



Curriculum Outline

Course Title: *INTERVIEW AND INTERROGATION COURSE*

Course Description:

This course is centered around providing instruction on conducting interviews and interrogations, responding to victims, witnesses and suspects, documenting interviews, applying specialized techniques, and processing and analyzing information gathered during interviews and interrogations. Classroom instruction will be lecture style using PowerPoint presentations. Hands-on training will be conducted in an indoor or outdoor field environment. Students will be provided the opportunity to download the entire course on to their thumb drive. Dress for inclement weather is required.

Number of instructional hours: 37

Number of lecture hours: 8

Number of hands-on training hours: 29

Submitted by: *Sgt. Miguel Santiago and Det. Terry Brandon*

Course Objectives Classroom Training:

- **Definitions** – The students will learn and become familiar with the definitions of words and phrases used during an interview and interrogation. The following are examples of definitions the students will learn during this course: interview, interrogation, the interviewer, witness, suspect, legal issues, and canvass.
- **Canvass Interviews** – The students will learn techniques and skills used by law enforcement professionals to gather critical information from witnesses and individuals in the vicinity of a crime scene.
- **Preparation for an Interview** – The students will gain comprehensive insights into the process of getting ready for an interview with suspects, witnesses, or persons of interest in criminal investigations.
- **Legal Aspects** - In this presentation focused on the legal aspects of conducting interviews and interrogations in a criminal case, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the complex legal framework that governs these crucial investigative practices.
- **Verbal and Physical Behavior** - Students will explore the intricate dynamics of communication and body language within the context of investigative interactions. The presentation will cover techniques for interpreting and analyzing verbal cues, such as tone, language patterns, and inconsistencies, to discern truthfulness and gather accurate information.

- **Causes of Denial** - Students will delve into the underlying psychological, social, and situational factors that lead individuals to withhold information or provide false statements. The presentation will explore the reasons behind denials, including fear, guilt, self-preservation, memory lapses, and external pressures.
- **Interviewing** - Students will acquire a multifaceted skill set crucial for effective investigative interactions. The presentation will cover a range of topics including communication techniques, legal considerations, psychological insights, and ethical practices.
- **Why People Confess** - Students will explore the psychological and situational factors that drive people to admit guilt. They'll analyze motivations like guilt, fear, and pressure, and examine the role of tactics and evidence. Ethical and legal considerations will be addressed.
- **Establishing Credibility** - Students will learn techniques to build trust and credibility with witnesses and suspects. They'll explore effective communication, rapport-building, and ethical strategies to enhance the reliability of information gathered during interviews.
- **Reducing Resistance** - Students will learn strategies to minimize resistance and enhance cooperation when conducting interviews in criminal cases. Techniques to manage defensiveness, build rapport, and address emotional barriers will be explored, enabling effective communication and information gathering.
- **Obtaining the Admission** - Students will study methods to skillfully elicit admissions from subjects in criminal case interviews. They'll learn persuasive communication, active listening, and psychological insights to encourage truthful disclosures. The curriculum emphasizes ethical practices and effective strategies for gathering critical information.
- **Development of the Admission** - Students will acquire techniques to constructively guide subjects towards admissions during criminal case interviews. The curriculum covers strategic questioning, empathy, and cognitive approaches to elicit truthful information. Ethical considerations and effective methods for fostering cooperation will be emphasized.
- **The Statement** - Students will learn how to accurately document statements obtained from subjects during criminal case interviews. The curriculum covers note-taking, recording methods, and preserving evidentiary integrity. Emphasis is placed on maintaining detailed, unbiased, and legally admissible records.
- **Ending the Interview** - Students will learn the art of effectively concluding interviews in criminal cases. The curriculum covers techniques for summarizing, clarifying, and ensuring understanding. Emphasis is on maintaining rapport, addressing concerns, and concluding with professionalism and respect.
- **Telephone Interviews** - Students will learn to conduct telephone interviews in criminal cases. The curriculum covers communication skills, establishing rapport remotely, active listening and adapting questioning techniques. Ethical considerations and challenges unique to phone interviews will be addressed, enhancing students' ability to gather accurate information.

Course Objectives Hands-On Training:

- **Homicide Scenario 1:** Conduct interviews of witnesses, victims and suspects
- **Homicide Scenario 2:** Conduct interviews of witnesses, victims and suspects
- **Homicide Scenario 3:** Conduct interviews of witnesses, victims and suspects
- **Homicide Scenario 4:** Conduct interviews of witnesses, victims and suspects
- **Special Interviews:** Students will learn about interviewing inmates, in-custody suspects, anonymous informants and juveniles.
- **Case Study:** Review a real life homicide case to identify the investigative techniques learned during these courses that were utilized during the investigation.