

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE  
SYLLABUS

AJS 275 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Credit Hours: 3 Lec 3

PREREQUISITE: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theory of criminal investigation, crime scene procedures, case preparation, interviewing, and basic investigative techniques are studied.

1. COURSE GOALS

- 1.1 Have a basic understanding of the investigation of criminal activity.
- 1.2 Have a basic understanding of the technology used to apprehend criminals
- 1.3 Have a basic understanding of report writing.
- 1.4 Describe the correct procedures for a crime scene search.

2. OUTCOMES

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 2.1 describe the nature of an investigation
- 2.2 describe the instrumentation and methods of detection
- 2.3 describe the phases of an investigation
- 2.4 identify criminals by:
  - a) confessions
  - b) eye witnesses
  - c) circumstantial evidence
- 2.5 explain how to trace and locate a criminal
- 2.6 identify and explain *Corpus Delicti*
- 2.7 explain the purpose of a notebook
- 2.8 list the materials contained within a notebook
- 2.9 explain the purpose of writing reports
- 2.10 list the general characteristics of a report:
- 2.11 list and explain the mechanics of a search:
  - a) strip search
  - b) spiral search
  - c) zone search
  - d) wheel method
- 2.12 list the precautions for protecting the crime scene
- 2.13 list the equipment needed for:
  - a) searching
  - b) sketching and diagram preparation
  - c) collection of evidence; and
  - d) preservation of evidence

3. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- 3.1 Lecture & Discussion
- 3.2 Audio-Visual (slides, cassette tapes, VHS)

- 3.3 Assigned textbook reading
- 3.4 Internet assignment
- 3.5 Interactive computer software

4. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 4.1 Reading assignments
- 4.2 Classroom discussion
- 4.3 Lecture note-taking
- 4.4 Tests
- 4.5 Oral presentations (discretion of the professor)
- 4.6 Student projects (discretion of the professor)

5. EVALUATIONS

- 5.1 Grade will be earned by an assortment of learning activities, exams, assignments, and participation.
- 5.2 Please see the class schedule and assignment sheet for more information.

6. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
- 6.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the 45th day of the course may be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.
- 6.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
- 6.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized “crib notes”, plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor’s signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC’s Student Code of Conduct.
- 6.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.
- 6.6 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for “No Show” reporting during the first 10 days of each semester.  
Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a “No Show” (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of “NS” on their official academic record. An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid.  
For online classes, *student attendance in an online class is defined as the following* (FSA Handbook, 2012, 5-90):
  - Submitting an academic assignment
  - Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
  - Attending a study group that is assigned by the school
  - Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
  - Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course