
COURSE PREFIX/NUMBER:	CRJ 202
COURSE TITLE:	Criminalistics
LECTURE HOURS/WEEK:	3.0
LAB HOURS/WEEK:	0.0
CREDIT HOURS	3.0

[Distance Learning Attendance/VA Statement](#)
[Textbook Information](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers an introduction to investigative techniques which stress the examination of questioned documents, fingerprint techniques, polygraph examinations, firearms' identifications, pathology, toxicology, ballistics, and clandestine operations.

COURSE COMPETENCIES

Module 1: General Principles of Criminal Liability

1. Describe forensic science and criminalistics.
2. Explain the functions of the crime laboratory.
3. Explain the role of the expert witness.
4. Describe the Frye and Daubert standards of admissibility.
5. Discuss physical evidence.

Module 2: Parties to a Crime

1. Explain the steps recording the crime scene.
2. Describe chain of custody.
3. Discuss the implications of the Mincey and Tyler cases.
4. Describe the procedures for conducting a systematic crime scene search.
5. Identify common types of physical evidence found at crime scenes.
6. Explain the difference between identification and comparison of physical evidence.

Module 3: Criminal Law - Personal Crimes

1. Compare individual and class characteristics.
2. Explain individualization and reconstruction using physical evidence.
3. Identify physical and chemical properties of physical evidence.
4. Explain the important forensic properties of glass and soil.
5. Explain organic and inorganic analysis.
6. Describe the microscopes used in forensic analysis.
7. Discuss the common characteristics of hair, fiber and paint.

Module 4: Criminal Law - Property Crimes

1. Describe the operation of the polygraph.
2. Discuss DNA analysis of physical evidence.
3. Describe the main fingerprint patterns.

4. Discuss the uses of forensic accounting.
5. Describe how forensic psychiatry and psychology are used in the criminal justice system.

MINIMAL STANDARDS

CRJ 115 is designed for completion in one semester. A final grade of C must be earned for successful completion of this course. Failure to earn a letter grade of "C" would mean that competencies for the course have not been adequately met. Therefore, students earning a final grade lower than C must repeat the course. All assignments/assessments are expected to be submitted/completed within the specified time frame. Late work accepted at the discretion of the instructor and will be outlined in the addendum to the syllabus.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance Policy

The Attendance Policy contained in the College Catalog and Handbook will be enforced. Students are responsible for all material covered and for all assignments made in all classes. Students are responsible for attending all scheduled meetings in the courses in which they are enrolled until they have completed all course requirements.

Withdrawal from a Course

A student may withdraw from a course until midterm with a grade of W. To withdraw from a course, the student obtains a Request for Withdrawal from the instructor or from Student Services. If the last date of attendance is after midterm, a W or WF will be assigned at the discretion of the instructor

The instructor may initiate a withdrawal from class if student:

- has not been in contact with the instructor within the first two (2) weeks of the term
- has not submitted assignments as specified
- has not completed assignments in proctored setting as specified
- has been absent from a class more than 20 percent of the hours assigned

Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

The policies stated in the York Technical College Catalog and Handbook will be enforced. Any student involved in cheating or any other form of academic dishonesty will be given a grade of zero and will be subject to further disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes using another's work or words without giving proper credit to the source, cheating on tests and other assignments.

EVALUATION STRATEGIES/GRADING

The final course grade will be determined by a student's performance on the four modules and a final examination. Each module grade may be comprised of objective and/or essay question exams or quizzes, written and group discussions or assignments, and written projects or papers as required by the instructor. Each module grade will account for a percentage of the course grade as shown below:

Module 1: Exam, Written and Oral assignments - 20%

Module 2: Exam, Written and Oral assignments - 20%

Module 3: Exam, Written and Oral assignments - 20%

Module 4: Exam, Written and Oral assignments, written project or paper - 40%

Grading Scale

A 90 - 100

B 80 - 89

C 70 - 79

D 60 - 69

F Below 60

ENTRY LEVEL SKILLS: Not Applicable

PREREQUISITES: RDG 100, ENG 100, and MAT 150 or equivalent test scores

CO-REQUISITES: None

Disabilities Statement: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Special Resources Offices (SR) at 803-327-8007 in the 300 area of Student Services. The SRO coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.