WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: Criminal Investigation

COURSE NUMBER: CRJ 318

I. RATIONALE:

An understanding of the function and roles of the criminal investigator is essential to the overall education of a criminal justice student regardless of the specific career goal that a student might have.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A:
Students will develop an understanding of the basic concepts involved in a criminal investigation.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

A-1 Describe the responsibilities of a criminal investigator.
A-2 Discuss the investigative role of photography.
A-3 Review the process of note taking and report preparation.
A-4 Review the process of collection of physical evidence.
A-5 Differentiate between preliminary investigation and full field investigations.

GOAL B:
Students will gain an understanding and appreciation for the role of the criminal investigator in the criminal justice system.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

B-1 List the characteristics of an effective investigator.
B-2 Discuss the qualifications of a criminal investigator.
B-3 Examine the interrelationships that the criminal investigator has with others in the system.

GOAL C:
Students will develop an understanding of the methods used by criminal investigators to obtain information.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

C-1 Review the types of information that are available to investigators.
C-2 Examine the various methods used in interviewing and interrogation.
C-3 Discuss the characteristics of a good interviewer.
C-4 Discuss the scientific aids used to obtain and evaluate information.

GOAL D:
Students will develop an understanding of the investigative responses to specialized situations.

Learning Outcomes: The student will

D-1 Discuss the investigation of crimes against persons including robbery, assault, homicide, and rape.
D-2 Discuss the investigation of crimes against property including burglary, larceny, fraud, motor vehicle theft and arson.
D-3 Discuss the police units that investigate computer crime, organized crime, gangs, drugs and hate crimes.

GOAL E:
Develop an understanding and appreciation for the arrest and search responsibilities of the criminal investigator.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

E-1 Review the steps in obtaining an arrest warrant.
E-2 Review the steps in obtaining a search warrant.
E-3 Discuss the planning and execution of arrest warrants.
E-4 Discuss the planning and execution of search warrants.
E-5 Discuss the officer safety issues involved in arrest situations.

GOAL F:
Students will develop an awareness of the process involved in processing a crime scene.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

F-1 Review investigative equipment.
F-2 Review recognition and examination of evidence.
F-3 Review the collection and making of evidence.
F-4 Discuss courtroom presentation of evidence.

GOAL G:
Students will exhibit appropriate written and oral presentation skills.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

E-1 Present written and oral reports in grammatically correct form using APA style.
E-2 Utilize computer skills to locate pertinent resources on the internet.
E-3 Demonstrate effective note taking skills.