

# CJ-2390: THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

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## Cuyahoga Community College

### Viewing: CJ-2390 : The Investigative Process

**Board of Trustees:**

2018-05-24

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2019

**Subject Code**

CJ - Criminal Justice

**Course Number:**

2390

**Title:**

The Investigative Process

**Catalog Description:**

Overview of investigative methods including databases and background checks. In-depth look at the criminal investigation process with a focus on crime scene, reports and evidence identification. Specific investigative methods for particular crime types are analyzed.

**Credit Hour(s):**

4

**Lecture Hour(s):**

4

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

CJ-1000 Introduction to Criminal Justice, or departmental approval: admission to the Basic Police Academy.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Follow the criminal investigation process when evaluating crime scenes, identifying evidence, performing surveillance, interviewing witnesses, interrogating suspects, and writing investigative reports

**Objective(s):**

1. Evaluate the components of a preliminary investigation.
2. Apply the various methods of evidence preservation.
3. Apply the concepts of the chain of evidence.
4. Apply the concepts of identification of suspects.
5. Formulate the components of criminal intelligence gathering.
6. Utilize the methods and equipment of surveillance operations.
7. Apply the concepts of the levels of custody.
8. Apply the various methods of interview and interrogation.
9. Research the methods of informant management.
10. Analyze the components of the criminal trial process.
11. Apply the concepts of investigation of crimes against persons.
12. Analyze the roles, duties and characteristics of an investigator.
13. Apply the concepts of investigation of property crimes.
14. Interpret and classify evidence at the crime scene.
15. Apply the requirements for crime scene documentation.
16. Apply the concepts of crime scene security.
17. Research the various types of searches.
18. Compare and contrast the different types of evidence.
19. Apply the legal guidelines for searches.
20. Apply the legal guidelines for evidence seizure.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Participation
2. Midterm and final examinations
3. Term project
4. Case studies
5. Presentation

**Course Content Outline:**

1. Criminal Investigation
  - a. History
    - i. England
    - ii. United States
    - iii. Contributions of the "fathers of criminal investigation"
  - b. Structure: Police apprehension process to closing the case
  - c. Stages of an investigation
  - d. Investigators
    - i. Types
    - ii. Qualifications
    - iii. Duties
    - iv. Desirable traits
  - e. Types of evidence
    - i. Direct
    - ii. Circumstantial
    - iii. Real
    - iv. Associative
  - f. Admissibility of evidence
    - i. Burden of Proof
    - ii. Legally significant evidence
    - iii. Search and seizure limitations
      1. Mapp vs. Ohio (1961)
      2. Chimel vs. California (1969)
      3. Terry vs. Ohio (1968)
    - iv. Automobile search cases
      1. Carrol vs. United States
      2. Chambers vs. Maroney
      3. Collidge vs. New Hampshire
2. Reports
  - a. Types of Police Reports
  - b. Outline
  - c. Narrative
  - d. Verbatim
  - e. Investigative reports
    - i. Preliminary
    - ii. Progress
    - iii. Closing
    - iv. Prosecution
3. Interviewing
  - a. Importance of empathy
  - b. Sources of witness error
  - c. Three characteristics of a good witness
  - d. Open-ended questions
  - e. Closed-ended questions
  - f. Role of silence
  - g. Witness statement criteria for meeting judicial challenge
4. Information sources
  - a. Common information/contact areas
  - b. Human sources

- c. Documentary sources
- d. Physical sources
- 5. Crime Scene Procedures
  - a. Five methods of crime scene searches
  - b. Evidence
    - i. Identification
    - ii. Collection
    - iii. Marking
    - iv. Packaging
    - v. Significance
    - vi. Types of evidence
      - 1. Firearms (bullets, cartridges, bullet holes and marks)
      - 2. Blood
      - 3. Imprints and impressions
      - 4. Tool marks
      - 5. Glass, paint, dust, dirt and other traces
      - 6. Questioned documents
      - 7. Hair, fibers, seminal fluids, urine
  - c. Note taking, sketching and photographing crime scene
- 6. Burglary
- 7. Five common means of entry
  - a. Primary purpose of “on the scene” investigation
  - b. Behavior cycle
  - c. Common means used to unlawfully open and enter safes
  - d. Criteria for classifying burglars
- 8. Robbery
  - a. Five methods of safe attack
  - b. Styles of robbery
  - c. Potential robbery targets
  - d. Phases of investigation and apprehension
- 9. Sexual offences and deviancy
  - a. Proper terminology
  - b. Statutory law
- 10. Homicide
  - a. Murder vs. suicide vs. accidental death
  - b. Positive signs of death and normal onset
  - c. Common classification of gunshot and cutting wounds
  - d. Role of pathologist
  - e. Role of toxicologist
  - f. Presumptive signs of death
- 11. Child abuse
  - a. Signs of abuse on a child
  - b. Characteristics of child abuser
- 12. Organized crime
  - a. Definition of organized crime
  - b. Concept of a national crime syndicate
  - c. Organized crime vs. organized criminal
  - d. History and development of “LaCosa Nostra”
  - e. Legitimate and illegitimate organized crime activities
  - f. Placement of organized crime unit within police structure
  - g. Crimes “attractive” to organized crime
  - h. Impact of recent Federal and state legislation on gathering and maintaining intelligence information on organized crime
  - i. Criminal Conspiracy offence.

## Resources

Becker and Dutelle. *Criminal Investigation*. 4th. Jones and Bartlett, 2012.

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Hess, Orthmann and Cho. *Criminal Investigation*. 11th. Cengage Publishing, 2016.

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Steven Brandl. *Criminal Investigation*. 3rd ed. Sage, 2014.

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Saferstein. *Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science*. 12th ed. Pearson, 2017.

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Ohio Attorney General. "Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI)" 2017-10-22 22:00:00.0.

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United States Department of Justice. "Federal Bureau of Investigation" 2017-10-22 22:00:00.0.

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