Syllabus
Law Enforcement 233: Criminal Investigation
Spring 2015

Class meets M, W in AH 07
2:00 - 3:15 P
Office: Morris 207B
Dr. Mark G. Robbins
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Office hours:
M,T,W 11:00 – 12:00
1:00 – 2:00

Required texts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Of:</th>
<th>Discussion Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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| 1/12     | Course introduction and expectations Basic Concepts | Fisher, Ch. 1
          |                   | Swanson, Ch. 1,2   |
| 1/19     | The Crime Scene No class on Monday | Fisher, Ch. 2
          |                   | Swanson, Ch. 3     |
| 1/26     | The Crime Scene (cont’d) | Fisher, Ch. 3,4,5 |
| 1/2      | Evidence as identification | Fisher, Ch. 6      |
| 2/9      | Trace evidence | Fisher, Ch. 7
          |                   | Swanson, Ch. 4     |
| 2/16     | Biological evidence | Fisher, Ch. 8      |
| 2/23     | Firearms, tool marks and other general impressions | Fisher, Ch. 9,10  |
| 3/2      | Bomb and Arson First paper due on Wednesday | Fisher, Ch. 11
          |                   | Swanson, Ch. 18    |
| 3/16     | Illicit substances | Fisher, Ch. 12
          |                   | Swanson, Ch. 19    |
| 3/23     | Sexual assault and child abuse | Fisher, Ch. 13
          |                   | Swanson, Ch. 10,11 |
3/30  Burglary                                    Fisher, Ch. 14
          Swanson, Ch. 13
4/6    Motor vehicle theft                        Fisher, Ch. 15
          Second paper due on Wednesday              Swanson, Ch. 16
4/13   Death Investigation                       Fisher, Ch. 16
          Swanson, Ch. 9
4/20   The crime scene investigator (No class on
          Thursday)                                    Swanson, Ch. 5,6,7
4/27   Documentation and testimony                Swanson, Ch. 6,21
5/4    Final exam Friday, 5/8 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

**Grading:** There will be quizzes, usually every other week, worth 50% of your final grade. The final exam will be worth 25% of your final grade. Two small papers will be required (clarifying requirements to be given out separately), worth 20% of the grade. Finally, attendance will be taken, and the final 5% of the grade will be based on attendance. Each *unexcused* absence will cost 1%. In addition, unexcused absences on the days of quizzes or exams will result in a grade of F for that quiz or exam. An unexcused absence is defined as one not cleared with me in advance. It is incumbent on the student to arrange make-up of exams or quizzes missed as a result of excused absences, and you may find the make-up exams will be considerably more difficult than the regularly scheduled one. The paper due dates are non-negotiable. Each day past the due date will cost you one full letter grade lower.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any instances of academic dishonesty (i.e., plagiarism as defined in the student handbook, cheating on quizzes or exams, etc.) will result in a grade of F for this course, without regard to the grading criteria above. I also reserve the right to forward such cases to the Student Affairs office for further disciplinary action (including suspension or expulsion.) Finally, POST rules may require your dismissal from the Law Enforcement Program.

**Course Objectives:** It is my intention that by the end of the course, the student will:

- Understand the responsibilities of the first officer on the scene of a crime.
- Develop a working vocabulary of investigative terminology.
- Recognize “evidence potential” on crime scenes.
- Gain basic understanding of how to protect and process a crime scene for evidence.
- Have an understanding of the history and scope of different types of crimes and the investigative techniques unique to them.

Every attempt will be made to accommodate qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a documented disability, please see me as early in the semester as
possible to discuss the necessary accommodations, and/or contact the Disability Services Office at (507)389-2824 (voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TDY.)

LAWE 233
Writing Requirement

This course requires the submission of two short papers during the semester. The topic of the paper should be related to some aspect of criminal investigation. I would like you to get your topic by watching Forensic Files on HLN, The Investigators on TruTV; On the Case with Paula Zahn, The FBI: Criminal Pursuit, Homicide Hunter on Investigation Discovery, CSI on CBS, or episodes of The New Detectives, available at some online video sites (such as http://www.ovguide.com/tv/the_new_detectives.htm) and on DVD in the library. Investigation Discovery sometimes has single programs that would work, and if you see anything that you feel would be appropriate and interesting to you, clear it with me.

After viewing the program, research some aspect of the investigative procedure covered in the program in either an academic journal such as Journal of Forensic Science, an investigations textbook other than the texts required in this class, or a narrowly focused trade journal such as Police Chief, Law & Order, or FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin. Do a two to three page write up of the program (typed, double spaced) and what you learned in your research, making sure to emphasize how your reading either supports or refutes what was covered in the television program. Your source must be cited!