

Angelina College
School of Business & Technology
CRIJ 2314 Online – Criminal Investigation
Spring 2019
Syllabus

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION:

A. Course Description:

CRIJ 2314 – Three (3) hours credit. Investigative theory; collection and preservation of evidence; sources of information; interview and interrogation; uses of forensic sciences; case and trial preparation.

B. Intended Audience:

Sophomore level course.

C. Class Meeting Times and Location: Class is 100% online through Blackboard. Instructor is available to students via email, or during noted office hours.

This class is designed so that there is no need for the student to come on campus to complete any aspect of the course.

D. Instructor:

Name: Kevin D. Fritze, M.S.

Office Location: Room 158 – Technology & Workforce Building – Angelina College, Lufkin

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm; Monday & Wednesday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. All other times by appointment only.

Phone: 936-633-5417 (instructor's office) or 936-633-5246 (division office)

E-mail Address: kfritze@angelina.edu (*best and preferred method of contact*)

II. INTENDED STUDENT OUTCOMES:

A. Core Objectives:

- 1. Critical Thinking Skills** – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- 2. Communication Skills** – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
- 3. Personal Responsibility** – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

B. Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain and discuss investigative theory.
2. Describe and discuss the collection and preservation of evidence.
3. Identify and describe sources of information.
4. Explain and discuss techniques of interview and interrogation.
5. Explain and discuss the uses of forensic science.
6. Define and discuss case and trial preparation.

III. ASSESSMENT MEASURES

A. Assessments for the Core Objectives

1. Critical Thinking: Students will engage in assigned readings and will be presented with oral and visual lecture content that explains the nature and structure of Criminal Investigation within the various criminal justice systems found in the United States. Outcome will be assessed using a rubric which incorporates the Angelina College Institutional Rubric for Critical Thinking Skills.

2. Communication: Students will research an assigned topic and will write an essay on the assigned topic. Students will present their findings to the class as a whole via an oral presentation. Communication skills will be assessed using a rubric which incorporates the Angelina College Institutional Rubric for Communication Skills.

3. Personal Responsibility: Students will be required to make choices in the completion of course written assignments and/or exams that demonstrate their ability to connect choices and actions, engage in ethical decision-making, and understand its consequences. Personal Responsibility will be assessed using a rubric which incorporates the Angelina College Institutional Rubric for Personal Responsibility.

B. Assessments for Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be informed of investigative theory through classroom lectures, reading assignments, individual research projects, guest speakers, videos, and field trips. Students will demonstrate their understanding of this topic through questioning (Socratic), and successful completion of various projects and major exams.

2. Classroom lectures, reading assignments, individual research projects, guest speakers, videos, and field trips will be used to present how evidence is collected and preserved in criminal investigations. Students will demonstrate their understanding of this topic via participation in questioning (Socratic), successful completion of major exams, and completion of written projects.

3. Classroom lectures, assigned readings, individual research projects, guest speakers, and videos will be used to discuss the origin of the various forms of information relevant to most criminal investigations. Students will be able to identify and describe sources of information through questioning (Socratic), successful completion of major exams and written/oral projects.

4. Classroom lectures, reading assignments, individual research projects, guest speakers, videos, and field trips will be used to illustrate the various techniques of interview and interrogation as it occurs in criminal investigation. Students will be able to explain and discuss these techniques through questioning (Socratic), successful completion of major exams, successful completion of written projects, and/or delivery of oral presentations.

5. Classroom lectures, reading assignments, individual research projects, guest speakers, videos, and field trips will be used to describe the varied fields of the forensic sciences. Students will be able to explain and discuss their understanding of forensic science through questioning (Socratic), successful completion of major exams, successful completion of written projects, and/or delivery of oral presentations.

6. Classroom lectures, reading assignments, individual research projects, guest speakers, and videos will be used to inform students of how criminal investigators prepare both themselves and their cases for trial/judicial processing. Students will be able to explain and discuss their understanding of how criminal investigators prepare for trial/judicial processing via questioning (Socratic), successful completion of major exams, successful completion of written projects, and/or delivery of oral presentations.

IV. INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:

Methodologies that may be utilized in presenting course content will include a combination of lectures, small group or individual exercises, written assignments, oral presentations, videos, guest speakers, field-trips, reading assignments, and major exams. Internet research may be required for this course at various times. All criminal justice courses whether online or in-person will have an online Blackboard feature that allows students to access power-point presentations, assignments, the course syllabi and other relevant information.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:

A. Required Textbook(s) and Recommended Readings, Materials and Equipment:

One (1) **Required** Textbook:

Hess, K. M., Orthmann, C.H., and Cho, H.L. (2016). *Criminal Investigation*. 11th edition. Delmar-Cengage Learning. (ISBN-13: 978-1285862613)

Recommended Books:

1. Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition.
2. Current edition of either *Blacks Law Dictionary* or *Oran's Dictionary of the Law*

Other Materials:

1. Highlighter for textbook review, etc.
2. Computer with internet access (**Google Chrome MUST be your internet browser for using Blackboard in online classes at AC**). You should also be familiar with Microsoft Word and Microsoft Power-Point, and the Angelina College Blackboard Online Learning System (orientation and/or assistance is available).

B. Course Policies:

Academic Assistance:

Educational Accommodations – If you have a disability (as cited in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) that may affect your participation in this class, you may fill out the Educational Accommodations application within your AC Portal, under the “Student Services” tab. A Student Success team member will contact you once the application is received. At a post-secondary institution, you must self-identify as a person with a disability in order to receive services; for questions regarding the application process you can visit the Office of Student Success and Inclusion in the Student Center (205A); text 936.463.8078; or email access@angelina.edu. To report any complaints of discrimination related to a disability, you should contact Mr. Steve Hudman, Dean of Student Affairs, in Room 101 of the Student Center. You may also contact Dean Hudman by calling (936) 633-5292 or by emailing shudman@angelina.edu.

Attendance:

The Angelina College attendance policy for online classes will be followed. **A student can be dropped by the instructor for missing 2 consecutive or 3 cumulative assignments during the course of the semester.** If a student falls into this category once the drop date has passed, the student's final semester grade will be dropped by one letter for each assignment missed during the semester (meaning if you have missed five assignments you will fail the course). Once a student is dropped by the instructor readmission to the course is prohibited....regardless of the reason or excuse the student may or may not have. Additionally, if you desire to drop the class, you should take the necessary steps to complete the drop on your own. Just because the instructor can drop you from the class, does not mean you can assume a drop will occur. This is a matter of personal responsibility you must take care of on your own.

Additional Policies Established by the Instructor:

Student Behavior: **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. READ AND FOLLOW CAREFULLY!**

Criminal Justice is an academic discipline and career choice that requires a high degree of professional character and moral conduct. Students are expected to engage in pro-social, ethical, and legal conduct both on campus and in private life. Failure to do so can have very negative consequences on your chances at future employment in the criminal justice system. Additionally college is a time for personal growth and personal responsibility. All students who are going to be successful in Criminal Justice courses will be required to display observable qualities that display personal responsibility.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

Please see the Student Handbook for Angelina College's definition of and policies regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Students engaging in any form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty – which is the unacknowledged use of anyone else's work (published or unpublished) or **cheating of any kind, will result in immediate and irrevocable failure of the entire course.** Criminal Justice is not a major or profession for cheaters and such behavior will not be tolerated at Angelina College. Since this course is 100% online, it is permissible to use your books, notes, graded assignments, or other relevant resources to complete your work. Be aware however, that this course is designed in such a way that having such 'freedom' may not be the benefit that it seems. **You should NEVER copy and paste answers directly from any source that is not your own original creation....this is considered cheating and WILL RESULT IN YOUR FAILURE OF THE ENTIRE COURSE. This is your only WARNING regarding this serious matter.**

Rules Specific to Online Criminal Justice Courses:

Online courses are simply different when compared to traditional on campus classes. With any online class the student has much more individual responsibility for the learning of the material and completion of assigned work. Much independent reading, preparation, and study is required. For assignments in this course, students must be aware of due dates and times as to make sure all work is completed and submitted by the required due date and time. **Absolutely no late work will ever be accepted – regardless of the reason.** DO NOT wait until the last minute to begin, complete, and/or submit your work. Inevitably it seems something goes wrong and an excuse is born as to why I should accept late work. Hear me now...late work is not accepted. Period. Assignments are programmed into Blackboard to become available and to become unavailable according to the attached schedule. If an

assignment is submitted as little as one (1) second after the due date and time has passed, it is late and will not be accepted. Period. Also, please be aware that Blackboard is managed by its own internal clock. When an assignment is due at 11:59 pm, this is 11:59 pm Blackboard time, not whatever time your personal computers, watches, or clocks have.

In addition to being on time, **all assignments and exams MUST be submitted to the instructor through Blackboard.** **NEVER EMAIL ASSIGNMENTS TO THE INSTRUCTOR OUTSIDE OF BLACKBOARD UNLESS TOLD TO DO SO.** Please understand that if you attempt to email, mail, fax, or otherwise submit your assignments to me outside of Blackboard, the assignment WILL NOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED, ACCEPTED, READ, OR GRADED. The only thing you should do outside of the Blackboard system is to communicate with me directly if you have questions or concerns. The best and preferred method of contact is email (kfritze@angelina.edu).

VI. EVALUATION AND GRADING:

A. Grading Criteria:

1. Assignments and Tests:	Maximum Point Value and Weight:
a. Average of Chapter Assignments	100 points (1/3 of final course grade)
b. Mid-Term Exam	100 points (1/3 of final course grade)
c. Final Exam	100 points (1/3 of final course grade)

Chapter Assignments: Once weekly (except during exam weeks) a chapter assignment or combination chapter assignment will be due. Chapter Assignments will be composed of multiple choice, true/false, and/or matching questions that relate to the chapter or chapters being discussed. You will only be able to submit the assignment once, but are free to use books, notes, power points, etc. in your effort to complete the assignment successfully. These assignments are untimed and are available for a full week, but you should absolutely NOT wait until the last day or last few hours to begin and complete the assignment. I give you a full week so that you may complete work in this class without being rushed. If you wait until the end of the week to begin your work and run into problems that prevent its submission, I will remind you now that late work is not accepted.

Exams: There will be two exams this semester (each counting toward 1/3 of your final grade). Exams will consist of 10 short answer, essay, or discussion type questions. Questions will be drawn primarily from textbook readings and power point presentations. Additionally, you may be required to do some independent research about the world around you to answer questions. All student responses to the questions asked must be full, complete, and representative of college-level work to earn full credit.

*There are several **exam rules** to be mindful of:*

a. If you skip, leave blank, or fail to answer **any** exam question you will be penalized with a forty-one (41) point deduction for each question skipped – regardless if the question skipped would normally be worth far less. It is better to answer a question wrong than to not provide an answer at all. If you skip a question, this means the highest possible grade you can earn on an exam will be 59 (which is failing). Questions are not placed on the exam by me to be skipped by you! All questions can be answered successfully with a small amount of effort on your part.

b. Given this exam rule, it will be *possible* for you to earn negative points on an exam if you skip multiple questions. Main thing to remember: SIMPLY ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

c. Given that this is a college-level class, written assignments must reflect college-level writing skills. If your submission features incomplete or run-on sentences, misspelled words, grammatical errors, lack of clear thought and organization or other sub-par problems, it will be reflected in your grade.

d. Some exam questions will seek your opinion about some given topic. It may at first appear to be very difficult to miss a question that seeks your opinion about something. However, I have discovered that it is not only possible, but actually quite easy to miss such questions. All of your written responses in this class should be full, complete, and directly related to the question being asked, otherwise it will be wrong.

2. Late Assignments or Missed Exams:

The word 'late' or 'missed' has NO MEANING in ANY Angelina College Criminal Justice course. The real world of criminal justice does not recognize these terms, therefore we will not recognize them in this or any other criminal justice class. Work is either done and submitted on time, or it is not. I am not interested in 'excuses' or 'reasons why' if work is not done on time. **Absolutely No Late Assignments Accepted or Graded. Period.**

B. Determination of Grade (assignment of letter grades)

The two exams given during the semester will count toward 1/3 of your final course grade each (2/3 total). The remaining 1/3 will come from the average of your weekly chapter assignment grades. Each of the three grading areas will be added together and divided by 3 to determine your overall final course grade based on the following scale:

Weekly Chapter Assignment Average + Mid-Term Exam Grade + Final Exam Grade = X

$X / 3 = \text{Final Course Average}$

Computation of Course Grade:

Final Course Average of 90-100:	A
Final Course Average of 80-89:	B
Final Course Average of 70-79:	C
Final Course Average of 60-69:	D
Final Course Average of 0-59:	F

Additional Information on Determination of Grade:

Your grade will be a strict interpretation of your earned exam / assignment scores. There will be NO extra credit opportunities available in ANY criminal justice course. Your grade will reflect what you earn; this then is a reflection of the work you put into class attendance, class participation, and studying.

VII. SYLLABUS MODIFICATION:

The instructor may modify the provisions of the syllabus to meet individual class needs by informing the class in advance as to the changes being made. These changes may take place at any time for any reason as determined by the instructor.

VIII. ANGELINA COLLEGE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY STUDENT INFORMATION:

As a student enrolled in a Technology & Workforce program, you will encounter certain risks while you are in a classroom, laboratory experience, or in a clinical or practicum setting. In the event that you sustain an injury and/or require any medical testing or care, all resulting medical expenses (hospital, ambulance, or physician fees), are your financial responsibility and not the responsibility of Angelina College or the clinical/practicum site.

IX. ONLINE CLASS ORIENTATION:

Please email the instructor at kfritze@angelina.edu **IF** you have any questions about how to get started in this course – otherwise there is no need to contact the instructor for orientation. You may find the online Blackboard Login Tutorial helpful for most issues. Once logged into the course, **please read and follow the syllabus**. If after following these steps you still have questions or issues, it will likely be necessary for you to schedule an appointment with the instructor for a one-on-one, in-person, online orientation.

X. COURSE OUTLINE:

The following is a tentative schedule of topics, assignments, and exams to be covered during the semester. You will be notified in class of any calendar changes. Also, please be sure to log in to Blackboard regularly for additional information regarding this course – such as access to this syllabus, Study Aids, and all in class power-point lectures that supplement each of the following topics:

XI. ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE FOR CRIJ 2314 Online – Criminal Investigation – Spring 2019:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic / Assignment</u>
Monday January 14	First Class Day; Syllabus, Power Points, Lecture 1 Assignment is posted
Thursday January 17	Lecture 1 (Overview) Assignment is due by 11:59 pm Lecture 2 (Scene Documentation) Assignment is posted one minute later
Wednesday January 23	Lecture 2 (Scene Documentation) Assignment is due by 11:59 pm Lecture 3 (Report Writing) Assignment is posted one minute later
Wednesday January 30	Lecture 3 (Report Writing) Assignment is due by 11:59 pm Lecture 4 (Searches) Assignment is posted one minute later
Wednesday February 6	Lecture 4 (Searches) Assignment is due by 11:59 pm Lecture 5 (Forensics / Physical Evidence) Assignment posted one minute later

