

Bossier Parish Community College
Master Syllabus

Course Prefix and Number: CJUS 294

Credit Hours: 3

Course Title: Medicolegal Death Investigation

Course Prerequisites: None

Textbook: Clark, S., Ernst M.F., Haglund, W.D., and Jentzen, J.M. *The Medicolegal Death Investigator: a systematic training program for the professional death investigator*. Occupational Research Associates, Inc. (For the exact textbook requirement, please refer to your instructor's course information syllabus.)

Course Description: This course provides information to conduct a scientific, systematic, and thorough death scene investigation. Content includes information regarding the investigation of natural and unnatural cases of death such as asphyxial death, toxicological deaths, childhood deaths, firearm deaths, and deaths due to blunt and sharp force injury, as well as deaths from the natural disease processes.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course the student will:

- A. analyze the critical nature of proper interactions with federal state and local agencies;
- B. analyze the importance of proper and timely communication with next-of-kin, pathologists, and treating physicians;
- C. describe how to correctly interact with families of victims.
- D. explain the basic methodologies of investigation a variety of deaths;
- E. appraise the importance and procedural process of identifying and preserving evidence;
- F. appraise what measures are require to maintain ethical and legal responsibilities;
- G. demonstrate basic forensic and medical knowledge of injuries and wounds to the human anatomy;
- H. categorize the nature of stress and the proper coping mechanisms to deal with stress.

To achieve the learning outcomes, the student will:

- 1. Identify and define a statute. (A)
- 2. Explain the history of death investigation systems. (A) (D)
- 3. Identify geographic parameters affecting statues. (A)
- 4. Describe the difference between demographic and death data. (A)
- 5. Explain the importance of obtaining medical history data. (B)

6. Identify what data may and may not be shared between agencies. (B)
7. Explain the purpose of the state Child Death Review Panel. (D)
8. Define and explain Chain of Custody. (D)
9. Define cause and manner of death. (D)
10. Identify importance of death certificate completion. (B) (C)
11. List various strategies for identification of remains. (D) (G)
12. List strategies for notification of next of kin. (C)
13. Define agency cooperation at a death scene. (A)
14. Identify formats used for narrative reporting. (D)
15. List the typical contents of an acceptable narrative report. (D)
16. Describe importance of telephone skills for death investigation. (B)
17. Identify important factors in variety of death scenes. (D) (G)
18. Describe difference between personal property and evidence. (E)
19. Describe symptoms of grief and shock. (C)
20. Explain process of determining scene safety. (D)
21. Explain variety of processes for identifying bodies. (D) (G)
22. Explain means of determining time of death. (D) (F)
23. Identify evidence preservation techniques. (E)
24. Identify the methods of scene documentation. (D)
25. Identify potential conflicts of interest. (F)
26. Recognize stressors. (H)

Course Requirements: The following are intended to help the learner meet the stated learning outcomes of the course: regular and prompt class attendance reflected in class roll; read assigned text and outside material; successful completion of administered examinations; demonstration of an understanding of the subject matter; an understanding of which law or laws to use under different circumstances; active participation in classroom or online discussions.

In addition to requirements stated herein, each instructor will communicate additional requirements unique to his/her section via the instructor's section syllabus.

Course Grading Scale:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 59% or below

Attendance Policy: The college attendance policy is available at <http://www.bpsc.edu/catalog/current/academicpolicies.html>

Course Fees: None

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disability, marital status, veteran's status, or sexual orientation in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of its operations. Bossier Parish Community College does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices.

Section 504 and ADA Coordinator

Angie Cao, Student and Disability Services Specialist

Disability Services, F-254

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Title IX and Equity/Compliance Coordinator

Teri Bashara, Director of Human Resources

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