

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
ADJ 236 - PRINCIPLES OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION (3 CR.)**

Course Description

Surveys the fundamentals of criminal investigation procedures and techniques. Examines crime scene, search, collecting, handling and preserving of evidence. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an understanding of criminal investigations and steps that should be followed during the investigation of crimes. The student will recognize methods of properly gathering, obtaining, and preserving evidence so the evidence can be admissible at trial.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

Course Objectives

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

- a) understand the duties, responsibilities, and methods of the first officer to arrive at the scene of a crime.
- b) obtain insight as to the investigative responsibility and techniques in obtaining different types of evidence.
- c) explore tactics for follow-up investigations and how to be an effective witness in court.

Major Topics to Be Included

- a) explain the history of criminal investigations
- b) explore proper testimonial tactics of criminal investigators
- c) review investigative techniques including the use of surveillance, informants, crime scene recording, interviews, and interrogations
- d) discuss specific criminal investigations including homicide, sexual crimes, robbery, and burglaries
- e) explore legal requirements and responsibilities for criminal investigators

Extra Topics (Optional)

Related topics at the discretion of the instructor