

George Mason University
Fairfax, Virginia

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Instructor: Daniel Reilly
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Office Hours: By Appointment (I am also available 1 hour before and after class)

CRIM 410, 002 Criminal Investigations meets Monday, Fairfax Campus **David King Hall Room**
2053 7:200 PM to 10:00 PM

Course Description

This is an introduction to criminal investigation. Study includes: the presentation of approaches to conducting a proper criminal investigation; Types of investigations, a comprehensive definition of evidence and the analysis and application of the elements of criminal acts in both statutory and common law will be discussed. A detailed review of the rights of accused according to the US Constitution will be considered. Investigative steps like crime scene response, interviews and adhering to administrative functions like report writing, and decision making to solve the case will be discussed in the context of a variety of investigative protocols. The use and development of Confidential Sources will be discussed. The collection and preservation of physical evidence at crime scenes and the decision-making process will be explained. Benefits and limitations used in the scientific interpretation of evidence will be discussed. Special emphasis will be placed on obtaining Search warrants and arrest warrants. The coordination of all the legal steps required throughout the process will be practiced and utilized to ensure the investigation meets the legal requirements to take the case to court. Areas of specific concentration will be Homicides, Sexual Assault, Robbery, and Larceny. There will be lectures on how to conduct Gang investigations, and White-Collar Crime Investigations. There will also be an introduction to undercover operations, Title III cases and Terrorism cases.

Number of Credits: Three (3)

Prerequisites: None

**Required Textbook: Finding the truth with Criminal Investigation Suspect, Subject, Defendant
Reilly, Daniel (2019). Rowan and Littlefield Largo Maryland**

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course the student will be able to: 1) Conduct a Criminal Investigation. 2) Describe how to develop and interpret the investigative value of physical evidence. 3) Conduct a Crime scene examination. 4) Have a unique understanding of the Criminal Justice system and how evidence is presented in Court. 5) Students will conduct interviews and be able to obtain information/evidence from witnesses, suspects, victims, and hostile witnesses. 6) Explain the foundations of criminal investigations. 7) Describe the key elements of criminal investigations as they relate to: Homicide, Robbery, Rape/Sex Crimes, Burglary, and Arson and Explosives. 8)

Develop an understanding of how multi-jurisdictional task forces operate and describe the benefits of utilizing resources from various agencies to meet the needs of a community struggling with a significant crime problem.

Course Objectives:

The objective of the course is to provide the student with an understanding of criminal investigation and the variety of investigative steps that may be taken to be successful in solving a case.

Course Goals and Policies

Please be aware of Mason's policy requiring instructors to submit final course grades within 2 days of the final exam and prohibiting instructors from changing submitted grades for any reason other than a computational or recording error (see page 37 of the University Catalog). This means that I cannot allow, nor is there any time, for you to do a last-minute paper or other extra work at the end of the semester to raise your grade. The time to do the work is when it is assigned, and the work to do is the work that is required as class assignments. There are, however, several extra credit opportunities available (more details later). Another relevant Mason policy specifies that incompletes can only be given to students who are passing a course but cannot complete scheduled coursework for causes beyond reasonable control (see page 36 of the University Catalog). Because incompletes are to be used when students cannot complete scheduled coursework, I cannot grant incompletes to allow you time to do extra work to raise your grade. If some sort of personal or family crisis arises for you during the semester, and it provides a compelling reason that is beyond your control and prevents you from finishing scheduled coursework, I will be more than willing to work with you to take that into account, but you must let me know right away. Your circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please note that according to Mason policy, "Although many students must work to meet living expenses, employment must not take priority over academic responsibilities." (See page 33 of the University Catalog.)

Privacy Policy

Please respect the privacy of any students who may disclose personal information in the class. Please also respect everyone's right to freely choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information.

Grading Scale

Below is the numeric equivalent of the letter grades which will be used in this class.

A+	97-100% (4.0)	C+	77-79% (2.33)
A	93-96% (4.0)	C	73-76% (2.0)
A-	90-92% (3.67)	C-	70-72% (1.67)

B+	87-89% (3.33)	D	60-69% (1.0)
B	83-86% (3.0)		
B-	80-82% (2.67)	F	0-59% (0)

Course Grade Components

The final grade will be determined as follows.

Quizzes and Handouts assignments-10% Provided on Black Board

The 3-4-Projects equally divided 20% for each. 80% overall. A **Final Exam** or a **4th Project will be worth 20%** (You will have a choice between the two.) **Periodic Quizzes** will be posted on Black Board and will be “open book” examinations. The grades on these quizzes will be compiled and constitute 12% of your final grade. **Participation and attendance** will be the final 7% of the final grade.

Total 100%

The Projects

Three of the four projects will be affidavits supporting probable cause. These affidavits will be documenting proof an investigator must submit to a judge to justify probable cause in order to exercise appropriate law enforcement authority. You will be provided with scenarios that reflect real investigations and be required to submit the affidavits as required. The **3rd** project is an investigative/interview presentation. The details will be provided in class.

The Exams

The final exam if chosen by the class will most likely be an open-book exam. It will use a combination of structured response formats (such as multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blanks, etc.) and unstructured response formats (such as short answer or essay). The final exam will focus on material covered since the beginning of the semester. Schedule permitting, I will try to reserve some time during the last class before the exam for a review session, which will involve answering your specific questions about the material to be covered. I will answer questions to clarify the reading material, as long as the question shows that you have actually read the material and attempted to understand it on your own. In this class there is an alternative project that may be offered. The **4th project** is a third affidavit in support of an **Arrest warrant** and if the majority of the class chooses that alternative to the final exam details relating to the assignment will be provided.

Obviously, the Exam and Projects are to be taken on your Own. Any evidence that a student used another person as a resource, whether that other person was in the classroom or accessed electronically, will result in a referral to the honor committee as a cheating violation. If the exams are closed book, then the same is true for any evidence that a student used any unauthorized hardcopy or electronic resource during the exam.

Make-ups will only be given under exceptional circumstances. If you know in advance that you will have to miss an exam, please notify me ASAP so we can discuss a make-up. If you miss an exam or project without notifying me in advance, you need to contact me ASAP to schedule a make-up. All make-ups must be completed within 3 business days (excluding weekends and spring break) of the original exam date.

If you can provide written documentation from a professional (doctor, police, etc.) that demonstrates a compelling reason for missing the exam, and the reason was beyond your control, there will be no penalty applied for taking a make-up. Your circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please remember the Mason policy about employment not taking priority over academic responsibilities (referenced above). If you cannot provide such documentation, there will be a 10-point reduction from your exam score for taking a make-up (cf. pg. 35, University Catalog).

The alternative to a final exam is a fourth project. I will assign the project to the students if it is deemed appropriate based on the progress of the class.

The final report on the interview project will be a presentation before the class providing all the research conducted on the topic and the background on the topic's source of information. A power point or other similar presentation is required for this project and each topic will require a **two-person team** to participate. Each team member will be responsible to present an equal part of the overall presentation. Criminal investigation is a human endeavor that requires teamwork and an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of partners, so the most effective and productive analysis is obtained.

Level of Effort

You're Participation, Your Learning Experience, and Your Grade

This class will offer you some unique opportunities, but you've got to be fully engaged in order to benefit from them. **That means coming to class, paying attention, taking notes, and reading the readings and the textbook.** In addition to the reading materials, everything that happens in the classroom is also fair game for the quizzes and exams, whether it provides documentation (such as Power Points) or not. That includes guest speakers, videos, and my lectures. If you miss classroom activities through either absence or inattentiveness, you can expect your grades to suffer because you won't have learned the material you need to know in order to do well on the quizzes, projects and assignments.

To encourage you to make the most of this class, 7% of your course grade will be based on my evaluation of your level of effort in the classroom. If you miss a few or no classes and are alert and involved in the class (asking and answering questions, offering comments, etc.), your active participation may be rewarded with a bump up on your final course grade. In addition to the 7% participation component. If you come to class regularly and sit quietly, the level of effort component probably won't change your course grade. If you miss a lot of classes or spend much of your time in the classroom sleeping or engaged in distractions (such as talking to your classmates), you can expect your course grade to suffer for it. Your grade will suffer based on your failure to be part of the team.

I am utilizing a book I just completed this past year which will be in print August of this year. It is compilation of my life's work along with principles and organization of my work based on my experience as a teacher here at George Mason University for the past 5 years. I

know textbooks can be expensive and as a student it is routine to buy or rent a book and return it as soon as the class is complete. If your plan is to become a law enforcement professional, a criminal lawyer or an intelligence analyst in the field of Justice or Security it may help you to purchase the book and hold on to it as a reference guide. As you progress through your professional life you will find that familiar resources are helpful in solving problems and providing guidance when future problems or puzzles need to be solved. I wrote this book to pass on to you my experience and knowledge. If you discover in this class that my advice is valuable. Consider holding on to the book as a guide.

You will be expected to read the chapters and answer quiz questions which you will post on Black Board. I will also provide other handouts on Black Board on topics of interest. I expect you to read these handouts and be ready to discuss the topics in class. In criminal investigations you are expected to make regular decisions about the **next move** in a case, during class we will discuss cases that I worked, and I will ask you to offer your ideas on what is the next move. I want to see how you will handle this decision-making component. Your projects will be fully explained in class on the day of their assignment. The projects will directly involve you in a mock legal process of criminal investigations. You will be expected to participate in the scenario presented as if you were the criminal investigator responsible for “solving the crime.” You will also be expected to conduct an interview with a veteran criminal investigator **away from campus** at the convenience of the interviewee and report the results of that interview to the class.

Finally, when you submit **any written document** to me for grading it is expected that the document will be **written in clear and coherent prose**. Documents submitted that have not been properly edited and revised for proper grammar and spelling will be returned for correction and your final grade will suffer if it is not properly reviewed. This is not an English composition class, but if I can’t understand what you write you will receive a poor grade. **Well written narratives and prose are the hallmark of productive and careful investigations.**

If any of you who have trouble writing you should take advantage of the George Mason Writing Center <https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/> It is an excellent resource for any kind of composition and I highly recommend it if you have any difficulty in that area. A well written affidavit will make me smile, even if you miss some of what is needed.

All of the papers that are required for this course will be submitted to me by email to dreilly5@gmu.edu or submitted as an assignment on Black Board. If you send me an email and you do not receive an acknowledgement from me. Make sure your settings and your email are correctly set up and resend it. Occasionally, in the past students have experienced serious difficulties corresponding with me. Call me or speak to me at class if you think your emails are not going through.

Instructional Methodology

This course will use a traditional lecture format to present a fair amount of the course content, coupled with class participation and discussion. You will be expected to participate in at least one outside Interview, which will require a comprehensive report. You will also be expected to conduct independent research to meet some of the course assignments.

Students are responsible for all assignments and are to be prepared for the following week's reading. Sufficient time should be allocated in preparing for course discussion and studying for exams.

Blackboard

We'll use Mason's online **Blackboard program** (version 8) for instructions for the quiz grades, and any other necessary course materials, such as syllabus and homework. Here is how to access Blackboard: If you experience and difficulties with Blackboard contact the IT specialist to fix the problem and make sure that you email any assignments that are due.

Go to: courses.gmu.edu

Log on using your email username and 8-digit password. If your email account is dreilly5.gmu.edu, then your username is dreilly5.

If you've never used Blackboard before and need some assistance, there is a student resource guide available at <http://tap.gmu.edu/bbstudentguide.pdf>. You can get personal assistance by calling 993-8870 or emailing courses@gmu.edu.

I use Office 2016, so if you haven't upgraded from 2003 yet go to Microsoft's website and download the free compatibility pack so you can access the PPTs and other files. If you're using Office 2010, they should be compatible.

If you are using a Mac or Apple computer system a number of your word and spreadsheet file programs are incompatible with my equipment. I can for example open PDF files without any problem, but I can't edit these files without copying them some way and turning them into Microsoft Word files. If you send me a project file in a PDF make sure the project is complete and does not require correction otherwise your file turn around will be needlessly delayed and you may have to find a way to make the corrections needed on a file that is incompatible with your equipment. .

The following summary is my planned discussions listed by date. Some minor changes may be made to the schedule based on the work produced by the class.

Summary of Scheduled Lectures

DATE	SUBJECT MATTER of lecture	* <u>Finding the Truth with Criminal investigation will be outlined in the lectures.</u>
August 29	Introduction and overview of course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syllabus Review Course Expectations Profiles of Police and Sheriff's departments, State and Federal Agencies Definitions and Profiles Criminal Statutes and the U.S Constitution;	Mockingbird Lane Search Warrant PROJECT #1 Quiz 1 derives from Chapter 1 and 2 Quiz 1 is due Sept 5 Proof Chart-Read the Chapter 3 the US Constitution
September 5	What is evidence? Teamwork; Prioritizing investigations	Power Point Assignments - Quiz 2 due September 12 on the Constitution is due.
September 12	Victims and Witnesses, Civilian, Professional and Expert Witnesses; Crime Scene Analysis. INITIATE OUR DISCUSSION ON PROBABLE CAUSE	Proof Chart; Classroom Exercise Read Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7
September 19	INVESTIGATIVE GOALS AND STEPS Establishing a plan Goals and progress-PROBABLE CAUSE SEARCH WARRANTS AND ARREST WARRANTS. Is there a difference? Beginning of the decision-making process.	<u>Read Chapters 8 and 9 in the Textbook</u> Quiz 3 Probable cause is due on September 26.
September 26	Crime Scene Examination. Continual review of crime scene analysis. Introduction to WORKING THE SCENE.	The 2ND Search warrant affidavit will be assigned. PROJECT #2
October 3	Mockingbird Lane search warrant is due. We will begin our discussion of Criminalistics and Crime scene analysis	1st Search Warrant due Begin reading to take on Quiz 4- on Physical evidence
October 10	Take the extra time to go over the information from the required text and the Chapter 10 posted to answer the questions about Physical Evidence- Fingerprints DNA,	Read Chapter 10 in the textbook

	Trace evidence, and other areas of Forensic Science, like materials analysis, computer forensics.	
October 17	FALL BREAK, NO CLASS	Chapter 10 and the Excerpt From Working the Scene are the source for Quiz-4 Due
October 24	Court process Administrative Procedures Case file and Paperwork for Trial Preparation. Ballistic Evidence Trace Evidence, ME State of the Art and future advances in Forensic evidence	Courts System Read Chapter 12 Begin work on Quiz-5 on the Court system
October 31	Interrogations Confidential Sources	MIRANDA vs. ARIZONA Read Chapter 14* Quiz 5 is due
November 7	Investigative Intelligence. Tactical Considerations, Columbia Bank Robbery Invest.	Big Data, Crime Data and other sources of Intel Drug Power Point
November 14	We may not have class on this date, but you will be required to read the textbook chapters on Covert investigations Surveillance; Drug Investigations and Undercover Operations	Chapter 17-Consideration will be discussed for a final quiz on this chapter. Be prepared for the possibility.
November 21	INTERVIEW PROJECTS	2nd Search Warrant Due LE Photography Power Point
November 21	Title III Investigations;	Katz vs US
November 28	Thanksgiving	<i>During down time We will discuss other kinds of investigations</i>
December 5	Interview Projects	
	Interview Projects	Interview Presentations
December 12	Possible Final Exam Date	
	Final Exam period	Arrest Warrant or exam

Bad Weather and Other Emergencies

Check Mason's homepage (www.gmu.edu) to see if classes are cancelled for bad weather or other emergency circumstances. You can also register for Mason's emergency alert system at <https://alert.gmu.edu>. If I should have to cancel a class due to a personal emergency, I'll make every attempt to email you ASAP at your Mason email address. Be sure to stay on top of your Mason email so that you can receive urgent information when you need it.

University Services and Resources

If you have (or think you may have) a learning disability or other condition that may affect your academic performance, you should: 1) make sure documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Services (703-993-2474; ods.gmu.edu) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) see me to discuss your accommodation needs. By Mason policy, I cannot make any accommodations for students without certification from ODS on the existence of a disability and the specific accommodations needed.

If you feel you need to improve your writing skills, seek assistance from the University Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>). Your writing needs to be sufficiently fluent to make your meaning clear.

If you are in personal distress, you can get help from Counseling and Psychological Services (caps.gmu.edu).

If you are not a native English speaker and may be interested in linguistic and cultural enrichment services, you can contact Mason's English Language Institute (eli.gmu.edu).

If you'd like to improve your academic skills, you can get help from Learning Services caps.gmu.edu/learning-services. They offer workshops on the study cycle, effective note-taking techniques, individual learning styles, ways to prepare for exams, and effective time management. I've heard from former students that these services can be very helpful.

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs.

Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

Enrollment Responsibilities and Deadlines

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the schedule of classes, see

registrar.gmu.edu. Any other type of withdrawal requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. **If you enroll late** it is your responsibility to complete any assignments, you may have missed in class or on Black Board. Make an effort to establish a relationship with fellow students in class so you can get caught up on assignments you may miss **when and if you miss class**. Failure to meet deadlines on assignments will cause grades on those assignments to suffer.

University Honor Code

The following is a summary of Mason 's honor code; see the Undergraduate Catalog and honorcode.gmu.edu for additional information. Mason 's honor code will be strictly enforced in this class and all violations will be reported to the Honor Committee.

The Honor Code of George Mason University specifically prohibits cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing. Cheating and attempted cheating include "willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students." Examples include the use of unauthorized resources during an exam, copying off another student's work (with or without their permission), allowing another student to copy your work, using an assignment or test from another student who took the class previously, accessing tests or grades electronically for the purpose of getting an unfair advantage, and any other behavior that fits the general definition above.

Plagiarism includes "presenting as one's own words, the work, the ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment. While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions for this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writers' own insights or findings from their own field research, and what has been termed common knowledge." Examples of plagiarism include taking or buying a paper from someone else or the internet and presenting it as your own and submitting as your own work a paper with substantial unacknowledged contributions from others. Information and graphics obtained from the internet (except for freeware clipart) must include source citations to avoid plagiarism.

Lying includes "the willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work." Examples include making up source materials or source citations in a paper, pretending to use an actual source that you didn't really use, making up an excuse for missing a test or assignment due date, pretending you attended a class or an extra credit opportunity when you did not in order to write a paper or get points without justification, falsifying any written or electronic document, or presenting any other falsehoods through any method and in any context.

Stealing includes "taking or appropriating without the permission to do so, and with the intent to keep or to make use of wrongfully, property belonging to any member of the

George Mason University community or any property located on the university campus. This includes misuse of university computer resources (see the Responsible Use of Computing Policy section in the "General Policies" chapter). This section is relevant only to academic work and related materials. "

CONTACT INFORMATION:

I communicate regularly with students through email, using your Mason email account. You really need to stay on top of your Mason email. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for information on how to use your account. If you prefer to use another email account, just make sure you've set up the necessary forwarding, so you'll receive emails I send to your Mason account. I check my email many times a day, so that's both the quickest and the surest way to reach me. Also here is my telephone number **(703)795-4713** if you must get a hold of me immediately.

GMU SCHEDULE

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY FALL 2019 CALENDAR		
Tuition Payment Due Date	August 26	August 26
First day of classes	August 26	August 26
Last Day to Submit: Domicile Reclassification Application	26-Aug	26-Aug
Labor Day: university closed	2-Sep	2-Sep
Last day to add classes:all individualized section forms due	3-Sep	28-Aug
Last Day to Drop (with 100% tuition refund)	9-Sep	August 30 (Final Drop Deadline)
Drop period begins with no tuition refund	10-Sep	N/A
Final Drop Deadline (with no tuition refund)	17-Sep	N/A
Student Self-Withdrawal	September 18 – September 30	August 31 – September 13
Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via Patriot Web	September 23 – October 18	N/A
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only) (100% tuition liability)	October 1 – October 29	September 14 – September 20
Fall Break(Monday classes/labs meet Tuesday.	14-Oct	N/A

Tuesday classes do not meet this week)		
Incomplete work from spring/summer 2019 due to instructor	25-Oct	N/A
Incomplete grade changes from spring/summer 2019 due to Registrar	1-Nov	N/A
Thanksgiving recess(No Classes)	November 27- December 1	N/A
Dissertation/Thesis Deadline	6-Dec	N/A
Last day of classes	7-Dec	
Reading Day(s) Reading days provide students with additional study time for final examinations. Faculty may schedule optional study sessions, but regular classes or exams may not be held.	December 9 – December 10	N/A
Exam Period	December 11 – December 18	
<u>Winter Graduation Ceremony</u>	Thursday, December 19	
Degree Conferral Date	Saturday, December 21	