ENF355 Forensic Investigation of Sex Crimes
(3 credit hours)
Course Syllabus

Course Description

The course offers a detailed overview of the responsibilities of a sex crimes investigator and specific issues unique to sex crimes investigation. Course content focuses on victimology and trauma informed interviewing techniques, constitutional and legal issues in investigation, evidence collection and examination, the investigative process of sexual based criminal offenses against adults and children, application of criminal law to sexual based offenses, and examination of diverse typologies of offenders.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate trauma informed interviewing techniques.

2. Describe the difference between direct evidence, eyewitness evidence, and circumstantial evidence.

3. Apply important concepts to draw conclusions as to how and why police tactics used during interrogation may produce false confessions.

4. Evaluate contemporary and relevant research to explain critical constitutional issues of the investigative process: police tactics implicated in false confessions, collection and examination of evidence, and admissibility of medico-legal evidence in rape trials.

5. Classify sexual offenders by typology based on behavioral indicator analysis.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

JUS110

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Hazelwood, R. (Ed.) & Burgess, A. W. (Ed.). (2017) *Practical aspects of rape investigation.* (5th Ed.). CRC Press.

A digital copy of your textbook is included with your DragonACCESS fees for this course. Use the DragonACCESS tool in Moodle to view your book.

Need Help? Get Help!
24/7 Tech Support: 855-664-1200

General Questions, Comments, and Feedback:
online@tiffin.edu

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#). You might consider registering for one of the library's many webinars on library research, source evaluation, copyright, and other topics, at the [Library Events - Upcoming Events](#) web page. For further assistance email a librarian, at: [library@tiffin.edu](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).

2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.

3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET** on **Wednesdays.**

4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET** on **Saturdays, and**

5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET** on **Sundays.**

Learning Activities

Discussion forums will focus on critical issues in sex crimes investigations. Topics such as juvenile sexting laws, rape myths in popular media, psychology of interrogation, due process in the era of the #MeToo Movement, constitutional issues and sex offender registry laws for juveniles are examples that require you to apply the law and analyze and evaluate empirical research. Problem based learning activities will require you to analyze a variety of typologies of offenders, design a closing argument in the court case of an alleged offender, and challenge your own beliefs about the efficacy of sex offender registry laws. You will also use your design skills to create a PowerPoint presentation in the form of a lesson for newly hired police officers about interviewing children that have been sexually abused.

Need Help? Get Help!
24/7 Tech Support: 855-664-1200

General Questions, Comments, and Feedback:
online@tiffin.edu

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Discussions Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (30) Activity 1.3 (30)	**Discussions** Activity 2.1 (30) Activity 2.2 (30)	**Discussions** Activity 3.1 (30)	**Discussions** Activity 4.1 (30)	**Discussions** Activity 5.1 (30) Activity 5.2 (30)	**Discussions** Activity 6.1 (30)	**Discussions** Activity 7.1 (30)	**300**
Assignments Activity 1.4 (100)	**Assignments** Activity 2.3 (50)	**Assignments** Activity 3.2 (100)	**Assignments** Activity 4.2 (100)	**Assignments** Activity 5.3 (50)	**Assignments** Activity 6.2 (200)	**Assignments** Activity 7.2 (100)	**700**
160	**110**	**130**	**130**	**110**	**230**	**130**	**1000**

Grading Scale

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: <60%

Please see the Academic Bulletin for grade appeal information.

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Week 1 - Victims

☐ WED: Activity 1.2: Child Pornography and Sexting - Initial Post

☐ WED: Activity 1.3: Rape Myths - Initial Post

☐ SAT: Activity 1.2: Child Pornography and Sexting - Secondary Posts

☐ SAT: Activity 1.3: Rape Myths - Secondary Posts

☐ SUN: Activity 1.4: Problem-Based Learning

Need Help? Get Help!
24/7 Tech Support: 855-664-1200

General Questions, Comments, and Feedback:
online@tiffin.edu

Week 2 - Offender Typologies

- ☐ WED: Activity 2.1: Evaluate Victim Options - Initial Post
- ☐ WED: Activity 2.2: Offender Typologies - Initial Post
- ☐ SAT: Activity 2.1: Evaluate Victim Options - Secondary Posts
- ☐ SAT: Activity 2.2: Offender Typologies - Secondary Posts
- ☐ SUN: Activity 2.3: Impact of #MeToo Movement

Week 3 - Behavioral Analysis

- ☐ WED: Activity 3.1: Interrogation Reform - Initial Post
- ☐ SAT: Activity 3.1: Interrogation Reform - Secondary Posts
- ☐ SUN: Activity 3.2: Case Study Analysis

Week 4 - Sexual Crimes and Evidence

- ☐ WED: Activity 4.1: Insanity Defense - Initial Post
- ☐ SAT: Activity 4.1: Insanity Defense - Secondary Posts
- ☐ SUN: Activity 4.2: Presentation on Child Sexual Abuse

Week 5 - Evidence and Trial Prep

- ☐ WED: Activity 5.1: Sex Offender Registry - Initial Post
- ☐ WED: Activity 5.2: Debate - Initial Post
- ☐ SAT: Activity 5.1: Sex Offender Registry - Secondary Posts
- ☐ SAT: Activity 5.2: Debate - Secondary Posts
- ☐ SUN: Activity 5.3: Closing Argument

Week 6 - Sexual Offenses, Partners, and SORNA

- ☐ WED: Activity 6.1: Co-Conspirators or Victims? - Initial Post
- ☐ SAT: Activity 6.1: Co-Conspirators or Victims? - Secondary Posts
- ☐ SUN: Activity 6.2: Research Project

Need Help? Get Help!
24/7 Tech Support: 855-664-1200

General Questions, Comments, and Feedback:
online@tiffin.edu

Week 7 - Sexual Offenses and Behavioral-Oriented Interviews

☐ WED: Activity 7.1: Perceptions - Initial Post

☐ SAT: Activity 7.1: Perceptions - Secondary Posts

☐ SUN: Activity 7.2: Case Study

Tips for Success

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

Your Instructor Will Expect You to:

- Thoroughly review orientation materials (Start Here) within the first 48 hours of the term.

- Monitor your TU email account **daily** for important updates and announcements.

- Take ownership of your learning experience and act in a proactive, self-directed manner. That means:

  o Fully participate in all learning activities.

  o Complete assignments as described in rubrics or other instructions.

  o Submit all work on time and in the specified format (e.g. APA format for citations).

  o Utilize and incorporate instructor provided feedback to improve your work.

  o Ask questions so you can better understand course material or assignments.

  o Use the highest standards of intellectual honesty and integrity. For more information, see the TU Library guide: [Digital Literacy: Netiquette and Internet Safety](#).

  o Treat others respectfully and demonstrate "netiquette" (online politeness and respectfulness) at all times. TU celebrates cultural uniqueness and expects all students to be considerate and thoughtful throughout their learning experiences.

You Should Expect Your Instructors to:

- Post an introductory announcement/email at the beginning of each week to provide updates and help you prepare for the week's activities.

Need Help? Get Help!
24/7 Tech Support: 855-664-1200

General Questions, Comments, and Feedback:
online@tiffin.edu

- Maintain an active and engaged presence in all course activities and throughout the course.

- Respond to your emailed questions within 48 hours, if not sooner.

- Clearly communicate any absences or expected non-participation due to extenuating circumstances. For example, "I will be traveling to attend a funeral this week and may not be able to respond to questions or participate in forums for a couple of days."

- When grading your work:
  - clearly indicate their grading approach (what they like to see in submitted work as well as what types of errors they tend to penalize more harshly),
  - thoroughly review and evaluate your submissions in a timely manner (in less than 5 days for most assignments), and
  - provide constructive feedback that indicates the strengths and weaknesses of your work and provides suggestions on how you can improve your performance on future assignments.

- Advocate for your success as a learner and help guide you toward successful completion of the course activities and most importantly, attainment of the course learning outcomes.

Accommodations (Disability Services)

The Office of Disability Services supports the institutional commitment to diversity by providing educational opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities through accessible programs and services in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you need reasonable accommodations due to a documented disability, contact the Office for Equity, Access, & Opportunity via email at disabilityservices@tiffin.edu or by calling 419-448-3021.

Technical Support

For Moodle support, either email moodlesupport@tiffin.edu or call the 24/7 Technical Support Call Center at 855-664-1200 (3430, Option 2, from on-campus). For non-Moodle support, contact the Tiffin University ITS helpdesk at the number above or submit a support ticket.

Veterans

The Veteran and Military Resource Center assist veterans, active Military, and spouses of current service members in utilizing their education benefits. VMRC provides information regarding benefit processes and procedures, as well as support in navigating the transition from military to academic life by facilitating connections with the appropriate support services

Need Help? Get Help!
24/7 Tech Support: 855-664-1200

General Questions, Comments, and Feedback:
online@tiffin.edu

on campus. More information can be found on the Veteran and Military Resource Center website, at http://www.tiffin.edu/va.

Comments or Concerns

TU's online programs are designed to be student *driven*: to empower you with a voice and stake in your learning. Our courses feature multiple and varied ways that you can share feedback, and we invite you to become an active voice and help drive our improvement efforts. In addition to providing in-course feedback, we encourage you to submit questions or comments directly to the online team at online@tiffin.edu.

Need Help? Get Help!
24/7 Tech Support: 855-664-1200

General Questions, Comments, and Feedback:
online@tiffin.edu