

**CRIM 410, Section 001: Criminal Investigations, CRN 71996**  
Fall 2019: Wednesday, 7:20pm - 10:00pm, Art and Design Building, Room 2003  
George Mason University, Fairfax Campus

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**Office:** Enterprise Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite #354  
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**University Policies:**

**Campus Resources:**

The Writing Center, University Libraries, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Student Support and Advocacy Center, and the Office of Disability Services are available to assist students. Links to these sites, along with the University Catalog and the University Policies websites are below:

General University Information / Weather: [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu)

Office of Disability Services: [ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu)

Writing Center: [writingcenter.gmu.edu](http://writingcenter.gmu.edu)

Counseling and Psychological Services: [caps.gmu.edu](http://caps.gmu.edu)

Student Support & Advocacy Center: [ssac.gmu.edu/](http://ssac.gmu.edu/)

English Language Institute: [eli.gmu.edu](http://eli.gmu.edu)

University Catalog: [catalog.gmu.edu](http://catalog.gmu.edu)

University Policies: [universitypolicy.gmu.edu](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 [Disability Services](#) at (703) 993-2474 or [ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu). All academic accommodations should be identified at the beginning of the semester and must be arranged through Disability Services.

**Honor Code Policy:**

George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

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.

The Honor Code is as follows:

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, trust, and fairness among all members of the Mason community, and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth 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.**

Mason's Commitment: To create an environment that is innovative, diverse, entrepreneurial, and accessible - helping you avoid accidental or intentional violations of the Honor Code.

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. This is a law enforcement class, and a violation of the Honor Code may also adversely affect future employment opportunities for jobs requiring background investigations and security clearances.

**Add/Drop Period:**

The last day to drop classes with 100% tuition refund is Monday, September 9, 2019.

The drop period with a 50% tuition refund percentage is from Tuesday, September 10, 2019 to Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

The student self-withdrawal period with 100% tuition liability is from Wednesday, September 18 to Monday, September 30, 2019.

## Course Description and Objectives:

The class focuses on criminal investigations and the role of the criminal investigator in the criminal justice system. We will discuss several different types of criminal investigations along with the differences and similarities in conducting investigations in each of the different types of cases. We will briefly discuss the differences between criminal and non-criminal investigations. We will constantly discuss current events and news stories along with recent historic events and judicial decisions that influence criminal investigations and law enforcement in general. Students are expected to be aware of significant news stories and current events that have a nexus to criminal investigations.

Law enforcement professionals, and specifically criminal investigators, must understand their role in the investigative process. This involves interaction with many constituents to include uniform officers, investigators from other law enforcement agencies or private entities, attorneys, members of the judiciary, scientists, medical professionals, and most importantly, victims. 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. Investigators must work hard to become skilled in their profession, remain open minded, and avoid complacency. The roles and challenges for today's investigators are quickly changing, and one's ability to adapt to this environment is critical. Advances in technology, twenty-four hour news, social media, politics, and changes in society over the last few years have drastically changed the environment for law enforcement and criminal investigators.

In this class, 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, public policy decisions, 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, 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 September 11, 2001.

### Examinations:

September 25, 2019	First examination	30% of total grade
October 23, 2019	Second examination	30% of total grade
December 11, 2019	Third examination	30% of total grade
	Attendance	10%

Examinations will normally consist of objective questions and material, such as multiple choice and 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, assignments, and missed classes (with few exceptions) 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 different than the regularly scheduled exam and will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor.

### Class Preparation/ Participation:

This is a criminal justice class geared to future law enforcement professionals, so students are expected to attend class as they would a law enforcement training academy, have read the

materials assigned for that class period, and be prepared to discuss the material in class. The majority of the material discussed in class comes from the text, so students should obtain the text as soon as possible. I do not have a preference as to the format you use (electronic or paper textbook). During the semester, we will also engage in various “debates” and will discuss investigative options and consequences of decisions so that students will understand all sides of a policy or issue confronting criminal investigators. We will also discuss current events that impact criminal justice and criminal investigations. I encourage spirited debate, but please keep the discussions constructive and remain respectful of your peers. Issues discussed will include interview techniques, use of informants, victimology and witness statements, suspect identification, as well as more contemporary matters such as search and seizure, laws of evidence, and other practical and ethical considerations. We will discuss the consequences confronting investigators pressured to close cases. We will also discuss personal conduct and other outside influences that can impact an investigator’s effectiveness.

### **Overall Grading:**

**This course is graded on the Undergraduate regular scale. The following is the numerical conversion to the corresponding letter grade scale that we will be using for CRIM 410 Criminal Investigations:**

A+	100 – 99%
A	98– 91%
A-	90%
B+	89 – 88%
B	87 – 81%
B-	80%
C+	79 – 78%
C	77 – 71%
C-	70%
D	69 – 60%
F	59 – 0%

### **Text: *(required)***

**Lyman, Michael D.; Criminal Investigation; The Art and Science; 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, Pearson Education Inc. Copyright 2017**  
ISBN-13: 978-0-13-411527-6 (You may purchase the text in a digital format or rent the text)

### **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 students should read the material prior to class. 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.

August 28	Introduction and Syllabus Chapter 1- Foundation and History of Criminal Investigation
September 4	Chapter 2 - The Crime Scene: Identification and Collection of Evidence Chapter 3 – The Crime Scene: Field Notes, Documenting and Reporting
September 11	Chapter 4 – Identification of Criminal Suspects: Field and Laboratory Services
September 18	Chapter 5 – Legal Issues in Criminal Investigation
September 25	Chapter 6 - Interviews and Interrogations <b>First Examination</b>
October 2	Chapter 7 - Criminal Intelligence and Surveillance Chapter 8 - Undercover Operations and Informant Management
October 9	Chapter 9 – Death Investigations
October 16	Chapter 10 - Robbery
October 23	Chapter 11 – Assault and Related Offenses <b>Second Examination</b>
October 30	Chapter 12 – Missing and Abducted Persons
November 6	Chapter 16 – Special Investigations: Drug Trafficking and Gangs (guest lecturer)
November 13	Chapter 14 – Theft Related Offenses
November 20	Chapter 13 – Crimes Against Children: Child Abuse, Child Fatalities, and Exploitation Chapter 15 - Guns, Arson, Bombs and Related Terror Investigations
December 4	Chapter 17 – Special Investigation: White-Collar, Corporate, and Computer-Related Chapter 18 – Preparation for Court
December 11	<b>Third Examination (7:30pm – 10:15pm)</b>