TIFFIN UNIVERSITY / ONLINE

JUS461 Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice
(3 credit hours)
Course Syllabus

Course Description

A capstone course focusing on critical thinking and evidence evaluation skills needed as a criminal justice professional. Challenges and opportunities regarding employment, functioning, and professionalism in the criminal justice field will be addressed. This is a writing intensive course.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Students will demonstrate and apply critical thinking skills and, in the process, differentiate trial worthy evidence from supposition and conjecture.

2. Students will demonstrate proper methods of criminal evidence evaluation and be able to construct and present a viable prosecution plan in a professional manner.

3. Students will grasp various topics germane to a criminal justice career such as presenting in public setting, job interviewing, resume preparation, and demeanor in a professional environment.

4. Students will justify the importance and value of teamwork in a small group consistent with that of a criminal justice workplace.

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Your course has no required textbook. All resources are included in each week.

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

In this capstone course, you will apply your knowledge and skills to navigate a complex criminal investigation scenario – the Interstate Vehicle Theft Ring case. Each week, you will explore a different aspect of the case, from crime scene analysis to trial preparation, engaging in handson activities and assignments that mirror the tasks of criminal justice professionals. You will analyze crime scene evidence, develop suspect profiles, prepare prosecution strategies, and reflect on the implications of the case for criminal justice practice. Your culminating assignment will be a comprehensive trial analysis report, in which you will critically evaluate the arguments, evidence, and strategies employed by the prosecution and defense in a simulated trial. By the end of this course, you will have synthesized your understanding of the criminal investigation process and confirmed your ability to apply your learning to real-world challenges in the criminal justice field.

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
Forums Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (50)	**Forums** Activity 2.1 (50)	**Forums** Activity 3.1 (50)	**Forums** Activity 4.1 (50)	**Forums** Activity 5.1 (50)	**Forums** Activity 6.1 (90)	**Forums** Activity 7.1 (20)	**360**
Assignments Activity 1.3 (90)	**Assignments** Activity 2.2 (90)	**Assignments** Activity 3.2 (90)	**Assignments** Activity 4.2 (90)	**Assignments** Activity 5.2 (90)	**Assignments** Activity 6.2 (140)	**Assignments** Activity 7.2 (50)	**640**
140	**140**	**140**	**140**	**140**	**230**	**70**	**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

Start Here

☐ MON: Activity 1.1: Introduction Forum - Introductory Post

Week 1 - Initial Investigation and Crime Scene Analysis

☐ WED: Activity 1.1: Introduction Forum - Secondary Post
☐ WED: Activity 1.2: Crime Scene First Responder
☐ SAT: Activity 1.2: Crime Scene First Responder
☐ SUN: Activity 1.3: Crime Scene Analysis Report

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24/7 Tech Support: 855-664-1200

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

Week 2 - Evidence Gathering and Analysis

- ☐ WED: Activity 2.1: Evidence Analysis Discussion
- ☐ SAT: Activity 2.1: Evidence Analysis Discussion
- ☐ SUN: Activity 2.2: Evidence Log and Analysis

Week 3 - Digital Forensics and Cyber Trails

- ☐ WED: Activity 3.1: Digital Evidence in Criminal Investigations
- ☐ SAT: Activity 3.1: Digital Evidence in Criminal Investigations
- ☐ SUN: Activity 3.2: Digital Evidence Report

Week 4 - Suspect Identification and Interrogation Techniques

- ☐ WED: Activity 4.1: Ethical Considerations in Interrogations
- ☐ SAT: Activity 4.1: Ethical Considerations in Interrogations
- ☐ SUN: Activity 4.2: Suspect Profile and Interrogation Strategy

Week 5 - Legal Framework, Case Building, and Trial Preparation

- ☐ WED: Activity 5.1: Admissibility of Evidence in Court
- ☐ SAT: Activity 5.1: Admissibility of Evidence in Court
- ☐ SUN: Activity 5.2: Prosecution Strategy and Trial Preparation

Week 6 - Trial Analysis and Reflection

- ☐ WED: Activity 6.1: Trial Analysis Discussion
- ☐ SAT: Activity 6.1: Trial Analysis Discussion
- ☐ SUN: Activity 6.2: Trial Recap Analysis

Week 7 - Reflection and Future Planning

- ☐ WED: Activity 7.1: Interactive Q&A Forum
- ☐ SAT: Activity 7.1: Interactive Q&A Forum
- ☐ SAT: Activity 7.2: Final Reflection Paper

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.

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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.

- 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:

  o 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),

  o thoroughly review and evaluate your submissions in a timely manner (in less than 5 days for most assignments), and

  o 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 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.