Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS
CJUS 420
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS I

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will address the constitutional requirements for conducting criminal investigations, essential techniques for processing a crime scene, and methodology for collecting evidence via subpoenas and interviews.

RATIONALE
The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of principles of criminal investigation in the United States.

I. PREREQUISITE
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Word
   (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Describe specific legal concepts in relation to criminal investigations.
B. Identify the proper steps of crime scene processing.
C. Evaluate the methods of appropriate evidence preservation for specific forensic analysis.
D. Summarize methods of obtaining information from witnesses and databases.
E. Explain the appropriate utilization of confidential informants during a criminal investigation.
F. Explain specific physical and electronic surveillance techniques.
G. Understand the logical steps utilized to obtain a confession during an interrogation.
H. Explain the logical process of conducting a criminal investigation within the confines of the U.S. Constitution.

I. Integrate biblical principles into the ethical decision making process.

V. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes

B. Course Requirements Checklist

   After reading the Syllabus and **Student Expectations**, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (7)

   There will be 7 Discussion Board Forums throughout this course. The student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided topic for each forum. Each thread is to be 150–200 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates’ threads. Each reply must be 125–150 words.

D. Research Paper Topic

   The student will choose a topic for the Research Paper related to criminal investigation and submit it along with at least 2 references.

E. Research Paper

   The student will write a 5-page research-oriented paper in current APA format that focuses on criminal investigation. The paper must include at least 5 sources (not including the class textbook and the Bible). The paper will be submitted through SafeAssign.

F. Exams (2)

   There will be a Midterm and a Final Exam in this course. Each exam will cover the textbook readings and will be open-book/open-notes, contain 50 true/false and multiple-choice questions as well as 1 essay question, and have a time limit of 2 hours and 30 minutes.

VI. **COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums (7 at 50 pts ea)</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper Topic</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (Modules 1–4)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Modules 5–8)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1010</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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B. Scale

   A = 900–1010  B = 800–899  C = 700–799  D = 600–699  F = 0–599
C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
### COURSE SCHEDULE

**CJUS 420**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE/WEEK</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1           | Osterburg & Ward: chs. 1–2  
1 presentation  
4 websites | Course Requirements Checklist  
Class Introductions  
DB Forum 1  
Research Paper Topic | 10  
0  
50  
25 |
| 2           | Osterburg & Ward: chs. 3–4  
1 presentation  
3 websites | DB Forum 2 | 50 |
| 3           | Osterburg & Ward: chs. 5–6  
1 presentation  
1 article  
10 websites | DB Forum 3 | 50 |
| 4           | Osterburg & Ward: chs. 7–8  
1 presentation  
2 websites | Midterm Exam | 200 |
| 5           | Osterburg & Ward: chs. 9–10  
1 presentation  
1 website | DB Forum 4 | 50 |
| 6           | Osterburg & Ward: chs. 11, 13  
1 presentation  
1 website | DB Forum 5 | 50 |
| 7           | Osterburg & Ward: chs. 14–15  
1 presentation | DB Forum 6  
Research Paper | 50  
225 |
| 8           | Osterburg & Ward: chs. 16–17  
1 presentation  
2 websites | DB Forum 7  
Final Exam | 50  
200 |

**TOTAL** 1010

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.