

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: ADJ 240

Credits: 3

Course Title: Techniques of Interviewing

Course Description: Provides the student with essential skills and techniques necessary to obtain quality information from victims, witnesses, and suspects regarding criminal activity. Emphasizes locations and settings for interviews, kinesics, proxemics, and paralinguistics of both the interviewer and interviewee. Prerequisite: Students enrolling in the course must be certified law enforcement personnel currently employed in a police agency. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: This course is offered to provide law enforcement personnel the essential skills to conduct a complete and thorough interview and interrogation of victims, witnesses, and suspects in a criminal investigation. These skills are necessary for all law enforcement personnel to ensure accurate information is obtained in the investigations of criminal cases as well as the prosecution and conviction of criminal suspects.

This course will be offered as an ADJ elective in the AAS degree for Administration of Justice. Due to the content being taught in this course, it will be available only to certified law enforcement personnel currently employed in a police agency.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Students enrolling in the course must be certified law enforcement personnel currently employed in a police agency

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Apply laws relating to interview and interrogation with regard to fourth amendment rights under search and seizure;
- b. Explain and exemplify the importance of timing, setting, and environment for interviews and interrogations;
- c. Analyze landmark court cases that set the legal foundation for rules of interview and interrogation;
- d. Demonstrate basic techniques of interviewing and illustrate their impact on different populations of people;
- e. Demonstrate basic techniques of interrogation;
- f. Analyze the differences between an interview and an interrogation; and
- g. Evaluate the effect of body language, facial expressions, word choice, and voice tone on the outcome of interview and interrogation analysis.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Laws of interview and interrogation, including case law and case review
- b. Miranda v. Arizona; Terry v. Ohio
- c. Exclusionary Rule of Evidence
- d. Location, setting, and environment
- e. Body language, word choice, and other non-verbal communication
- f. Interrogation techniques
- g. Interrogation of different types of criminals

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