

Department:

Criminal Justice

Course Description:

This course explores issues including the effective interview and interrogation techniques, crime scene management and lab processes, crime scene documentation methods, case preparation and court presentation.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Determine criminal investigator characteristics necessary for a fair, complete and impartial investigation.
2. Analyze facts to determine if a crime has been committed.
3. Explain the purpose of each step in the criminal investigative process.
4. Demonstrate documentation methods and procedures through the entire investigation process.
5. Explain how to record a crime scene, collect, and preserve evidence.
6. Explain appropriate protocol for collection, preservation, and transportation of physical evidence to crime lab.
7. Conduct a follow-up investigation using a variety of techniques.
8. Identify appropriate techniques for questioning victims, witnesses, and interrogating suspects.
9. Explain a case for court presentation.

Course Content:

- A. Introduction
 1. Criminal Investigation: An Overview
- B. Basic Investigative Responsibilities
 1. Documenting the Crime Scene
 2. Writing Effective Reports
 3. Searches
 4. Forensics/Physical Evidence
 5. Obtaining Information and Intelligence
 6. Identifying and Arresting Suspects
- C. Investigating Violent Crimes
 1. Death Investigations
 2. Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Elder Abuse
 3. Sex Offenses
 4. Crimes Against Children
 5. Robbery
- D. Investigating Crimes Against Property
 1. Burglary

2. Larceny/Theft, Fraud, and White-Collar Crime
3. Motor Vehicle Theft
4. Arson, Bombs, and Explosives
- E. Other Challenges to the Criminal Investigator
 1. Computer Crime
 2. Drug-Related Crime and Organized Crime
 3. Gangs and Other Dangerous Groups
 4. Terrorism and Homeland Security
 5. Preparing for and Presenting Cases in Court

Learning Assessments:

Competencies may be evaluated by multiple measures, including exams, papers, article reviews, research, experiments, and projects.

Instructional Materials:

Textbook: Orthmann, C. H. & Hess, K. M. (2013). *Criminal Investigation* (10th ed.). Clifton Park, NY: Delmar Cengage. ISBN-13: 978-1133018926

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students **must** complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” on our [Disability Services website](#).

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.

A Note on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct

Highland Community College seeks to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX, and College policy prohibit harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct. Highland Community College encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct to talk to report to the Vice President for Student Services, the Human Resources Director or complete an [online report](#) about what happened so that they can get the support they need and Highland Community College can respond appropriately.

There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. Highland Community College is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a confidential resource. Responses may vary from support services to formal investigations. As a faculty member, I am required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. For more information about policies and resources or reporting options, please review our [Equity Grievance Policy](#).