 Criminal Investigation

Summer Term (May 27-July 15)

Course Number and Title: CRJ 340 Criminal Investigation

Instructor: Thomas A. Duden, MA Management, BA Public Administration
HR Director Design Data-Software Piracy Investigator, Retired Lincoln Police Department

Credit Hours: 3 hrs

Instructor Contact Information: Design Data Corporation, HR|Facilities Mgr., Software Piracy Investigator-Litigation Coordinator, tom@sds2.com & tom.duden@doane.edu, Ph. (402) 450-8926, Business Address: 1501 Old Cheney Rd. M-F 8-5PM

Course Day and Time: Wednesday 6 P.M. first class January 15, 2013

Course Description: This course introduces the application of procedures, methods and techniques used in criminal investigations that meet forensic and legal standards. Topics include crime scene procedures and practices, the collection of evidence and the basis of analysis of that evidence. Upon completion of the course, students will know the proper procedures for securing the scene, collection, organization, preservation and maintenance of the chain of custody of evidence in a variety of contexts.


Course Learning Outcomes: By reading the assigned material, engaging the practical and written assignments, analyzing the techniques and methods used on previous crime scenes through lectures and demonstration by the instructor the students will be able to:

1. Understand the responsibilities and procedures used by the first responder to a crime scene.

2. Prepare a basic crime scene sketch to scale from a mock crime scene.

3. Demonstrate how to identify, collect, and preserve evidence found at the scene of a crime.

4. Report and articulate the facts and methods used to process a crime scene in a chronological order, and in a manner that can be used to project the evidentiary significance and subsequent analysis to the triers of fact.

5. Apply the constitutional and legal limitations as well as the ethical concerns regarding criminal investigations.

The outcomes will be measured by assessing; the student’s ability to discuss the reading material, demonstrating identification, collection and preparation for analysis of evidence to be submitted as part of a mock crime scene exercise, through weekly journaling of the assigned reading material, and take-home exams.
Content and Instructional Methods: This course is comprised of reading material, hands-on and writing exercises. Reinforcement of learning is accomplished through the course objectives, readings and the submission of written assignments.

Assignments:
Chapter Journals – Students will create and maintain a black ring binder which will contain a summary of the assigned reading material. 20% of grade

Mid Term and Final Exams - take-home tests. 25% of grade

Participation – Active participation in classroom exercises, mini-mock crime scenes, discussion and group projects. 35% of grade

Mock Crime Scene Exercise – Criminal Investigations are performed within a team-like atmosphere. In small groups, students will be assigned a crime scene and they will process the scene applying the instructed techniques and create a report as if they were preparing the information prosecution. 20% of grade

Late Work Policy
Students are expected to submit assignments and projects on the due date. At times extenuating circumstances occur, so late work or alternative assignments will be accepted with instructor approval on a limited...case by case basis.

Instructor Expectations: Participation and professionalism are part of each student’s grade. As an educational institution designed to help students acquire and maintain viable employment, we strive to teach professionalism to our students.

Each student is expected to:
• Complete the assigned work on time.
• Participate in the classroom practical exercises.
• Uphold the highest ethical standards in the preparation and submission of required course work.
• Maintain a positive and productive focus in order to facilitate the learning process.