

Course Outline

COURSE: JLE 156 **DIVISION:** 50 **ALSO LISTED AS:**

TERM EFFECTIVE: Spring 2021 **CURRICULUM APPROVAL DATE:** 11/10/2020

SHORT TITLE: HOMICIDE INVESTIGA

LONG TITLE: Homicide Investigation

<u>Units</u>	<u>Number of Weeks</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Contact Hours/Week</u>	<u>Total Contact Hours</u>
2	18	Lecture:	1	18
		Lab:	3.57	64.26
		Other:	0	0
		Total:	4.57	82.26

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A course teaches students the highly specialized field of Homicide Investigation. It will cover the legal aspects of death investigation, homicide crime scene procedures, autopsy, psychological profiling, criminal psychology, laboratory work, gunshots, asphyxia, drowning, burning, cutting, and stabbing, and interviewing techniques. **PREREQUISITE:** Basic Police Academy or equivalent; JLE 100

PREREQUISITES:

JLE 100

COREQUISITES:

CREDIT STATUS: D - Credit - Degree Applicable

GRADING MODES

L - Standard Letter Grade

REPEATABILITY: N - Course may not be repeated

SCHEDULE TYPES:

02 - Lecture and/or discussion

03 - Lecture/Laboratory

04 - Laboratory/Studio/Activity

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Distinguish the role of the Medical Examiner/Coroner in a death investigation.
2. Compose an investigation report to include: different wound types, animal/insect, self-inflicted, the three characteristics of gunshots and the three types of sharp force wounds as well as the cause of death.
3. Compare the factors in determining time of death to include loss of body heat, rigor mortis, postmortem lividity, liver temperature, and environmental factors.

CONTENT, STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES, OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Curriculum Approval Date: 11/10/2020

LECTURE CONTENT:

I. Course Overview (1 hour)

II. Introduction to Homicide (17 hours)

- A. Investigative Attitudes
 1. Principled Policing
 2. Implicit Bias
 3. Cultural Awareness/Differences
- B. Homicide Job Expectations
 1. Gravity of Investigations
 2. Media/Community Pressure
 3. Scrutiny
 4. Lifestyle/Wellness
 5. Commitment
- C. Mindset Shift
 1. Thoroughness
 2. Innovation ? techniques
 3. Agent for Change
- D. Interactions/Relationships
 1. Coworkers
 2. Other Agencies
 3. Victims? Families
 4. Pitfalls

LAB CONTENT:

III. ROLES OF THE FORENSIC SCIENTIST (2 hours)

- A. Evidence collection at the scene
 1. Impression Evidence
 - a. Casting impressions
 - b. Mikrosil
 - c. Traxtone
 2. Photographic Evidence
 3. Latent development and chemical enhancements
- B. Blood and Biological Fluids
 1. DNA & CODIS Overview
 2. DNA Contamination issues

3. Procedural Justice Issues
- C. Blood Spatter Documentation
 1. Use of blood spatter
 2. Overview of patterns from drop analysis and pattern recognition
 3. Recording at the scene
- D. Collection of Firearms Evidence
 1. Safety
 2. Firearm - Condition/Location/Documentation
 3. Ammunition - Condition/Location/Documentation
 4. Gunshot Residue (GSR) Collection
 5. Bullets strikes and holes
 - a. Physical form
 - b. Chemical screening tests
 - c. Collection
 6. Firearms reconstruction evidence
 - a. Trajectory documentation
 - b. Ejection pattern documentation
- E. Trace Evidence
- F. Crime Lab Practical
- IV. CRIME SCENE PRACTICAL (8 hours)
 - A. Overview
 1. Crime scene detailed examination is processed
 2. Evidence is collected and packaged
 3. Teams develop case and media strategies
 4. Media component Optional: video of media interaction
 - B. Team works with facilitators to present their learning points
- V. CHILD DEATH INVESTIGATIONS (4 hours)
 - A. Scope of Child Deaths
 - B. Categories of Child Deaths
 1. Neglect
 2. Abuse
 3. Accidental
 4. Undetermined
 5. Sudden Unexplained Infant Death
 - C. Resources in Child Death Investigations
 1. Child Protective Services (CPS)
 2. County Health Department/Visiting Home Nurses
 3. School authorities
 4. Mental health department
 5. Health care professionals
 6. Pediatric pathologists
 7. Radiologists
 8. Child death review teams
 9. Multi-disciplinary interview centers (MDIC)
 10. Social media
 - D. Role of the investigator in child death investigations
 1. Obtain information/Interview
 2. Research

- a. family/dependent court issues
- b. Debriefing detectives/other agencies
- 3. Medical information
- 4. Victimology
 - a. Child history
 - b. Family history
- VI. ELDER AND DISABLED ADULT DEATH INVESTIGATIONS (4 hours)
 - A. Introduction and discuss trends
 - B. Elder and Disabled Adults Victimology
 - C. Suspect Motives and Defenses
 - D. Investigative Resources and Medical Resources
 - E. Interviewing Elderly/Disabled Adults
 - F. Interviewing the Suspect
 - G. Crime scenes
 - H. Suspicious factors in Preliminary Investigation
 - I. Obstacles that Stop or Delay Prosecution
 - ?
- VII. CRIME SCENE AND CASE MANAGEMENT (8 Hours)
 - A. Planning & Tools Needed
 - 1. Have a response plan
 - 2. Know homicide unit operations response & guidelines
 - B. Scene Response Learning Activity
 - 1. Challenges
 - 2. Duties after Arrival
 - C. Overall Scene Management
 - 1. Evidentiary Documentation
 - 2. Written documentation
 - 3. Crime scene investigation
 - 4. Other investigative assignments
 - a. Follow-up assignments
 - b. Canvas
 - c. Identify witnesses/interviews
 - D. Creating Timelines
 - E. Investigative Follow Up
 - 1. Evidence Processing & Analysis
 - 2. Team Briefings/Assignments
 - 3. Autopsy
 - 4. Case preparation & presentation
 - 5. Follow-up tips and leads
 - F. Ongoing Case Management
- VIII. INTERACTION WITH VICTIM'S FAMILY (2 hours)
 - 1. Application of Procedural Justice Tenets
 - 1. Voice
 - 2. Decision Neutrality
 - 3. Respect & Dignity
 - 4. Trust
 - B. Death Notifications
 - 1. Build a trusted relationship with the victim's family

2. Appropriate times/methods
- C. Case studies
 1. Family
 2. Detective
 3. Advocate
- D. Victim family resources
- ?
- IX. HOMICIDE PROSECUTIONS (2 hours)
 - A. Homicide Law
 1. Degrees and Elements
 2. Felony Murder Rule
 3. Law of Special Circumstances
 4. Others Liable
 - a. Principals
 - b. Aiders and Abettors
 - c. Conspirators
 - B. Defenses
 1. Justifiable
 2. Mental
 3. Others
 - C. Interrogation Case Law
 1. Aranda-Bruton
 2. Shatzer
 3. Montejo
 4. Saldana/Torres
 5. New case law
 - D. Expert testimony
 - E. Search warrant law
 - F. Post-conviction issues
 1. Discovery
 2. Evidence retention
- X. INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY (4 hours)
 - A. Recovery of human remains
 - B. Human versus nonhuman bone identification
 - C. The biological profile
 1. Sex estimation
 2. Age estimation
 3. Ancestry estimation
 4. Stature estimation
 - D. The identification process
 - E. Postmortem changes to human remains
 - F. Factors that influence preservation
 - G. Skeletal trauma analysis
 - H. Categorization of trauma
 1. Blunt force trauma
 2. Sharp-force trauma
 3. Projectile trauma
- XI. FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY (4 hours)

- A. Entomology and Botany roles in Homicide Investigations
 - 1. Overview and Definition
 - 2. Case Studies
 - 3. Optional learning activity
- B. Death Investigations
- C. Data Interpretation
- D. Forensic Botany
- XII. GRAVE SITE FIELD PRACTICAL EXERCISE (8 hours)
 - A. Learning Objectives
 - 1. Understand accepted methods for locating a potential burial site
 - 2. Demonstrate how to excavate a body to preserve evidence
 - 3. Demonstrate how to collect insect and other evidence on a body
 - B. Assigned teams:
 - 1. Excavate body (simulation) using demonstrated methods
 - 2. Collect any insect and other evidence
 - C. Evidence Preservation & Processing
- XIII. HOMICIDE INTERVIEW AND INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES (4 hours)
 - A. Introduction: stress prosecution or exoneration
 - B. Review confrontational interrogation method
 - C. Discuss legal issues
 - D. Correcting the alternative
 - E. Violent personality disorders and cognitive thought patterns
 - F. Time factors in homicide interviews and interrogations
 - G. Audio/video recording
 - H. Interview monitoring
 - I. Interview coordination
 - J. Interview and interrogation concepts for homicide investigators
 - 1. Anticipating defenses
 - 2. Handling cooperating defendants
 - 3. Handling an interview/interrogation subject who wants to negotiate
 - 4. Recognizing the audio/video recordings will be played for juries
 - 5. Exploiting lies and recognizing seeking lies instead of a confession
 - K. False confessions
 - L. Student Demonstrations - practical exercise
- XIV. OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTINGS AND IN-CUSTODY DEATHS (4 hours)
 - A. Special considerations
 - B. Legal review
 - C. Physiological considerations
 - D. Identifying stakeholders
 - E. The investigative process
 - 1. Investigative standard
 - 2. Police Officer Bill of Rights issues
 - 3. Physical evidence
 - 4. Scene issues
 - 5. Scene containment and witness management
 - 6. Briefings
 - 7. Walk-throughs
 - 8. Public reaction and expectations

9. Legal considerations
10. Witness statements
11. Officer wellness
12. Public safety statements
13. Interviewing the involved officer
14. Intoxicant testing
15. Searches
16. New laws
- F. Multi-jurisdictional investigations
- XV. INVESTIGATOR WELLNESS (4 hours)
 - A. Stressors
 1. Acute
 2. Chronic
 - B. Manifestations of stress
 - C. Impact of cumulative trauma
 - D. Strategies for building resilience
 - E. Practical applications for homicide investigators
 - F. Internal vs. external stress
- XVI. ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATIONS (2 hours)
 - A. Cell phone analysis
 1. Available data
 2. Analysis methods
 3. Tower dump information
 4. Managing data
 - B. Legal and search issues
 - C. Forensic investigations and evidence preservation
 - D. Social media and networking sites
 - E. Current trends of electronic evidence
- XVII. INVESTIGATIVE RESOURCES (2 hours)
 - A. Identify resources
 1. Internal resources
 - a. Specialized units
 - 1) Gangs
 - 2) Human trafficking
 - 3) Vice
 - 4) Domestic violence
 - 5) Other units
 - b. Analytical support
 2. External resources
 - a. Outside agencies
 - 1) Federal
 - 2) State
 - 3) Local
 - b. Academics
 - c. Non-governmental
 - d. Civilian
 3. Databases
 - a. Law enforcement

- b. Public Databases
- c. License Plate Reader (LPR)
- d. Other
- 4. Video

B. Utilization of resources

- 1. Appropriate use
- 2. Potential issues

XVIII. DUTIES OF THE CORONER'S OFFICE (2 hours)

A. Legal mandates - Class discussion of the legal mandates and structure of Coroner/ME systems throughout California and how they apply to homicide investigations

- 1. It shall be the duty of the Coroner/M.E. to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner and cause of all violent, sudden, or unusual deaths Government Code 27491
- 2. Coroner/M.E. must notify other law enforcement agencies immediately upon determining that there is reasonable evidence a person's death is the result of criminal means
- 3. Role and responsibilities of the Coroner/M.E. at a homicide scene/when should they be included in the scene investigation

- 4. Benefits of the homicide detective attending the autopsy
- 5. Benefits of having a forensic pathologist at the crime scene

B. Types of death investigation systems

- 1. Coroner System
- 2. Sheriff/Coroner System
- 3. Medical Examiner System

C. Role of the forensic Pathologist

D. Manners of death - mandated by state law and are required for the certification of death

E. Changes after death

F. Identification of remains

G. Trauma recognition

H. Asphyxia deaths

I. Bodies in water

J. Burn injuries

K. Postmortem mutilation

L. Findings suspicious for neglect

M. Human bite marks - Forensic odontology

XIX. INTRODUCTION TO FIRE AND EXPLOSION-RELATED DEATHS (2 hours)

A. Determine investigative response

B. Determine ignition source and progression of the fire from the origin

C. Fire/death classification

- 1. Incendiary/homicide
- 2. Incendiary/suicide
- 3. Undetermined source/undetermined death

D. Incendiary fires

E. Fire started intentionally

F. Victim

- 1. Human or animal remains
- 2. Victim identification
- 3. Victim location in relationship to the fire
- 4. Alive or dead at time of fire
- 5. Effects of fire on victims
- 6. Post-mortem victim examination

- 7. Toxicology
- B. Fire/heat effects on evidence
- C. Explosion/bombing victims
 - 1. Forensic considerations
 - 2. Evidence issues
 - 3. Post-mortem examination of explosion/bombing victims
- ?
- XX. INNOVATIVE INVESTIGATIVE STRATEGIES (2 hours)
 - A. Forensic developments
 - 1. Forensic computerized tomography (CT)
 - 2. Familial DNA
 - 3. Phenotyping
 - 4. Gene sequencing
 - 5. Forensic genetic genealogy
 - B. Electronic communication intercepts
 - C. Privacy concerns
 - D. Case studies
- XXI. HOMICIDE CASE PRESENTATION AND COURT TESTIMONY (4 hours)
 - A. Student investigative teams will have worked five different fictitious homicide cases
 - 1. Collection of evidence at the crime scene
 - 2. Conducting of interviews/interrogations of witnesses and suspects
 - B. Presentation of assigned cases to expert panel (i.e. DA, Judge, Defense Attorneys)
 - 1. Teams will identify
 - a. Legal issues
 - b. Charges to be filed
 - 2. Potential challenges
 - C. Open dialog with expert panel

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Lecture, role playing demonstrations and discussion with extensive use of slides and video reproductions.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

Required Outside Hours: 36

Assignment Description:

Reading text book

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Writing assignments

Percent of total grade: 25.00 %

Investigation reports to be evaluated by POST instructor for completeness. Course primarily involves skill demonstration or problem solving

Skill demonstrations

Percent of total grade: 50.00 %

Class activities and Performance Exams to be evaluated for techniques taught in class by POST instructor

Objective examinations

Percent of total grade: 25.00 %

Multiple Choice; True/False

REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:

Vincent J.M. DiMaio, M.D., Suzanna E. Dana, M.D., . Handbook of Forensic Pathology 2nd Edition .
Taylor&Francis,2007.

This is the latest edition of this text book

ISBN: 978-1138426931

Instructor Handouts, Lab Manual 2020

ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

Associate Degree:

CSU GE:

IGETC:

CSU TRANSFER:

Transferable CSU, effective 199970

UC TRANSFER:

Not Transferable

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

Basic Skills: N

Classification: Y

Noncredit Category: Y

Cooperative Education:

Program Status: 1 Program Applicable

Special Class Status: N

CAN:

CAN Sequence:

CSU Crosswalk Course Department:

CSU Crosswalk Course Number:

Prior to College Level: Y

Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N

Funding Agency Code: Y

In-Service: N

Occupational Course: B

Maximum Hours:

Minimum Hours:

Course Control Number: CCC000562980

Sports/Physical Education Course: N

Taxonomy of Program: 210500