

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA-LANCASTER**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
**LANCASTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29721**  
**Spring 2008**

Course Syllabus

LCRJ 271

Criminal Investigation

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 am -10:45 am

Location: Hubbard 202

Instructor:

W. Ralph Garris

(803) 313-7026 (office)

E-mail: wrgarris@gwm.sc.edu

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*I welcome you to LCRJ 271, Criminal Investigation, and I believe you will find this course beneficial and worthwhile. Enrollment in LCRJ 271 obligates you to complete all assigned work, to have punctual and regular class attendance, and to participate in whatever class discussion that may occur. It will be your responsibility to keep informed concerning all class assignments. Absences, whether excused or unexcused, do not absolve the student from this responsibility. USCL attendance policies are in effect and class attendance will be taken.*

*Criminal investigation is a complex, sophisticated field. Each aspect of it could constitute an entire semester. This course will cover the basic aspects of criminal investigations. We will discuss basic criminal investigations and general guidelines to follow or adapt in specific circumstances.*

*Your grade will be determined by class standing, examination grade, class participation, completing all necessary assignments, and satisfactory completion of any assigned reports. There may also be opportunities to obtain extra credit. A, B, C, and D represent passing grades in order from highest to lowest. B+, C+, and D+ may also be given. F represents failing performance.*

*You will be given pop tests on assigned readings. You will also be given a midterm and final exam, along with various assignments throughout the semester. All grades will be averaged along with the grade of your term paper.*

*This course runs from January 14, 2008 through April 28, 2008. Exams are scheduled April 30-May 8, 2008. You have a responsibility to attend all classes as well as completing all assignments on time. After **four** unexcused absences, a failing grade will be given. You are expected to be on time for class. Plan ahead! Budget your time!! You will find this course challenging!!!*

*Attendance policies of USCL are required. Drop dates for this semester are: Without a grade of "W"-January 18, 2008. Without a grade of "WF"-February 25, 2008. The USCL Spring 2008 Academic Calendar is included for your benefit.*

*I am delighted to have you in this class. We will work hard, have some fun, and hopefully, you will benefit from worthwhile topics. The study of Criminal Investigation is*

*more than a theory; it is a learned experience that requires your active attention and curiosity to obtain the best results. Criminal Investigations is a complex field of study. You will be expected to accomplish much in a scholarly manner. Feel free to contact me at any time I can be of help to you. Let's work hard!*

*Professional education requires skill in writing and a commitment to the written dialogue. Writing is a skill that is learned and sharpened by continuous use. During your period of study for a degree, you will experience various faculty members, each of whom will emphasize a different aspect of writing: one will emphasize grammar and format; another, presentation of subject matter; and a third, continuity and formal English.*

*You are to write a term paper of ten (10) typed pages. The topic is to be approved by me in advance. We will develop a topic that is of interest to the student but which applies to criminal investigations. The term paper should be in APA style and is due during the last class before the final exam. Each day the term paper is late, I will deduct a letter grade from your earned grade.*

*You will also be asked to stay current on emerging topics in criminal justice. Everywhere in today's world we face issues of crime and the criminal justice system. I ask that you read the newspaper, periodicals, and other pertinent material and choose an article daily that is relevant to police administration, police operations, and basic business management. These articles are to be brought in weekly. Also, you should **always** have a notebook for class lectures.*

*Behavior problems will not be tolerated in this class. If a problem persists, I will present the offending student with a letter concerning the problem. If a second letter is issued, I will request to the Academic Dean and Dean of Student Affairs this student be removed from this course.*

*The most critical phase in the majority of criminal investigations is the preliminary investigation. (I am sure you have heard of good cases being lost in court due to poor investigations.) The decisions made, the responsibilities assumed, and the tasks performed apply to a wide variety of crimes and must be part of every criminal justice student's repertoire.*

*You must thoroughly understand and be skilled in using a logical sequence, physical evidence, witnesses, psychology, leads, and thorough and complete record keeping.*

*Again, I am delighted to have you in LCRJ 271. Our book for LCRJ 271 is Criminal Investigation, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, by James W. Osterburg and Richard H. Ward.*

**GRADING SCALE:**

100 – 95 =	A
94 – 90 =	B+
89 – 85 =	B
84 – 80 =	C+
79 – 75 =	C
74 – 70 =	D
69 – 0 =	F

*Your final exam will be a comprehensive exam. It will cover the entire course material; reviewed or assigned. A 10 point extra credit: 10 points will be added to the final exam of each student who registers to vote. Your voter registration card must be shown to me in order to receive this credit.*

*Again, welcome to LCRJ 271. I am delighted to have you!*

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR  
SPRING 2008**

	<b>SPRING</b>	<b>SPRING I</b>	<b>SPRING II</b>
Registration	January 9 & 10	January 9 & 10	March 5 & 6
Classes begin	January 14	January 14	March 17
BAIS - Last day to order May diploma	January 18	NA	NA
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day (No classes)	January 21	January 21	NA
Last day to register, change schedule or drop a course without a grade of "W"	January 18	January 16	March 19
Last day to order diploma	February 4	February 4	NA
Last day to drop a course or withdraw without a grade of "WF"	February 25	February 4	April 4
Spring break	March 9 - 16	NA	NA
Last day of class	April 28	March 3	May 1
Reading Day	April 29	March 4	May 2
Final Exams	April 30 - May 8	March 5 & 6	May 5 & 6
Grades due	May 12	March 10	May 9
Commencement	May 3	May 3	May 3

This calendar is correct as of the time of publication. However, the [Master Schedule of Classes](#) publishes the most recent calendar each semester.