

**CJSA 1308  
Criminalistics I  
Western Texas College**

- I. Basic Course Information
  - A. Introduction to the field of criminalistics. Topics include the application of scientific and technical methods in the investigation of crime including location, identification, and handling of evidence for scientific analysis
  - B. Any required prerequisites: Need a C or higher in CJIR 1301 or be enrolled in CJRI 1301 simultaneously.
  - C. Required grade for enrolling in the next course in this sequence: Need a C or higher in CJSA 1308 in order to take CJSA 2323
- II. Student Learning Outcomes:
  - A. Describe the care required in identifying, collecting, and preserving evidence for scientific examination.
  - B. Explain the significance of field and laboratory findings.
- III. Online Testing Requirements
  - A. The midterm and final exam must be proctored by an approved testing organization. (Ask your instructor for more details.)
  - B. Students are not allowed to use their book or notes of any kind while taking their proctored tests and exams.
- IV. Course Requirements
  - A. Lecture: homework assignments; weekly quizzes; midterm and final exam
  - B. Quizzes and exams are timed.
- V. Information on Books and Other Course Materials
  - A. Required Book: Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science. 12th Edition. Saferstein. 2018. Pearson Prentice Hall. (ISBN: 9780134477596)
- VI. Other Policies, Procedures and important dates. Please refer to the WTC [Catalog](#) for the following:
  - A. Campus Calendar
  - B. Final exam schedule
  - C. How to drop a class
  - D. Withdrawal information
  - E. Student Conduct/Academic Integrity
  - F. Students with disabilities
- VII. Course Sequence & Content

Chapter 1	Introduction: Definition and Scope of Forensic Science
	History and Development of Forensic Science
	Crime Laboratories
	Organization of a Crime Laboratory
	Case Files: Forensic Science Helps Unravel the Mystery of the Anthrax Letters
	Case Files: Dr. Coppolino's Deadly House Calls

Chapter 2	The Crime Scene: Processing the Crime Scene
	Collecting and Packaging Physical Evidence
	Maintaining the Chain of Custody
	Ensuring Crime-Scene Safety
	Legal considerations at the Crime Scene
	Case Study: Enrique Camarena Case: A Forensic Nightmare
Chapter 3	Physical Evidence: Common Types of Physical Evidence
	The Significance of Physical Evidence
	Forensic Databases
	Case Files: Gerald Wallace
	Case Files: The Center City Rapist
	Case Files: NIBIN Links Handgun to Suspects
	Case Files: Aztec Gold Metallic Hit and Run
Chapter 6	Fingerprints: History of Fingerprinting
	Fundamental Principles of Fingerprinting
	Classifications of Fingerprints
	Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems
	Methods of detecting Fingerprints
	Case Files: The Night Stalker
	Case Files: They Mayfield Affair
	Preservation of Developed Prints
	Digital Imaging for Fingerprint Enhancement
Chapter 19	Computer Forensics- optional
Chapter 20	Mobile Device Forensics-optional

Last Modified/Reviewed: May 9, 2019