CCJS 310: 
Criminal Investigations 
Fall 2008 3 credits 

Professor:  MARK JANNEY 
Contact info: mjanney@crim.umd.edu 
(240) 876-2179 

Office hours: Building III Room 5101. I am available by appointment and happy to meet with you outside of class. Contact me via e-mail or phone to make an appointment or for other matters. I check my e-mail daily and will respond within 24 hours. 

Class time: Monday and Wednesday: 9:30-10:45 a.m. 

Course description: 

This course will provide students with a basic knowledge of criminal investigations and investigative techniques through analysis of actual investigations and research compiled from interviews with criminals. The course will focus on crimes such as burglary, robbery, sex offenses, homicide and drug trafficking and the methods and techniques used by investigators to successfully detect and prosecute suspects responsible for these offenses. The course will also provide students with a basic knowledge of Fourth and Fifth Amendment constitutional law as it relates to criminal investigations and the criminal justice process. 

Required readings: 


Class topics and reading assignments: 

Week 1 (9/3): 
- Review of syllabus and course expectations 

Week 2 (9/8; 9/10) 
- Brandl (Chapter 1) 
  o Criminal Investigations overview 
  o Criminal Justice Process (as a system) 
  o Case analysis: Unabomber
Week 3 (9/15; 9/17)
- Brandl (pp. 29-32; Chapter 3)
  - Reactive criminal investigation process and strategies
  - Undercover Investigations
  - Case analysis: Lindbergh kidnapping; Charles Stuart; ABSCAM

Week 4 (9/22; 9/24)
- Brandl (Chapter 4)
  - The role of evidence in criminal investigations
    - Types of evidence
    - Functions of evidence
  - The meaning and nature of probable cause
  - Case analysis: University of Michigan murders (John Collins)

Week 5 (9/29; 10/1)
- Brandl (Chapter 5)
  - Rules of evidence
  - Fourth Amendment
    - Search warrant requirement
    - Exceptions to search warrant requirement
    - Exclusionary rule

Week 6 (10/6; 10/8)
- Brandl (Chapter 5 continued)
  - Fifth and Sixth Amendments
    - Rules of interrogation
  - Case analysis: Miranda

Week 7 (10/13; 10/15)
- Simon (Chapters 1-6)
  - Discussion of term paper topics
- Mid-term review
- MID-TERM EXAM 10/15

Week 8 (10/20; 10/22)
- Brandl (Chapter 6)
  - The Role of Physical Evidence
  - Types of physical evidence
  - Processing the crime scene
  - Case analysis: O.J. Simpson
Week 9 (10/27; 10/29)
  • Brandl (Chapter 7)
    o Interviews
    o Types of witnesses
    o Methods of eyewitness identification
    o Report writing
    o Case analysis: Wisconsin robberies

Week 10 (11/3; 11/5)
  • Brandl (Chapter 8)
    o Interrogation
      • Role of police deception
      • Successful interrogation strategies
      • Recognizing deception
        • Verbal and non-verbal clues

Week 11 (11/10; 11/12)
  • Brandl (Chapter 9)
    o Behavioral evidence
    o Psychological profiling
    o Psycholinguistics
    o Case analysis: Jon Benet Ramsey; Anthrax

Week 12 (11/17; 11/19)
  • Brandl (Chapter 10)
    o Other sources of information
      • Media
      • Computer databases
      • Use of confidential informants

Week 13 (11/24; 11/26)
  • Brandl (Chapter 11)
    o Investigation of violent crime
      • Homicide and Battery
        • Investigative considerations
      • Forcible rape and other sex assaults
        • Investigative considerations
      • Robbery
        • Investigative considerations
    o Case analysis: Hadden Clark

BOOK REVIEW TERM PAPER DUE 11/26 9:30 AM
Week 14 (12/1; 12/3)
  • Brandl (Chapter 12)
    o Investigation of property crime
      • Burglary
        • Investigative considerations
      • Vehicle theft
        • Investigative considerations
      • Arson
        • Investigative considerations
      • Larceny and fraud
        • Investigative considerations

Week 15 (12/10; 12/12)
  • Brandl (Chapter 13)
    o Documentation and presentation of evidence
    o Reasons for errors in justice outcomes
    o Role of testimony
    o Role of the jury
  • Final exam review

Final Exam week (12/15-12/20)

Assignments, Exams and Grading Standards:

1. Class participation (10%)
2. Brandl chapter review quizzes (20%)
3. Mid-term exam (25%)
4. Homicide book review term paper (20%)
5. Final exam (25%)

Class participation: Students are expected to arrive ON TIME for EVERY class, having completed that day’s reading assignment and/or homework. Pop quizzes, which will factor into your class participation grade, may be administered to remedy problems, should they occur, regarding class participation. Additionally, students are expected to actively participate in class discussions by asking relevant questions and offering informed comments. I consider class participation to be an extremely important part of the learning process and strongly encourage you to be punctual, attentive and active in class discussions.

Brandl chapter review quizzes: For most reading assignments in the Brandl text book there will be a short multiple choice quiz given at the beginning of class during Monday classes. The questions will be based on the chapter review questions located at the end of each chapter. You must be present and on time in order to take the quizzes or you will receive a “0” for the quiz. Students who have a documented excused absence will be
permitted to make up the quiz. Only the top ten quiz scores will be calculated in the final grade.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Regarding assignments and exams, students should always observe the highest standards regarding academic honesty and integrity. Your academic work should be the result of your efforts, thoughts, and ideas. When writing papers or assignments, you should use an appropriate citation style consistently, indicating exactly where you are quoting, or have been inspired by, the work of others. Cheating on any assignment or exam will result in the following disciplinary actions:

"XF" (a cheating F) will be the grade earned for the course. All cases of academic misconduct will be referred to the Student Honor Council at UMCP. Examples of conduct meriting such disciplinary actions include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) cheating on an exam, either with or without assistance of another student or students, (2) submitting as your own work a paper that is either wholly or partially plagiarized, such as purchasing a paper from an internet site or superficially rewriting the work of others without proper citation, or (3) collaborating with fellow students on assignments or take-home exams for which you were instructed to work alone.

Missing a class to participate in a religious observance or to seek medical care constitutes an excused absence. Please inform me in advance, if possible, if you will need to miss a class for such reasons. It remains your responsibility to check with fellow students for missed class notes.

If a student misses an exam, s/he must produce a documented, valid reason for doing so as soon as possible. I reserve the right to assess a penalty deduction in grading make-up work when the absence is unexcused. The make-up session for a missed exam will be held at a time of my choosing, and the format of the make-up exam may be altered at my discretion.

Should a student need accommodations in the classroom or for assignments/exams due to a verified, documented learning or physical disability, please inform me of your situation immediately, so that proper UMCP documentation and accommodation procedures are followed.

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. MISSING CLASS OR ARRIVING LATE AS A RESULT OF FINISHING ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. I WILL NOT ACCEPT ASSIGNMENTS VIA E-MAIL OR LATE WITHOUT A DOCUMENTED EXCUSED ABSENCE.**