

**IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 108
PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT WRITING
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course: AJ 108 Public Safety Report Writing **Instructor:** Jeff Mason

Number: 10079

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Term: Fall 2013

Class Times & Units: W 06:30-09:40 3 Units

Textbooks*:

For The Record Report Writing In Law
Enforcement Sixth Edition Hess & Orthman

Room: 203

COURS DESCRIPTION

This course is an introductory course, dealing with all aspects of public safety communication. It will cover the techniques to effectively communicate facts, information, and ideas in a clear and logical manner for a variety of public safety systems reports, crime violations, incident reports, letters, memorandums, directives, and administrative reports. Emphasis is placed on criminal justice terminology, use of English, and organization of information. Students will gain practical experience in note taking, interviewing, report writing, and presentation of testimony in courts. (Formerly AJ/CSI 120) (CSU)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Identify the importance of honesty and truthfulness in gathering information and documenting that information for possible future prosecution. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3)
2. Write a report documenting the pertinent facts obtained from witnesses at a crime scene, or scenario of a crime scene, that would be able to be used in a court of law. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4)
3. Identify and distinguish facts, information and statements into a logical and understandable format that fulfills the legal requirements of a lawful arrest and applicable procedures for both misdemeanor and felony arrests. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the criminal justice system and various uses of written reports required by law enforcement, courts, and corrections.
2. Practice the ABC's of writing: Accuracy, Brevity, and Completeness
3. Organize sentences in a logical, sequential order, relatively free of errors.
4. Practice and apply basic rules of English to effectively communicate information as required within the criminal justice system to include who, what, where, when, why, and how.
5. Organize information into an effective reportable format and demonstrate knowledge and use of different forms, formats, and reporting styles.

6. Take field notes and compile data to be used in cohesive formal reports.
7. Understand and demonstrate the basic steps of an interview and interrogation, using verbal and non-verbal techniques and satisfactorily document the interview/interrogation.
8. Synthesize case studies, simulations, and role playing into accurate and complete reports.
9. Demonstrate knowledge and use of technology utilized in report writing.
10. Competently complete and proofread crime, probation, parole, violation, incident, and other reports for their use in court proceedings and/or hearings.
11. Practice testifying in mock courtroom and other legal proceedings as to information contained in previously written reports.

GRADING PROCEDURE

FINAL/REPORT= 100 points

Mid Term= 100

Tests= 4 = 100 points

Homework: 12 assignments at 10 points each = 120 points

Workbook Exercises= 80 points

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE 500 POINTS

A = 500-450

C = 389-340

F = 298-0

B = 449-390

D = 339-299

PLEASE NOTE: *Assignments are due at the start of class. Late assignments will not be accepted, and the student will be given a zero for that assignment. Failure to take a quiz or exam will result in a zero for that quiz or exam unless prior approval is given by the instructor. You must communicate with your instructor any problems or difficulties that you are having with the course.*

ATTENDANCE: One goal of this course is to instill a work ethic needed to be a successful employee. Like having a job, students are expected to attend class, show up on time, and not leave early. Students will be allowed six absences from class. On the seventh absence, the student will be dropped from the class. Being late or leaving early will count as half an absence. Missing more than half a class session will count as a full absence. Students may be dropped from the class if they miss three class sessions in a row. However, it is the students responsibility to withdraw or drop accordingly as is not the responsibility of the instructor.

ACADEMIC ETHICS: Cheating is defined as copying answers from another student on an exam or assignment, allowing another student to copy answers from you, turning in

work as your own that someone else did for you, working with another student on an assignment without the instructor's express consent, or turning in a writing assignment that uses another's words or ideas without crediting the source of the words or ideas.

CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Anyone caught cheating will get a zero for the assignment or exam and may be dropped from the class with the grade of F.

DSP&S: Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services Office. (Room 2117, Health Sciences Building; Phone: (760) 355-6312)

NOTICE: Copying the text book is an infringement on the U.S. Copy write laws. It is illegal to copy a textbook and copied text books will not be accepted in this course.

Especially in an Administration of Justice or Criminal Justice class.

- 8/21/13 Introduction to Report Writing/Blackboard/Expectations
Homework: 1 typed page autobiography
- 8/28/13 Review Ch. 1 / in-class assignment Ch.1 workbook exercise
Due: Autobiography
Homework: Worksheet 1 Parts of Speech
- 9/4/13 Review Ch. 2 / in-class review Ch. 2 workbook exercises
Due: Worksheet 1
Homework: News article report
- 9/11/13 Review Ch. 3 / in-class review Ch. 3 workbook exercises
In class scenario presentation
Homework: 1 typed page report on the presented scenario
- 9/18/13 Test Chapters 1-3
Review Ch. 4
In class samples of poorly versus well written reports
Homework: Report corrections
- 9/25/13 Review Ch. 5
Due: Report corrections
Homework: Worksheet on Modifiers
- 10/2/13 Review Ch. 6 / Test Chapters 4-6
Due: Modifiers worksheet
Homework: Worksheet on Slang, Overused words and Choice words

- 10/9/13 Midterm Part 1 – Video Presentation TBA
Part 1 Midterm assignment: Write a three page report on the video presented
Due: Worksheet on Slang, Overused words and Choice words
- 10/16/13 NO CLASS
- 10/23/13 Midterm Part 2 – Test covering chapters 1-6
Due: Three page report on video presented / workbook exercises 1-6
- 10/30/13 Review Ch. 7 / Ch. 7 workbook exercise
Homework: Grammar worksheet
- 11/6/13 Video presentation TBA
In class written report on presentation
- 11/13/13 Review Ch. 8 and Ch. 9
In class spelling worksheet
Test Chapters 7-9
- 11/20/13 Review Ch. 10, Ch. 11 and Ch. 12
Workbook exercises Ch. 10 -12
Test Chapters 10-12
- 11/27/13 Final Examination Review
In class quiz
Due: Workbook exercises 7-12
- 12/4/13 Final Examination Chapters 1 - 12

10/02/13	Test Chapters 4-6
10/09/13	Part one Midterm: <i>Video TBA</i> Midterm assignment: Write a three page paper on the in class video. **NO CLASS 10/16/13**
10/23/13	Due: Part one Midterm Paper Workbooks with chapters 1-6 exercises completed Part two Midterm covering chapters 1-6
10/30/13	Review Chapter 7 Grammar Chapter 7 workbook exercise review Homework: Grammar worksheet
11/06/13	Video Presentation TBA In class written report on presentation
11/13/13	Review Chapter 8 Sentences that Make Sense
11/13/13	Review Chapter 9 Spelling and Apostrophes In class spelling worksheet
11/13/13	Test Chapters 7-9
11/20/13	Review Chapter 10 Abbreviations, Numbers and Capitalization Review workbook chapter 10 exercises
11/20/13	Review Chapter 11 Commas
11/20/13	Review Chapter 12 Other Punctuation Marks Homework: Correct Punctuation Worksheet
11/20/13	Test Chapters 10-12
11/27/13	Due: Workbooks exercises 6-12 Final review In class quiz
12/04/13	FINAL Chapters 1-12