



Coastal Bend COLLEGE

Administrative Master Syllabus

Cover Sheet

Purpose: The Administrative Master Syllabus provides a general course description, defines the required elements of the course, and establishes a faculty-driven foundation for course assessment to ensure continuous improvement in student learning, irrespective of the course timeframe, or mode of course delivery.

Course Title: **Death Investigation I**

Course Prefix and Number: **CJSA 1400**

THECB Approval Number (10 digit): **43.0104**

Department: **Criminal Justice/Forensic Science** Division: **Public and Professional Services**

Course Type: (check only one)

- ☐ Academic General Education Course (From ACGM but not a CBC Core Course)
- ☐ Academic CBC Core Course
- ☒ WECM Course (Special Topics or Unique Needs Course: Y ☐ or N ☐)

Weekly Contact Hours (Lecture – Lab – External): **2** - **4** - **0**

Course Catalog Description:

Concepts, investigations process, scene management, required documentation, and case management for incidences of natural, accidental, and suicidal deaths. Follows the Department of Justice National Guidelines for Death Investigations and meets the criteria for academic credit recognition from the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites:

None Required

Approval: The contents of this document have been reviewed and are found to be accurate.

Prepared by (Content Expert): **Dr. Lisa C. Bowman-Bowen**

Digitally signed by Dr. Lisa C. Bowman-Bowen
Date: 2022.02.16 13:29:34 -06'00'

Reviewed by Director or Coordinator: **Dr. Lisa C. Bowman-Bowen**

Digitally signed by Dr. Lisa C. Bowman-Bowen
Date: 2022.02.16 13:29:48 -06'00'

Approved by Dean of CTE or NAH or TGE:

Revised 8/11/2021



Coastal Bend COLLEGE

Master Course Syllabus

Course Name: CJSA 1400 Death Investigation I

Course Description: Concepts, investigations process, scene management, required documentation, and case management for incidences of natural, accidental, and suicidal deaths. Follows the Department of Justice National Guidelines for Death Investigations and meets the criteria for academic credit recognition from the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.

Semester Hour Credit: 4

Lecture Hrs. per Week/Lab Hrs. per Week/External Hrs. per Week: 2/4/0

Curriculum Capacity:

Face-to-Face Lab: 15

Online Lab

Face-to-Face Lecture: 15

Online

Virtual Face-to-Face

Interactive video (multi-locations)

Hybrid

Clinical

Recommended enrollment threshold:

Face-to-Face Lab: 5

Online Lab

Face-to-Face Lecture: 5

Online

Virtual Face-to-Face

Interactive video (multi-locations)

Hybrid

Clinical

Textbook and/or other major required readings:

Title: Practical Homicide Investigation

Author: Geberth

Publisher: CRC Press

Edition: 5th

ISBN: 978-1482235074

The Student Learning Outcomes for the course are the same regardless of modality or location.

**Course Outcomes
(WECM or LDACGM)**

Student Learning Outcomes – Subject Matter Specific (SLOS):

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Exhibit proficiency in scene protection and investigation.
2. Complete written reports related to state regulations.
3. Recognize and synchronize attributes of natural and accidental death and/or suicide.
4. Provide bereavement solace to victims of loss.
5. Implement the Department of Justice National Guidelines for Death Investigation.

The following general education course competencies (TGE) or Marketable SCAN Skills (CTE/NAH) are addressed in this course: General education course competencies (TGE) or Marketable SCAN Skills (CTE/NAH) assessed are indicated with an asterisk *.

Student Learning Outcomes – Marketable SCAN Skills (SLOM):

Notation: Asterisk items are part of the Forensic Science programs' annual assessment of Student Learning

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. *Display active listening skills applicable to the interview process in understanding, documenting, and relaying relevant points from a field specialist.
2. *Exhibit reading comprehension skills in applying scientific understanding to work-related medicolegal documents related to death investigations.
3. Present effective written communications within a narrative summary of the DOJ guidelines for death investigations, standard reporting documents, and applicable statute regulations.
4. Indicate the necessary complex problem-solving skills to evaluate and implement procedures throughout crime scene protection, investigation and on to case summary conclusion.
5. Demonstrate scientific knowledge of the various modes, manners, and causes of death as assessed within industry standards and methods.
6. *Determine proper judgement and decision-making application in selecting appropriate theories as related to death investigation, including Locard's theory of transfer and for homicide crime scene searches.
7. *Exhibit social perceptiveness skills for death identification and notification procedures with emphasis on survivor reaction and grief process.
8. *Demonstrate system analysis skills by the recognition of proper operations and conditions for potential effects within the autopsy process and relevant policies for response, safety, and security.

The following program student learning outcome are assessed for this course:

Program Level (PLO)(as related to this course)

This course provides instructional elements in partial requirements to the following:

1. Outline inductive/deductive reasoning processes and communication techniques utilized in interviewing of witnesses, interrogation of suspects, and consulting of victims and their families.
2. Provide detailed reporting documents and related legal procedural forms as related to the forensic science of crime scene investigation and analysis.
3. Demonstrate the ability to present technical information, without bias, in a manner suitable for various targeted audiences, in written form and/or oral presentation as related to event reconstruction.

Evaluation Methods:

Activity Types	SLOS	SLOM	PLO	Weights (%)
Introductory quiz and/or introductory access to Blackboard or 3 rd party platform				2
Mock Simulation assignments, participation, and/or paper submission	All	4, 6	All	53.0
Periodic quizzes and/or Mid-Term assessments	1, 3, 4	5, 6, 7	1	20.0
Final Assessment	1, 3, 5	5, 6, 8	1	25.0
Total:				100%

Instructor should remain in relevant range of stated weights

Course Grading: Please see individualized instructor policies for course evaluation methods. Students will be assessed on the same measure across each discipline as per CBC guidelines.

Major Course Assignments and/or exams counting for at least 10% of a final course grade:

- Topic discussion(s) and submission(s)
- Lab Case-Based and/or Mock Simulation assignments
- Periodic quizzes and/or Mid-Term assessments
- Final Assessment

Grade Scale:

Final grades for all CRIJ/CJSA courses will be based in the following manner:

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

Course Subject Matter Outline:

	The Homicide Crime Scene	
	The Five Components of Practical Homicide Investigation	
	The Crime Scene	
	The Preliminary Investigation at the Primary Crime Scene	
	First Officer's Duties	
	Notification of a Possible Homicide: The Official Notification to the Police	
	The Suspect in Custody	
	Handling Witnesses at the Scene	
	The Preliminary Investigation at the Scene: The Detectives	
	Preliminary Steps to Be Taken by Detectives upon Arrival—Checklist	
	Describing the Scene	
	Implementing Crime Scene Procedures	
	The Teamwork Approach	
	The Canvass	
	The Preliminary Medical Examination at the Scene	
	Specific Investigative Duties at the Scene	
	The Suspect in Custody	
	Interview and Interrogation of the Suspect in Custody	
	Examination of a Suspect for Evidence	
	The Crime Scene Photographs	
	The Value of Crime Scene Photographs	
	Crime Scene Photography and the Investigator	
	Admissibility of Photographic Evidence	
	Photographing the Homicide Crime Scene	
	The Crime Scene Sketch	
	Preparing the Crime Scene Sketch	
	Utilizing Aerial Photographs for Mapping Outdoor Crime Scenes	
	The Total Station Crime Scene Reconstruction Program	
	The Homicide Crime Scene Search	
	Legal Considerations	
	Physical Evidence	
	The Concept of Linkage	
	Estimating Time of Death	
	The Process of Dying	
	Body Changes after Death	
	External Agents of Change	
	The Identity of the Deceased; Resources for Missing and Unidentified Persons Cases	
	The Identification	
	Mass Fatality Events	
	Death Notifications: The Surviving Family as Secondary Victims	
	Psychological Reactions to Death	
	The Normal Grieving Process	
	The Stages of Grief	
	Modes of Death	
	Wounds, Blunt Force, and Asphyxia	
	Poisons and Fire	

	Injection	
	Suicide Investigation	
	Risk Factors, Depression, and Motives	
	The Investigation, Background, and Psychological Autopsy	
	Suicide by Cop and Protocols	
	Collection of Evidence	
	Procedures, Types, Classifications	
	The Autopsy	
	Medical Examiner, Coroner, and Forensic Pathologist	
	The Medicolegal and Purpose	

Additional Course Requirements:

Students shall be provided a supplemental class document containing, but not limited to: instructor contact and availability information, including student guidance hours and class meeting times and locations, as well as, policies related to course grading, class attendance (both in-person and online), classroom policies, assignment/submission detailed due dates, late assignment provisions, and general information on the nature and calculations of required elements for testing and other assessments.

Class Attendance and Classroom Conduct Policies

Attendance Policy: Please see individualized instructor policies for attendance, which is pursuant to any related policy as outlined by the college handbook, financial aid agreements, or any other college related understanding (e.g. athletics, organizations).

Telephone Support: Toll Free: 866-722-2838 or Direct Line: 361-354-2508

I.T. Support Blackboard

<http://coastalbend.edu/it/>

IT Help Desk
1-361-354-2508

helpdesk@coastalbend.edu

Live Chat: Fall/Spring Hours: Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Summer Hours: Monday – Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tutoring Services: Coastal Bend College is committed to the academic success of all students enrolled at the college. A variety of services, including academic support, individual tutoring sessions, group tutoring sessions, and online tutoring, are available to students depending on the availability of tutors for the subject matter requested. All tutoring is provided at no cost to current CBC students who are currently enrolled at CBC. On-demand tutoring services are accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the TutorMe platform, which may be accessed through your Blackboard account. To request a tutor, please complete the online tutor request form found at <http://www.coastalbend.edu/tutoring/> to submit

your request. If you have any questions about tutoring programs, you can contact to tutoring@coastalbend.edu.

Beeville	Alice	Kingsville	Pleasanton
3800 Charco Road Beeville, TX 78102 1-866-722-2838	704 Coyote Trail Alice, TX 78332 1-866-891-2981	1814 Brahma Blvd. Kingsville, TX 78363 1-866-262-1615	1411 Bensdale Pleasanton, TX 78064 1-866-361-4222

Grady C. Hogue Learning Resource Center (Library): Located on the Beeville campus, the operation hours are Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(Summer semesters will observe the CBC campus operation hours) For locations and hours of the CBC library in Alice, Kingsville, and Pleasanton sites please visit the library web page link below.

Grady C. Hogue Learning Resource Center (Library): <http://lrc.coastalbend.edu/about>

Financial Aid: Resources are available for students for financial aid, work study, and veteran benefits. For additional information, visit our website at <http://coastalbend.edu/finaid> or contact us at 361-354-2238. Office hours: Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADA Statement: No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the College District, or be subjected to discrimination by the College District. Nor shall the College District exclude or otherwise deny equal services, programs, or activities to an individual because of the known disability of an individual with whom the individual is known to have a relationship or association. 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130(g). See at: [GA \(Legal\)](#)

Students with Disabilities: Any student would like to request class accommodations, please complete the online request form by logging onto www.coastalbend.edu/disabilityservices/. Students who wish to request accommodations should submit documentation that: establishes a disability, details the current functional impact of that disability, confirms the need for each accommodation requested, establishes a direct link between the underlying disability and the requested accommodation. For more information, please contact the Office of Disability Services at disabilityservices@coastalbend.edu.

Scholastic Dishonesty: Each student is charged with notice and knowledge of the contents and provisions of Coastal Bend College's rules and regulations concerning student conduct. All students shall obey the law, show respect for properly constituted authority, and observe correct standards of conduct. Scholastic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of these rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed by Coastal Bend College Policies FLB (Local) and FM (Local). Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. See at: [FLB \(Local\)](#) and [FM \(Local\)](#).

Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students: All students should be familiar with the college's official email student notification policy. Students are expected to check their CBC email on a frequent

and regular basis to stay current with college-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical.

Copyright Law and Intellectual Property Rights Policy: Copyright is the right of an author, artist, composer or other creator of a work of authorship to control the use of his or her work by others. Protection extends to literary works, musical works, dramatic works, pantomimes and choreographic works, pictorial and graphic works, sculpture, motion pictures and other audiovisual works, sound recordings and architectural works. Generally speaking, a copyrighted work may not be reproduced by others without the copyright owner's permission. The public display or performance of copyrighted works is similarly restricted. Generally, the unauthorized reproduction, performance or distribution of a copyrighted work is copyright infringement and may subject the infringer to civil and criminal penalties. The Fair Use Doctrine outlines exceptions to this Law and is outlined in Coastal Bend College Policy, [CT \(Legal\)](#).

Coastal Bend College, its faculty, students and employees must comply with Copyright Law. Detailed information on Copyright Law and Intellectual Property Rights is available in Coastal Bend College Policy [CT \(Legal\)](#) and [CT \(Local\)](#).

Questions regarding this information should be directed to the Director of Library Services at: library@coastalbend.edu or the Office of Marketing and Public Relations at: socialmedia@coastalbend.edu.

Intellectual Property: Student /Third Party Works: Rights to copyrightable or patentable works created by a student or a third party, that is, not a College District employee, shall reside with the author/ creator. Detailed information on Copyright Law and Intellectual Property Rights is available in Coastal Bend College Policy [CT \(Legal\)](#) and [CT \(Local\)](#).

Questions regarding this information should be directed to the Director of Library Services at: library@coastalbend.edu or the Office of Marketing and Public Relations at: socialmedia@coastalbend.edu.

NOTE: The College website (<http://coastalbend.edu>) serves as the main source with the most current version of the Coastal Bend College Board Policies and the Coastal Bend College Catalog.

Student success is our number one priority at Coastal Bend College and we realize that prompt, effective communication (such as emails, assignment feedback, discussion boards and announcements) plays a significant role in achieving that goal. It is vitally important that you have the proper contact information for your instructor. This should include their phone number, email address, and if applicable, their office number, and office hours. **Faculty schedules can be located online at <http://coastalbend.edu/hb2504/>** If you have any problems contacting your instructor, or do not receive a prompt response to your inquiries, please contact the Dean or Division Coordinator/Program Director as soon as possible. Their contact information is provided below:

<p><i>Jarod Bleibdrey</i> <i>Dean of Career and Technical Education</i> 361-354-2339 <i>jbleibdrey@coastalbend.edu</i></p>	<p><i>Lisa C. Bowman-Bowen</i> <i>Public and Professional Services</i> Coordinator (361) 664-2981 ext. 3005 <i>lbowman-bowen@coastalbend.edu</i></p>
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We wish you all the best in your education and encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Keeping student success in sight, faculty in each of the courses will review the course information, including specific reading schedules, assignments, and testing information, with students during the first week of class.

Additionally, the course information will be posted to Blackboard.

This master syllabus is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.