

## Criminal Investigations SO293PM

Course Syllabus  
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Spring 2007  
Wednesday 6:30pm-9:30pm  
Robert J. Righi  
610-865-7161 office  
484-357-4414 (cell)  
Office hours by appointment  
[merjr01@moravian.edu](mailto:merjr01@moravian.edu)

**Text:** James W. Osterburg, Richard H. Ward. Criminal Investigation, fourth edition.  
Anderson Publishing.

### Course Description:

This course will explore the fundamental principles and procedures employed in the criminal investigative process. Students will examine the various methods utilized by law enforcement to solve crime. Areas of study will include the preliminary and follow-up investigation, crime scene analysis and evidence collection. Special emphasis will focus on fingerprint analysis and the role of forensics in law enforcement.

### Course Objectives:

- Students will be able to identify the practices and procedures involved in criminal investigations.
- Students will have the ability to discuss methods and techniques of interview and interrogation.
- Students will have the ability to analyze and examine evidence as it relates to solving crime.
- Students will be able to compare techniques used by criminals to commit crime.
- Students will be able to apply judicial requirements relating to the investigative process.
- Students will have the ability to compare fingerprints and other forms of evidence.

**Student Evaluation:** Course grade will be based on the following percentage criteria. Additionally, the instructor's qualitative judgment based on class participation and attendance may impact the final grade. Students can expect to work approximately five hours per week outside of class.

Quiz 1 (1/31/07 prior to lecture)	10%
Mid-term exam (2/21/07)	25%
Quiz 2 (3/28/07 prior to lecture)	10%
Quiz 3 (4/18/07 prior to lecture)	10%
Assignments	15%
Final Exam (5/2/07)	30%

**Attendance:**

Attendance will be taken in each class. If a student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to make up work missed. Regular attendance along with class participation can assist a student and enhance a borderline grade. Absences occurring on a quiz or exam date will require a doctor's excuse or an excuse from the Dean of Student Affairs. Unexcused absences on a quiz or exam date will result in a grade of zero. Students are expected to arrive on time.

**Assignments:**

There will be a series of assignments given throughout the course. Students are required to complete all assignments on time. Late assignments shall receive a grade of zero and shall not be accepted unless extenuating circumstances prevented timely submittal. An excuse from the Dean of Student Affairs shall be required for any late submittal requests. Students that are absent will be responsible for obtaining assignment information and instructions. Students that are absent on a due date shall ensure the assignment is submitted on time (start of class on due date). Unless otherwise instructed, all assignments shall be typed and double spaced. Handwritten assignments will not be accepted.

**Academic Honesty:**

Please read the policy on Academic Honesty in your student handbook. Cheating on exams, quizzes, or other assignments (plagiarism) shall result in a grade of zero for the assignment or test. A subsequent cheating episode shall result in a failing grade for the course.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students who believe they may need special accommodations for any disability are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible. Also, please notify the instructor of any concerns so accommodations may be implemented.

**Course Schedule:** (schedule is tentative and subject to change)

Wednesday 1/17/07 Course introduction.  
Investigator's Responsibilities and Attributes.  
Laws and Evidence

		Historical Perspectives The Preliminary Investigation
Wednesday	1/24/07	Initial Response by Law Enforcement Defining Limits of the Crime Scene The Discovery Process and Scene Management
Wednesday	1/31/07	<b>Quiz 1</b> Logic Trees Introduction to Forensic Science and Criminalistics
Wednesday	2/7/07	Sources of Information The Polygraph and Voice Stress Analysis
Wednesday	2/14/07	Interviewing and Interrogation
Wednesday	2/21/07	<b>Mid-term exam</b>
Wednesday	2/28/07	Informants Surveillance Eye Witness Identification
Wednesday	3/7/07	Spring break
Wednesday	3/14/07	Reconstructing the Past Evidence Characteristics and Search Techniques
Wednesday	3/21/07	Traditional Forms of Evidence Pathology
Wednesday	3/28/07	<b>Quiz 2</b> DNA Evidence
Wednesday	4/4/07	Fingerprint Analysis
Wednesday	4/11/07	Homicide Investigation
Wednesday	4/18/07	<b>Quiz 3</b> Sexual Assault Investigations
Wednesday	4/25/07	Robbery Investigations Burglary Investigations Arson Investigations Theft and Fraud Investigations
Wednesday	5/2/07	<b>Final Exam</b>