

# FORENSIC INVESTIGATION (FI)

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## FI 195 Explore Seminar (1)

This course provides a forum for assigned readings and discussion of ideas in response to a current issue/event. The topic of the course will vary. May be repeated for a total of three credit hours.

## FI 204 Introduction to Forensic Investigation (3)

Prerequisite(s): CJ 101.

Introduction to the development of Forensic Investigations and its contribution to the Criminal Justice System and the applications of the scientific discipline to the examination and analysis of physical evidence.

## FI 225 Criminal Courts (3)

Prerequisite(s): CJ 101.

An analysis of the roles of the Criminal Courts in their interactions with the major participants in the Criminal Justice System; the Court structure and functions; selected critical cases and key issues, such as sentencing and plea bargaining. FI 225 is equivalent to CJ 225, and only one may be taken for credit.

## FI 227 Practical Writing for Investigations (WI) (3)

Prerequisite(s): FI 204 and EH 102 or EH 104 or EH 106 with EH 116.

This course covers the writing process for investigators. It involves documentation from the crime scene through court proceedings. Topics to be discussed include search warrant affidavits, chain of custody forms, evidence collection forms, crime scene documentation, case file organization, court prep, press releases, and other documents involved in the field of criminal investigations. (Writing Intensive Course)

## FI 302 Research Methods (WI) (3)

Prerequisite(s): CJ 101 and EH 102 or equivalent.

An introduction to the theory, design, collection, and analysis of data in criminal justice research. FI 302 is equivalent to CJ 302, and only one may be taken for credit. (Writing Intensive Course)

## FI 304 Principles of Digital Forensic Investigation (3)

Prerequisite(s): FI 204 and CS 307.

This course will provide information about the basic accredited principles of digital forensics from the crime scene to the laboratories, and from the labs to the service-requesting entities in order to obtain meaningful data while preserving the original digital evidence.

## FI 310 Criminalistics (3)

Prerequisite(s): FI 204.

Methods of scientific analysis, comparison and identification of physical evidence; blood and body fluids, casts and molds, detective dyes, fingerprints, and trace evidence.

## FI 320 Criminal Investigations (3)

Prerequisite(s): FI 204.

Practical application of investigative techniques for specific crimes such as sex offenses, murder, robbery, arson, assaults, and fraud cases. FI 320 is equivalent to CJ 320, and only one may be taken for credit.

## FI 325 Introduction to Electronic (Digital) Forensics (3)

Prerequisite(s): FI 204 and CS 201.

This course provides an introduction into electronic (digital) forensics. The student will be familiarized with the basics of digital forensics, computer structure, storage structure, networks, mobile devices, social media platforms, etc. This course will cover the basic techniques to research and document scenes and evidence. Special emphasis will be placed upon security of questioned devices, chain of custody, and appropriate processing of evidence. This course will specifically address digital forensics from a field investigative perspective.

## FI 330 Forensic Documentation (3)

Prerequisite(s): FI 310.

The principles and techniques of digital photography as applied to crime scenes, forensic evidence, identification, and court presentation. Emphasis is on single lens reflex digital camera operation with various types of lighting. Legal aspects of forensic photography and courtroom presentation.

## FI 335 Introduction to Narcotics Investigations (3)

Prerequisite(s): FI 320.

This course will provide an introduction into the field of narcotics investigations. Topics will include drug laws, commonly abused drugs, confidential informants and sources, investigative strategies, undercover operations, marijuana grow operations, clandestine methamphetamine labs, evidence collection and admissibility, searches, children living in dangerous drug environments, and liability issues.

## FI 340 Homicide Investigation (3)

Prerequisite(s): FI 320.

Special problems involved in homicide investigation, including the forensic autopsy.

## FI 345 Introduction to Counter-Terrorism (3)

Prerequisite(s): FI 320.

This class will define terrorism and discuss its various history and origins. Topics that will be discussed include international terrorism, domestic terrorism, narco-terrorism, as well as the law enforcement responses and prevention tactics used to combat the different forms of terroristic threats. FI 345 is equivalent to CJ 345, and only one may be taken for credit.

## FI 350 Crime Scene Processing (3)

Prerequisite(s): FI 204.

In-depth and practical look at various types of physical evidence and methods by which evidence is collected and transported to forensic crime laboratories.

## FI 352 Evidence (3)

Prerequisite(s): FI 225.

Analysis of the rules of evidence, their origins, and types. Constitutional limitations upon their use, methods of safeguarding their value. The trial and techniques for testifying. FI 352 is equivalent to CJ 352, and only one may be taken for credit.

## FI 355 Crime Mapping and Analysis (3)

Prerequisite(s): FI 320.

The study of the use of geographic information to identify and analyze crime and police data. Students will learn to analyze patterns and trends, identify correlations, show relationships, and analyze spatial tendencies with the use of computerized geographic information systems (GIS). FI 355 is equivalent to CJ 355, and only one may be taken for credit.

**FI 365 Case and Court Preparation (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 225 and FI 320.

The study of the methods of case preparation and court presentation. It will lay the foundation for effectively preparing criminal cases for successful courtroom presentation. FI 365 is equivalent to CJ 365, and only one may be taken for credit.

**FI 375 Social Media Investigations (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 320.

This course will provide an overview of the current state of digital forensic investigation of social media networks, state law, implications of privacy, future trends, and other controversial areas.

**FI 377 Independent Study in Criminal Justice (3)**

Prerequisite(s): Junior standing with 18 hours in CJ or FI. An opportunity for the advanced student to explore an area of special interest.

Students must have a supervising criminal justice faculty member agree to a written proposal or outline for an appropriate topic for study and then must secure the approval of the department head. FI 377 is equivalent to CJ 377, and only one may be taken for credit.

**FI 378 Advanced Seminar in Criminal Justice (3)**

Prerequisite(s): Junior standing with 18 hours in Criminal Justice or Forensic Investigations or department head approval.

An in-depth study of current issues in criminal justice. The content will vary each semester. May be duplicated for a total of six (6) semester hours. FI 378 is equivalent to CJ 378, and only one may be taken for credit.

**FI 379 Advanced Seminar in Criminal Justice (3)**

Prerequisite(s): Junior standing with 18 hours in Criminal Justice or Forensic Investigations or department head approval.

An in-depth study of current issues in criminal justice. The content will vary each semester. May be duplicated for a total of six (6) hours. FI 379 is equivalent to CJ 379, and only one may be taken for credit.

**FI 380 Medicolegal Death Investigation (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 330 or FI 340.

This course will examine medicolegal systems in the United States contrasting the differences between Medical Examiner and Coroner Systems. Students will be further exposed to the five manners of death and methodologies employed in their classifications. Particular emphasis will be placed upon death causality with an examination of equivocal deaths. Students will engage in analysis of the relationship between the law enforcement and medicolegal communities. Furthermore, participants will spend a substantial portion of time exploring the utility of the measurement of post mortem interval along with the assessment of skeletal remains.

**FI 390 Introduction to Conservation Enforcement (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 320.

Students will develop an appreciation of the concepts of conservation. This course will introduce students to the study of criminal investigative techniques and the analysis of evidence emphasizing crimes against wildlife. This course will include lab/field exercises which require students to be able to or can walk extensively in wooded areas for those exercises.

**FI 395 Introduction to Criminal Behavior Analysis (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 320.

This course will provide a basic understanding of the issues of violent crime and to help establish investigative methods to exploit behavioral clues revealed in the course of investigations. This will include identifying behavior patterns that may develop into a signature that helps to identify the criminal. Profiling, homology, and characteristics consistent with behavior of known criminals that will aid in predicting future crimes will be discussed.

**FI 399 Study Tour (3)**

Topics, excursions, and requirements determined by the department. May be duplicated for credit up to six (6) hours. Infrequently scheduled and subject to minimum and maximum numbers. Advance deposit required.

**FI 404 Procedures in Digital Forensic Investigation (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 304.

This course will instruct students in the basic accredited procedures of digital forensic investigation by experimenting and applying data acquisition techniques while preserving the original digital evidence in a digital forensics laboratory environment.

**FI 405 Cyber Crime Investigation (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 204.

This course will introduce students to cyber crimes. This course will cover intellectual property theft from government entities and private businesses, identity theft, extortion (ransomware), malware, phishing, website spoofing, IOT hacking, child exploitation, sexual crimes, etc. This course will show students how to obtain meaningful digital evidence as it relates to cyber crimes.

**FI 410 Imprint/Impression Evidence (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 330, FI 340, or FI 350.

This course presents types of evidence which are the result of objects and materials that have retained the characteristics of other objects or materials through direct physical contact. Topics will include footwear, tire tracks, bite marks, firearms, tools, pattern injuries and documents. The themes in this course will differentiate between two-dimensional and three-dimensional evidence.

**FI 411 Victimless Crimes (3)**

Prerequisite(s): Junior Standing with 18 hours of CJ or FI. Study of controversial area of law that deals with consensual crimes.

Topics to be included for discussion may be drugs; obscenity and pornography; prostitution; gambling. The history of legislative enactments and judicial decisions will be dealt with, as well as the social and political implications of enforcement to both police agencies and their clients. FI 411 is equivalent to CJ 411, and only one may be taken for credit.

**FI 415 Forensic Interviewing of Children (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 320 or SW 330.

An examination of child forensic interviewing to include historical development of the practice, modalities, protocols and guidelines, controversial techniques, relevant research, and best practices. FI 415 is equivalent to CJ 415, and only one may be taken for credit.

**FI 417 Criminal & Deviant Behavior (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 320.

An analysis of criminal and deviant behavior with an emphasis on knowing that the crime problem requires an understanding of the various events that influence a person's life course. Focuses on criminal as well as non-criminal deviance such as mental disorder, drug use, sexual deviance, and prostitution. FI 417 is equivalent to CJ 417, and only one may be taken for credit.

**FI 420 Investigation of Cold Cases (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 320, FI 330, or FI 340.

The term "cold case" will be specifically defined as well as the difference between open and closed cases. This course will examine the term, the definition, and the investigation of cold cases with a detailed focus on crimes against persons, (i.e. homicide, sexual assault, and crimes against children). Students will be engaged regarding the use of current technologies and methodologies in order to increase case solvability. Further, the difference between open and closed cases will be explored. Current cold cases will be used as a means to augment the student's understanding of investigative applicability.

**FI 425 Clandestine Burials (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 330 and one of the following

This course will cover the topography of lands, soils, botany, vegetation species, locating clandestine graves in remote location, use of cadaver dogs, search techniques, use of ground penetrating radar, marking grave sites, proper excavation of the grave, and recovery of human remains and evidence.

**FI 430 Arson and Fire Scene Investigation (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 350.

The techniques of crime scene documentation and investigation as they relate to fire and explosion scenes. Evidence recognition and collection, along with a basic understanding of accelerant and explosive residues. Basic principles of reconstruction of the scene, including fire behavior, fire pattern analysis ignition mechanisms, interpretation of human behavior and fire scene analysis.

**FI 450 Advanced Crime Scene Techniques (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 350.

This course will build upon those techniques and procedures learned in Crime Scene Processing (FI 350/CJ 463) as they relate to crime scene reconstruction. An in-depth study of specialized techniques such as bloodstain pattern analysis, bullet trajectory analysis, and fire scene reconstruction. Students will then apply this knowledge during practical exercises which will emphasize current techniques and procedures.

**FI 465 Interviews and Interrogations (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 204.

Discussions and practical exercises covering the various techniques used by criminal justice practitioners to elicit information from witnesses and criminal suspects. FI 465 is equivalent to CJ 465, and only one may be taken for credit.

**FI 471 Internship in Criminal Justice (3)**

Prerequisite(s): Junior standing, consent of Internship Director, and only for students majoring in Forensic Investigation.

Students must also possess an overall 2.5 GPA to participate with a municipal or county agency and a 3.0 overall GPA to participate with a state or federal agency. Supervised work experience in an approved criminal justice agency. The student is required to attend a pre-announced orientation meeting prior to beginning internship. (Not open to in-service personnel or those with prior CJ work experience unless approved by Internship Director.) FI 471 is equivalent to CJ 471, and only one may be taken for credit.

**FI 472 Senior Internship in Criminal Justice (3)**

Prerequisite(s): Senior standing, consent of Internship Director, and only for students majoring in Forensic Investigation.

Student must also possess an overall 2.5 GPA to participate with a municipal or county agency and a 3.0 overall GPA to participate with a state or federal agency. Supervised work experience in an approved criminal justice agency. The student is required to attend a pre-announced orientation meeting prior to beginning internship and additional scheduled meetings with the Internship Director. (Not open to in-service personnel or those with prior CJ work experience unless approved by Internship Director.) This is a Senior Capstone course, and satisfactory work requires completing the EPP and other senior exit requirements. FI 472 is equivalent to CJ 472, and only one may be taken for credit.

**FI 475 Drugs of Abuse (3)**

Prerequisite(s): BY 102 and BY 104 or CY 106 and CY 108; and FI 310 or NU 306.

Drugs of abuse, their field identification and drug abuse education.

**FI 480 Trace Evidence (3)**

Prerequisite(s): FI 310 and eight (8) hours of a natural science sequence.

Review of techniques used in the analysis of hairs, fibers, and minute items of evidence related to criminal matters.

**FI 488 Seminar Series (1)**

Prerequisite(s): Junior standing with 18 hours in FI. Seminars and tutorials dealing with current topics and issues in the field.

May be duplicated for credit up to six (6) hours.

**FI 497 Senior Seminar I (3)**

Prerequisite(s): Senior standing in the Forensic Investigation major and completion of all Forensic Investigation Undecided core requirements.

Capstone course which utilizes the student's knowledge and academic skills, including pursuing archival research, journal keeping, note taking, and report writing to address a topic or issue of contemporary interest in criminal justice or one of its sub-fields. While the topic or issue may change with each offering, the skills exercised will be those needed to prepare the senior in criminal justice professions. FI 497 is equivalent to CJ 497, and only one may be taken for credit.

**FI 498 Senior Seminar II (3)**

Prerequisite(s): Senior standing in the Forensic Investigation major and completion of all Forensic Investigation Undecided core requirements.

Capstone course which utilizes the student's knowledge and academic skills, including pursuing archival research, journal keeping, note taking, and report writing to address a topic or issue of contemporary interest in criminal justice or one of its sub-fields. While the topic or issue may change with each offering, the skills exercised will be those needed to prepare the senior for careers in criminal justice professions. FI 498 is equivalent to CJ 498, and only one may be taken for credit.

**FI 499 Senior Seminar III (3)**

Prerequisite(s): Senior standing in the Forensic Investigation major and completion of all Forensic Investigation Undecided core requirements.

Capstone course which utilizes the student's knowledge and academic skills, including pursuing archival research, journal keeping, note taking, and report writing to address a topic or issue of contemporary interest in criminal justice or one of its sub-fields. While the topic or issue may change with each offering, the skills exercised will be those needed to prepare the senior for careers in criminal justice professions. FI 499 is equivalent to CJ 499, and only one may be taken for credit.