CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS  
CRMJ 2570  SEC 1  CRIMINALISTICS

Semester/Year:  Spring 2015

Lecture Hours: 3  Lab Hours: 1  Credit Hours: 3

Class Time:  5:30 – 9:15 p.m.  Day:  Thursday  Room:  PS 301  
             PS 317

Instructor:  John Becker

Instructor’s Office Phone:  307.235.9352  8am-5pm Week Day
Contact Information:  Email:  beckerj@natronacounty-wy.gov  
                     jbecker@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:  This course will delve into aspects of crime scene management. From the first initial contact with the crime scene, the student will learn to gather physical evidence, document, and photograph and diagram the scene to scale. They will identify fibers, hairs, paints, tool markings, fingerprints, and other impressions. We will also look into what the future holds in the area of crime scene management.

Statement of Prerequisite:  Criminal Justice Major and CRMJ 2130 Criminal Investigation.

Goals:  To further the student’s education in the field of criminal investigations. Criminalistics will dwell into the aspects of “Crime Scene Management.” Starting from the first initial contact with the crime scene, the student will learn to observe and gather physical evidence, photograph, and diagram the scene to scale they will identify fibers, hairs, tool markings, fingerprints, blood, and other impressions. We will examine the characteristics of bloodstains and stain patterns, using hemident, luminal, and using a splatter method to form these patterns. The student will demonstrate oral and written communication skills through interviews and documenting the crime scene for court proceedings. Each student will also look into what the future holds in the area of Crime Scene Management. The student will actually see how far we have come and what the 21st century has to offer.

Outcomes:  Learning the aspects of: 1) Processing and documenting the crime scene; 2) Physically collecting evidence; 3) Photographing the crime scene. 4) Printing, dusting, lifting, and collecting fingerprint evidence; 5) Identifying each print and who’s print was left at the crime scene through a comparator and AFIS; 6) Proper techniques of finding and lifting bodily fluids left at the crime scene, 7) Analyzing bullet holes, closeness that the bullet entered the suspect and the direction of angle of the bullet; 8) The drug scene illegal trade and field testing to find out if the drug is illegal and understanding the
concept of the legal marijuana laws throughout our country; 8) Learning the different resources that are available to the evidence technician.

Course Objectives: Having the student learn the importance of processing a crime from the investigator initially responding to the scene, processing, gathering and testing evidence, documenting their findings and presenting the evidence in a court of law.

Methodology: Skills will be developed through lectures, research writings, hands on class projects, and crime scene processing.

Evaluation Criteria: Grading will take into consideration of attendance, crime current events, research paper, quizzes, midterm, and final exam. The final exam will be graded on two parts: 1) Crime Scene Analysis: where the students will be divided up into groups and they will be able to work a mock crime scene. They will use their interview skills dealing with the victims and suspects and will be graded on their knowledge of what they have learned on managing a crime scene, documenting the process and working as a team; 2) Each student will hand in their Documentation of their crime scene, evidence, photographs, and their conclusion of the crime. The following week we will discuss and evaluate the photographs, diagram, and evidence gathered, and interview techniques of the victims and suspects taken at the crime scene.

Grading scale: 100 – 90 A; 89 – 80 B; 79 – 70 C; 69 – 60 D; and below 60% F.

Required Text, Readings, and Materials: “Criminal Investigation” By Michael D. Lyman

Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or Withdraw: April 16, 2015

Class Policies: Classroom etiquette is essential to an orderly class. Classroom distractions created by personal conversations, cellular telephones, pagers, musical and visionary devices, and other equipment will not be tolerated. Likewise, late arrivals and early departures are to be avoided. The instructor reserves the right to deny admittance to late arriving students. Disruptive students will be excluded from the class.

Criminal Justice Employment: Criminal Justice employment will almost require the applicant to complete and pass a thorough background investigation. Students majoring in criminal justice should be aware that criminal history, substance abuse, mental illness, and significant financial problems may render them unemployable in a criminal justice agency. Likewise, students should make every effort to safeguard their reputations while attending college. Many criminal justice agencies also have physical fitness requirements for candidates seeking certain positions. In addition, some agencies have maximum age standards for entry-level enforcement officer positions.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.
**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor in order to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take your problem through the appropriate chain of command starting with the department head, then the division chair, and lastly the vice president of academic affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty:** (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student’s assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my offices hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.
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<td><strong>January</strong></td>
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| 22 | Introduction & Review  
Interviews (Ch. 6) |
| 29 | Report Writing & Documentation  
(Ch. 2) |
| **February** | |
| 5 | Report Writing & Documentation  
(Ch. 2) |
| 12 | Search Warrants (Ch. 5)  
& Affidavits |
| 19 | Crime Scene Photo (Ch. 3)  
Crime Scene Sketch (Ch. 3) |
| **March** | |
| 5 | Fingerprinting – Ten print Card  
(Ch.4) |
| 12 | Mid Term Test  
Spring Break |
| 19 | Spring Break |
| 26 | Fingerprinting (Ch.4)  
Dusting & Lifting Print |
| **April** | |
| 2 | Blood / Bodily Fluids  
Fibers |
| 9 | Drug Recognition  
**Research Paper Due** |
| 16 |  
Firearms |
| 23 | Review Final Crime Scene Analysis  
Pretest Photo, Sketch, Crime Scene Process |
| **May** | |
| 7 | Final – Crime Scene  
Reports & photos turned in  
Final Review |

Research Paper Due: April 16, 2015