Inver Hills Community College

CJS 2225: Theory and Practice of Criminal Investigations

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 3
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: None

Examines the documentation, evidence handling procedures and preservation needed in crime scene investigations. This course also explores the legal, procedural and ethical considerations in interviewing and interrogations along with balancing the constitutional rights and protection of suspects, witnesses and victims. Investigative preparation, documentation and report writing will be explored. This course promotes five (5) core values: Accountability, Compassion/Empathy, Integrity, Cultural Responsiveness, and Interpersonal Communication. These core values serve as the foundation to prepare future public servant leaders.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 03/11/2013 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Crime scene investigation and preservation
   Interviewing and interrogation
   Violent and property crimes; including homicide, physical violence, sexual assault, harassment, stalking, controlled substances, arson, financial fraud, white collar crime, and cybercrime.
   Report writing and document preparation
   Criminal charging process

2. Role of informants in investigative practices and processes
   Types of evidence, protective gear, collection and preservation of evidence, and chain of custody
   Evidence collection considerations and care for victims
   Constitutional rights
   Officer survival and safety

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Explain the legal and procedural process associated with the investigation of crime.
   Define an investigator’s role and responsibilities during the investigative process.
   Compare legal, procedural, and ethical considerations in interviews and interrogations.
   Discuss the techniques used to organize investigative documents and write reports.

2. Define key elements of judicial interaction and explain how an investigator can interact and effectively navigate the judicial system.
   Discuss the constitutional rights and protection of suspects, witnesses, and victims.
   Demonstrate knowledge of Minnesota POST Board requirements.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus
G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted