

**Sam Houston State University**  
**Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology**

**CRIJ 2368.B1**  
**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS**  
**Fall 2017**

**PROFESSOR:** Chief Kevin Lunsford, L.C.C., B.S., M.S.  
**OFFICE:** N/A – Online Class  
**TELEPHONE:** N/A – Online Class  
**E-MAIL:** [KPL003@shsu.edu](mailto:KPL003@shsu.edu)  
**CLASS HOURS:** Online Class  
**CLASSROOM:** Online Class  
**OFFICE HOURS:** N/A – Online Class

**TEXTBOOK:**

**Title:** *Criminal Investigation: The Art and the Science*  
**Edition:** 8<sup>th</sup>  
**Author:** Michael D. Lyman  
**ISBN 13:** 978-0-13-411527-6  
**Publisher:** Prentice Hall

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course teaches students the fundamentals of criminal investigation by examining the history of criminal investigations, the processes involved in identifying and arresting criminal suspects, identifying the types of crimes and offenses, and in preparing for court.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- (1) Define terms related to criminal investigation
- (2) Outline the history of criminal investigation
- (3) Analyze the process of criminal investigation
- (4) Examine types of criminal offenses
- (5) Explain the relationship between criminal investigation and the courtroom process

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

You have elected to take an online course that will require you to dedicate enough time each week to cover the required material. You will have one lesson due by midnight every Tuesday. Please manage your time wisely – if you get behind, you are effectively doomed. Please heed this warning – **MANAGE YOUR TIME!** Don't get scared off – this is very do-able – you just have to stay on top of everything. It has been my experience that students who complete their work early score better on assignments than those who wait to the last minute; however, it is up to you to manage the lessons as you see fit.

The course consists of an orientation followed by 12 lessons. Each lesson has a checklist that gives you the reading assignment and the stated objectives for that assignment. You will also notice a section entitled "Chief's Corner". The Chief's Corner sections are basically my (and other officers') reflections on the material. I may try to add something that's not included elsewhere, clarify what may be confusing, and / or provide you with some "war stories" based upon my (and other officers') experiences. In some of these Chief's Corner sections I draw heavily from material produced by a dear friend of mine, Chief Dave Barber (Ret.) who once taught a similar course. Make sure you read the writings in the Chief's Corner – it will be tested material. The Chief's Corner will be followed by your assignment for that lesson. This will generally consist of a short writing assignment that may require some kind of Internet research to dig up pertinent information. **Please don't use Wiki** – it is not generally considered to be a trusted source. **You must cite your source – every time.** Failure to cite is considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated. It can cost you points, failure, expulsion, and all sorts of bad things. Writing is expected to be of University level quality, including grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc. There will be PowerPoint presentations associated with each lesson. These are there to help you but are not a substitute for reading the assigned material. All of this will be followed by a 10-question quiz that you will have 15 minutes to take. Be familiar with the material, as you will not have much time to browse through notes, books, etc. Read each question carefully and choose the most correct answer. Make sure you save and submit your answers at the end of the quiz. If you get kicked off the computer, you can get back in but your time keeps on running so don't dawdle. For any other technical difficulties, call the SHSU Service Desk at (936) 294-1950.

In addition to the reading materials, assignments, and quizzes, there will be a final exam that will consist of 50 questions. The final will be comprehensive.

When you log into Blackboard you will see a list of Lessons (Lesson 1, Lesson 2, etc.) down the left side of the page under the Course Content section. Each lesson has a Due Date beside it. The lessons are due by 11:59 p.m. on that date - no exceptions. When you click on a particular lesson you will be taken to a page that is laid out something similar to the following:

## Lesson 1

- Objectives
- Checklist
- Chief's Corner
- PowerPoint(s)
- Assignment
- Quiz

Work your way through the list, culminating with the quiz.

## GRADING:

12 Assignments	20 points ea.	Total = 240 points
12 Quizzes	10 points ea.	Total = 120 points
Final Exam	50 points	Total = 50 points

Grand Total	410 points
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GRADE	POINTS
A =	369 - 410
B =	328 - 368
C =	287 - 327
F =	286 or less

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## EXTRA CREDIT

Book review of *The Alienist* by Caleb Carr – Read *The Alienist* and prepare a written review (no more than 5 pages) of the book, comparing investigation techniques from then to now. This is a fictional story set in historically accurate NYC around the turn of the century (late 1800s - early 1900s). It involves a set of serial murders that occur and the investigation thereof. The murders are investigated by an Alienist, a reporter, and a couple of NYPD detectives. This all occurs during the time that new and unproven crime scene techniques are being postulated. The investigators try a number of techniques - some work, some do not.

Prepare a written review of the book, comparing investigative techniques from then to those of today that you've learned about in this course. This includes telling me what an Alienist is. The report should be at least 5 pages in length, excluding cover / citation pages (12 pt font, double spaced). It must be of University level quality and will be graded accordingly. You can earn up to 40 points for the assignment. This is generally enough to move you from one letter grade to the next if you do exceptional work.

It is an interesting book - I hope you enjoy it. You may email me the report in a standard word doc upon completion.

## **MAKE UP EXAMS:**

Examination / Quiz deadlines will be posted. Since this is an online class, there are few excuses for missing an exam / quiz. As such, make up exams / quizzes in general are not on the horizon. Nevertheless, if you run into some cataclysmic event that prevents you from testing, let me know and we will try to work something out. I will be the final judge of whether your excuse is cataclysmic enough to warrant a make-up exam / quiz.

Warning: I may tough to convince.

**STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICIES:** concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students, and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

## **USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGERS IN ACADEMIC**

**CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES:** (doesn't really apply since this class is online, but here is the policy if you're just curious)

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>

**ANNOTATED OUTLINE:** NOTE: the dates below are DEADLINES when each lesson / group of lessons (including quizzes) are due. This will be a self-paced class. That means that you can work ahead and finish early if you wish; HOWEVER, each lesson must be completed no later than the due date listed below. I encourage you to work through the lessons in order, lest you get confused and skip something. Anything not completed by the specified deadlines will receive the grade of "0".

<u>LESSON</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Orientation, Course Overview, Read Me First, Instructor Bio, Syllabus and Review above material and send Self Intro email by		10/25/17
Lesson 1	Ch. 1 & 2	10/25/17
Lesson 2	Ch. 3 & 4	10/25/17
Lesson 3	Ch. 5	11/01/17
Lesson 4	Ch. 6	11/01/17

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Lesson 5	Ch. 7 & 8	11/08/17
Lesson 6	Ch. 9	11/08/17
Lesson 7	Ch. 10 & 11	11/08/17

Lesson 8	Ch. 12 & 13	11/15/17
Lesson 9	Ch. 14	11/15/17
Lesson 10	Ch. 15	11/15/17

Thanksgiving Break (Be Safe)	11/22/17 – 11/24/17
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Lesson 11	Ch. 16 & 17	11/29/17
Lesson 12	Ch. 18	11/29/17

**Final Exam - Comprehensive -available until 11:59p.m. 12/06/17**