



COURSE OUTLINE: PFP404 - INVEST AND EVIDENCE

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Approved: Karen Hudson - Dean

Course Code: Title	PFP404: INVESTIGATION AND EVIDENCE
Program Number: Name	1202: POLICE FOUNDATIONS
Department:	CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	In this course, students will examine the requirements of a continuing investigation. They will learn the rules of evidence and develop the ability to apply said rules in the collection and presentation of evidence in a court of law. Forensic requirements, statute law and other related issues will be emphasized. Students will be introduced to various forms of physical evidence and the evidentiary value of physical evidence.
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	42
Prerequisites:	There are no pre-requisites for this course.
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
Substitutes:	CJS312, OEL668, OEL834
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	<p>1202 - POLICE FOUNDATIONS</p> <p>VLO 1 Complete all tasks in compliance with pertinent legislation, as well as policing standards, regulations and guidelines.</p> <p>VLO 2 Analyze all relevant information and make effective and legally defensible decisions in accordance with ethical and professional standards.</p> <p>VLO 3 Be accountable for ones actions when carrying out all tasks.</p> <p>VLO 5 Ensure the respect of human rights and freedoms in all interactions.</p> <p>VLO 6 Work co-operatively in multidisciplinary teams to achieve mutual goals.</p> <p>VLO 8 Monitor, evaluate and document behaviours, situations and events accurately and discreetly in compliance with legal, professional, ethical and organizational requirements.</p> <p>VLO 11 Conduct investigations by collecting, documenting, preserving and presenting admissible evidence</p>
Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	<p>EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.</p> <p>EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.</p> <p>EES 3 Execute mathematical operations accurately.</p> <p>EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.</p>

Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.



- EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.
- EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.
- EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.
- EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.
- EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.
- EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.
- EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.

Course Evaluation:

Passing Grade: 60%, C

A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.

Books and Required Resources:

Martin`s Criminal Code 2026 - Student Edition by Greenspan
 Publisher: Carswell
 ISBN: 9781038215949

Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:

Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1
1. Identify the provisions of the Charter of Rights applicable to the gathering and admission of evidence in court.	1.1 Explain the rights of suspects and the obligations of peace officers as contained in section 10 of the Charter regarding the gathering of evidence. 1.2 Explain the requirements that must be met to comply with the rights and obligations set out in section 8 of the Charter regarding search and seizure of evidence with and without warrant. 1.3 Explain the legal rights and obligations set out in section 9 of the Charter regarding evidence that may be obtained during investigative detention. 1.4 Explain, in the context of section 24 of the Charter, the remedies available to the court regarding evidence obtained in violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
2. Identify and explain the types of evidence available.	2.1 Explain the standard of proof and burden of proof required to prove an offence. 2.2 Identify the types of evidence that may be used to prove an offence 2.3 Explain the basic rules that govern the admissibility of evidence. 2.4 Identify how evidence is used to prove the facts in issue of alleged offences. 2.5 Identify the basic court processes that are followed when an accused appears before the court
Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3



3. Explain how evidence is 'weighed' by the courts and factors that determine the weight and admissibility of evidence.	3.3 Explain and identify relevant and material evidence 3.4 Explain the probative versus the prejudicial value of evidence. 3.5 Explain opinion evidence. 3.6 Identify exceptions to the opinion evidence rule. 3.7 Explain expert opinion evidence. 3.8 Explain the conditions under which expert opinion evidence may be admissible. 3.9 Identify and explain Direct and Circumstantial evidence. 3.10 Explain Rebuttal Evidence 3.11 Identify Reverse Onus situations regarding presumptions of fact 3.12 Explain the Hodge's Rule
Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
4. Recognize crime scenes and containment areas.	4.1 Describe how a crime scene should be secured to prevent evidence contamination and preservation. 4.2 Identify potential hazards that may be found at crime scenes. 4.3 Explain and apply the concept of continuity of evidence.
Course Outcome 5	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5
5. Identify potential sources of physical evidence.	5.1 Explain Locard's Exchange Principle. 5.2 Fingerprint evidence 5.3 DNA evidence 5.4 Blood spatter 5.5 Impression evidence 5.6 Firearm evidence 5.7 Trace evidence
Course Outcome 6	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 6
6. Examine Sudden Death Occurrences	6.1 Identify sudden death situations that require the Coroner's Office to be notified. 6.2 Identify sudden death circumstances when first aid response is not required. 6.3 Identify commonly encountered means of unexpected sudden death 6.4 Explain the purpose of a Post-mortem Examination (autopsy)

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Assignments (4 x 5%) (Must be completed in class during regular class time)	20%
Case Study	15%
Evidence Lab	15%
Test One	25%
Test Two	25%



Date: June 17, 2025

Addendum: Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.

