

**Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College  
COURSE OUTLINE FORM**

**Updated 9/23/14**

Please return this form to the college vice president of academic affairs and the chairperson of the Academic Affairs and Standards Council (AASC)

**1. Prepared by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Date submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date revised 10/14/14

**4. Department/discipline:** Law Enforcement

**5. Department(s) endorsement(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Signatures of the person(s) providing the endorsement are required.)**

6. Course Title: Criminal Investigation

Abbreviated course title (25 characters or less): \_\_\_\_\_

7. Course Designator: LAWE                      8. Course Level: 1020            9. 2XXX

10. Number of Credits: Lecture 4                      Lab \_\_\_\_\_

11. Control Number (on site) 60                      Control Number (online) \_\_\_\_\_

12. Catalog/Course description:

Fundamentals of criminal investigations, including overviews of crimes against persons and crimes against property; crime scene responsibilities, including crime scene securing, searching, and the collection and preservation of evidence; identifying and arresting suspects; report writing; obtaining information; interview and interrogation; and testifying in court.

13. Course prerequisite(s) or co-requisite(s): Accuplacer scores/ Other courses

Prerequisite(s):

Co-requisite:

14. **Course Materials** (Recommended course materials and resources. List all that apply, e.g. textbooks, workbooks, study guides, lab manuals, videos, guest lecturers).

Textbook: Criminal Investigation, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. Authors: Wayne W. Bennett & Karen M. Hess. Publisher: Thomson-Wadsworth.

Optional Text: Practical Aspects of Interview and Interrogation – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
David Zulawski & Douglas Wicklander

Other Resources: Students are to locate, read, and submit two (2) written reviews on topics related to any aspect of criminal investigation, law enforcement practices or procedures, new innovations, concepts, or technology. The reviews can be from any legitimate sources, including library materials, literary publications, books, magazines, newspapers, or television.

Video tapes related to various chapter topics.

The Criminal Investigations course is designed to provide a basic understanding of how to conduct a complete criminal investigation from the initial preliminary investigation through presentation of the case in court. The course also covers all crimes against persons and property and focuses on the elements of each crime.

Most students enrolled in Criminal Investigations are seeking a career as a Law Enforcement officer.

To be eligible to become a licensed law enforcement officer in Minnesota, candidates must fulfill the mandated curriculum of the Professional Peace Officer Education Program (P.P.O.E.), attend a skills component and pass a comprehensive test administered by the Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training Board (P.O.S.T.) The course contents are a result of the P.O.S.T. mandates and learning objectives needed to meet the minimum requirements.

**15. Course Content** (Provide an outline of major topics covered in course)

Preliminary Investigation

- Criminal Investigation: An Overview
- Documenting the Crime Scene: Note Taking, Photographing, and Sketching
- Writing Effective Reports
- Searches
- Forensics/Physical Evidence
- Obtaining Information
- Identifying and Arresting Suspects

Investigating Violent Crimes

- Death Investigations
- Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Elder Abuse
- Sex Offenses
- Crimes against Children and Youth
- Robbery

Investigating Crimes Against Property

- Burglary
- Larceny/Theft, Fraud, and White-Collar Crime
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Arson, Bombs, and Explosives

Other Challenges to the Criminal Investigator

- Computer Crime and its Evolution into Cybercrime
- A Dual Threat: Drug-Related Crime and Organized Crime
- Criminal Activities of Gangs and Other Dangerous Groups
- Terrorism and Homeland Security
- Preparing for and Presenting Cases in Court

Interview and Interrogation

- Field Interviewing
- Interview and Interrogation
- Profiles of a Successful Interviewer/Interrogator
- The Reid Interview Technique

## 16. Learning Goals, Outcomes, and Assessment

At FDLTCC we have 4 Competencies Across the Curriculum (CAC) areas. They are as follows:

- A. Information Literacy (the ability to use print and/or non-print tools effectively for the discovery, acquisition, and evaluation of information)
- B. Ability to Communicate (the ability to listen, read, comprehend, and/or deliver information in a variety of formats.)
- C. Problem Solving (the ability to conceptualize, apply, analyze, synthesize, and/or evaluate information to formulate and solve problems.)
- D. Culture (knowledge of Anishinaabe traditions and culture, knowledge of one's own traditions and culture, knowledge of others' traditions and cultures, culture of work, culture of academic disciplines and/or respect for global diversity.)

*Course Learning Outcomes will fulfill the identified competencies.*

*Course Learning Outcomes.*

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1.) describe and contrast the terms "reasonable suspicion" and "probable cause" as they relate to proper investigative procedures. (A, B, C)
- 2.) describe and discuss the need for consistent documentation of all police activity, and the value of the final police report. (A, B)
- 3.) demonstrate the ability to discuss and understand the specialized components that make up the field of criminal investigations. (B, C, D)
- 4.) understand and discuss the various causes of death, and how body indicators can distinguish between natural death, suspicious death, and criminal homicide. (A, C)
- 5.) demonstrate an ability to recognize and distinguish legal terminology used in the various areas of criminal investigation, specifically Minnesota State Statutes. (A, B, C)
- 6.) demonstrate an ability to define and describe the various United States Supreme Court rulings that currently apply to criminal investigation. (A, B)

17. **Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC):** If this course fulfills an MnTC goal area, state the goal area and list the goals and outcomes below:

See [www.mntransfer.org](http://www.mntransfer.org)

Goal Area(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Goal and Outcomes: