

CRIM 410, Section-001: Criminal Investigations, CRN 12832
Spring 2017: Thursday, 4:30 pm - 7:10 pm, Bull Run Hall, Room # 132
George Mason University, Prince William Science & Technology Campus

Instructor: Stephen F. Bamford, Assistant Term Professor
Assistant Chief of Police (Retired)

Office: Enterprise Hall 3rd Floor, Room # 305
Fairfax Campus

Office hours: Thursdays: 12:30 – 1:30 pm, by appointment at Bull Run Hall PWC
Wednesdays: 3:00 – 4:00 pm at Enterprise Hall #305

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Contact Numbers: (703) 993-5693 office, (571) 238-0156 cell

University Policies:

Campus Resources:

The Writing Center, University Libraries, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and the Office of Disability Services are available to assist students. Links to the University Catalog and the University Policies website for all other university academic and non-academic policies may also be included in the links below.

General University Information / Weather: www.gmu.edu

Office of Disability Services: ods.gmu.edu

Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

Counseling and Psychological Services: caps.gmu.edu

English Language Institute: eli.gmu.edu

University Catalog: <http://catalog.gmu.edu>

University Policies: <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Honor Code Policy:

All students are expected to be familiar with the University's Honor Code, which may be found in the University Catalog. Ignorance of the policy is not a valid excuse and all violations will be reported.

The Honor Code is as follows:

“To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University Community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set for this Honor Code: Student Members of the George Mason

University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.”

Extent of the Honor Code:

The Honor Code at George Mason University shall be specifically concerned with cheating or attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing in an academic setting.

Cheating includes using unauthorized material and/or unauthorized assistance in academic work. Plagiarism includes self-plagiarism, inadequate citation, false citation, and failure to adhere to citation forms set by the professor.

Students are expected to abide by the requirements of the University regarding academic integrity, to include lying, cheating or stealing. (See “Honor System and Code” in the George Mason University Catalog) Students who present false information will be treated in accordance with the University’s Policies.

Add/Drop Period:

Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) Full Refund	January 30, 2017
Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) 33% penalty	February 13, 2017
Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) 67% penalty	February 24, 2017

Course Description and Objectives:

The principal objectives of this course will focus on creating fundamental awareness of criminal investigations and the role of a criminal investigator in the criminal justice system. It is essential that criminal justice professionals have a thorough understanding of investigative techniques and the application of scientific principles in the investigation, detection and apprehension of criminals. Although there is no substitute for experience with regard to criminal investigations, there is however, a direct correlation between understanding the fundamental principles, developing a passion for what we “*don’t know*” and building the skills and confidence to take on the challenges and be a successful criminal investigator. This process for some will be a paradigm shift in the way many will view their fellow man. The extent to which you embrace the process of “*wanting to know who, what, when, where, why and how*” will determine your success. The role and challenges for today’s investigators are forever changing and one’s ability to adapt to this environment is critical. With this in mind; the more you know (science, math, English, history, religion and technology) the more confidence you exude...KNOWLEDGE IS KING!

In a larger sense we will also address some of the broader policy and legal issues confronting the American criminal justice system, to include such areas as the role of the investigator in national security issue, public policy decision, and the perceived fear of crime by the public. To some extent we will also cover some of the more contemporary techniques of law enforcement to include undercover operations, the use of informants, deceptive interrogation methodologies as well as various “privacy” and due process issues that have taken on additional significance since the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks of 9/11. As well as the difficulties facing law enforcement investigators with the current policing environment in the United States.

Lastly, time permitting it is my intention to invite various practitioners in the criminal justice system to provide their views on various investigative and ethical issues from the real world perspective.

Examinations:

03/09/17	Midterm examination	50% of total grade
05/11/17	Final examination	50% of total grade

2 Exams = 100% of Grade

Examinations will normally consist of both “objective” questions and material, such as, multiple choice, true/false, there may also be some short answer and essay type questions depending on the material covered and the insightful nature of the topics left open for interpretation. Makeup exams will be allowed only when the student provides written verification of personal illness, death/serious illness, or other emergency in the family and severe or inclement weather as defined by University policy. Makeup exams may be in a different format than the regularly scheduled exam and will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor.

Class Preparation/ Participation:

Students are expected to come to class having read the materials assigned for that class period and be prepared to discuss the material in class. During the course of the semester we will also engage in various “debates” so as to fully explore the merits of all sides of a policy or issue confronting the roles and responsibilities of the criminal investigator. Issues that come to mind include the interview techniques, use of informants, victimology and witness statements and identification as well as more contemporary matters such as the search and seizure, laws of evidence and other practical and ethical considerations, as well as consequences confronting investigators pressured to close cases.

One of the critical ingredients of an interesting and viable course is participation and insightful frank discussion. On the former issue, it will be very important that the materials highlighted in the Schedule of Topics be read as a pre-requisite to attending the class. With regard to the latter point it is my intention to involve the students in class discussion and debate as a matter of course. This will necessitate the student’s attendance and preparation.

Overall Grading:

The following is the numerical conversion to the corresponding letter grade scale that we will be using for CRIM 410 Criminal Investigations:

A	100 – 94 %	C+	79.9 – 77 %
A-	93.9 – 90 %	C	76.9 – 70 %
B+	89.9 – 87 %	D	69.9 – 60 %
B	86.9 – 83 %	F	59.9 and below
B-	82.9 – 80 %		

Text: *(required)*

**Lyman, Michael D.; Criminal Investigation: The Art and Science; 8th Edition, Pearson Education Inc. Copy 2014, 2017
ISBN-13: 978-0-13-411527-6**

Class Schedule:

As set forth below the subject matter that will be covered during the course of the semester has been grouped by chapters. In preparing for class it is recommended that the material be read and organized in that manner. It should also be noted that it is the student's responsibility to stay abreast of assignments, changes to the schedule, etc., all of which will be announced with adequate notice during class.

- Jan. 26, Introduction and Syllabus
(Chapter 1) Foundation and History of Criminal Investigation
- Feb. 9, (Chapter 2 & 3) Crime Scene Identification and Collection of Evidence &
(Chapter 4) VA Department of Forensic Science Laboratory System /
Identification of Criminal Suspects
- Feb. 16, (Chapter 5) Legal Issues in Criminal Investigations
(Chapter 6) Interviews and Interrogations
- Feb. 23, (Chapter 7) Criminal Intelligence and Surveillance
(Chapter 8) Undercover Operations
- March 2, Guest Speaker: Mr. Richard Conway, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney
Prince William County, VA.
- March 9, MIDTERM EXAM (Chapters 1 through 8)**
- March 15, SPRING BREAK...NO CLASS...**
- March 22, (Chapter 9) Death Investigation
- March 29, (Chapter 11) Assaults, Malicious Wounding and related offenses (Sexual
Assault, Domestic Violence)
- April 6, (Chapter 12) Abduction and Missing Persons & (Chapter 13) Crimes against
Children, Abuse, Neglect, Fatalities and Exploitation
- April 13, (Chapter 10) Robbery
- April 20, (Chapter 14) Theft Related Offenses; Burglary, Larceny, Embezzlement
- April 27, (Chapter 16) Drug Crimes and Gang Investigation
- May 3, (Chapter 15) Guns, Arson, Bombs and Related Terror Investigations
Guest Speaker: Mr. Ray Rowley, Retired Supervisory Special Agent; BATFE
- May 11, FINAL EXAM: (Chapters 9 through 16)**

Revised: 08/10/2016