



**Course Name:** Criminal Investigation II: Crime Scene Processing

**Course Number:** CJS\* E237

**Credits:** 3

**Catalog description:**

This course is a follow-up to the basic course in Criminal Investigation. This course will apply basic criminal investigation skills to practical crime scene scenarios. Students will visit mock crime scenes, and process these scenes in their entirety. Hands-on instruction will concentrate on teaching students to effectively secure the scene and document the scene with sketches and digital photography. Students will learn proper crime scene note-taking and diagramming techniques. Students will also actively engage in searching for evidence, collecting evidence and creating chain-of-custody logs. Preparation for effective courtroom testimony will also be covered in this class.

**Prerequisite:** CJS\*E220 – Criminal Investigation, or permission of the instructor.

**Corequisite, or Parallel:**

**General Education Competencies Satisfied:**

**HCC General Education Requirement Designated Competency Attribute Code(s):**

None

**Additional CSCU General Education Requirements for CSCU Transfer Degree Programs:**

None

**Embedded Competency(ies):**

None

**Discipline-Specific Attribute Code(s):**

None

**Course objectives:**

**General Education Goals and Outcomes:**

None



### **Course Specific Objectives:**

1. Develop technical knowledge of crime scene processing techniques.
2. Develop observation and active listening skills.
3. Learn fundamental hands-on skills for crime scene management and processing.
4. Be able to demonstrate technical knowledge through scenario-based exercises in the classroom.
5. Learn basic diagramming and photography skills, as they relate to law enforcement.
6. Develop skills and strategies to deliver effective courtroom testimony.
7. Comprehend ethical issues pertaining to evidence collection and courtroom presentation and testimony.

### **Course Content:**

#### **I. Planning, Training and Equipment**

- a) Preparation and initial steps
- b) Equipment and supplies
- c) Arrival at the scene
- d) Crime scene search principles

#### **II. The Crime Scene**

- a) Notes and forms
- b) Digital photography techniques
- c) Drawing and diagramming
- d) Fingerprints
- e) Pattern evidence
- f) Trace evidence
- g) Hair and fiber Evidence
- h) Biological evidence



### III. Evidence Collection for Specific Crimes:

To be determined based on individual instructor's expertise, but may include components of: homicide, assault, motor vehicle accidents, arson, narcotics or technology-based criminal activities.

### IV. Documentation and Report Preparation

- a) Avoiding potential mistakes while processing
- b) Crime scene forms and diagrams.
- c) Crime Scene report-writing.

### V. Courtroom Testimony

- a) Common mistakes on the witness stand.
- b) Effective presentation of physical evidence in the courtroom.
- c) Techniques and tips on being an effective witness.

Date Course Created: 10/1/2009

Date of Last Revision: 3/06/2017