

## Course Description:

Criminology and Forensics is a beginner level course on the topics of crime and forensic procedures. This course covers topics on crime and criminology, witnesses and perpetrators, and the crime lab. The course follows a story line of two college interns who discover a series of connected crimes in a suburban setting.

## Course Objectives:

- Explain the basics of criminal law.
- Summarize the roles and methods of professionals working in criminology.
- Summarize the roles and methods of different forensics occupations.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of modern crime theories, crime statistics, and efforts to control crime.
- Understand the roles of people who work to prevent crime.
- Explain the victim and witness roles.
- Describe eyewitness interviews and common complications.
- Compare criminology's individual and social approaches to the criminal mind.
- Understand the role of mental illness in crime and the criminal justice system.
- Describe how courts and law enforcement define and test for insanity.
- Describe basic forensic methods and processes.
- Summarize the process for the forensic investigation of a crime scene.
- Understand how forensic evidence is collected and tested.
- Describe the process, techniques, and goals of an autopsy.
- Contrast real forensic practice and results with popular misconceptions of the practice.

## Required Materials:

- Word processing software
- Internet browser
- pen and paper (for notes)

## Course Overview:

Each pair of units begins with a video showing the story of Jordan, a college intern at the local newspaper, and Cristina, a college intern at the Crime Lab. Students will then proceed through a series of activities presented in the following order:

### Odd Lessons (1, 3, 5, etc.)

*Warm Up Discussion* - a short discussion board prompt asking students to use their prior knowledge about a topic to engage in a discussion about topics that will be related to the content in the lesson.

*Key Terms* - a list of the new vocabulary present in the lesson along with their definitions.

*Instruction* - there will be between 3 and 8 different direct instruction activities in each lesson which will be composed of text, interactive questions, interactive activities, images, and videos.

*Main Discussion* - a discussion board prompt for students to engage in an informed discussion. This activity should be graded based on students' abilities to use proper logic and reasoning to support their arguments, with evidence drawn from the text of the lesson.

## **Even Lessons (2, 4, 6, etc.)**

*Enrichment* - The enrichment pieces are provided for students to go one-step-further in their exploration of a topic. Teachers are given the freedom to include an alternative activity for students if they wish, rather than having them work on these enrichment pieces. If teachers do wish for students to submit these pieces, the teachers will need to use the teacher's notes to give students directions on how to submit these pieces. Otherwise, students should complete these activities on their own in a notebook or on a local copy on their computer. These activities are ideal opportunities for teachers to award extra credit or make-up credit for students who need additional points toward their grades.

*Project* - There are 3 projects in this course, each titled "The Crime Connection;" the second project has "part 2" and the third project has "part 3" added to the title. The projects ask students to take part in the investigations that Cristina and Jordan are conducting. Students are expected to give longer answers (3-5 sentences in most cases) to questions designed to get them to think about the study of crime as well as the forensic procedures put into place. Projects are submitted in lessons 8, 18, and 28.

*Lesson Recap* - a set of questions for students to answer in their notes regarding the items presented in the previous lesson. Students who struggle to answer these questions should seek help from their instructor.

*Checkpoint* - A set of 10 questions which test students on the main objectives from the lesson. These activities are defaulted to 3 attempts.

## **Exceptions**

### **Lessons 9, 19, 29**

Contains the same 4 activity types as odd lessons, but will also contain the Enrichment piece from even lessons in order to leave more time in the following lesson for the Exam.

### **Lessons 10 and 20**

*Lesson Recap* - same type of activity as seen in other even lessons.

*Units Review* - A set of questions designed to help students review for their unit exam which will cover both units. If students struggle to answer the questions, they should contact their instructor for additional help before taking the unit exam.

*Unit Exam* - A set of 30 questions testing the information present in either Units 1 and 2 or Units 3 and 4. Questions are present from the following types: multiple choice, multiple answer, and true/false questions. All questions are automatically graded by the system. The default setting is only 1 attempt on

these activities, as questions are not drawn from a pool. Multiple attempts would deliver the same questions to the students each time.

### Lesson 30

*Lesson Recap* - same as the lesson recap activities in other even lessons.

*Units Review* - Same as the unit reviews in lessons 10 and 20.

*Final Exam* - A set of 30 questions testing the information present in the entire course. Questions are present from the following types: multiple choice, multiple answer, and true/false questions. All questions are automatically graded by the system. The default setting is only 1 attempt on these activities, as questions are not drawn from a pool. Multiple attempts would deliver the same questions to the students each time.

*Optional: Finish the Story* - A single page with the videos which complete Jordan and Cristina's adventures. These videos are also present in the follow up course: Criminology and Justice. However, the courses are independent, so a student may not want to take the second course or may have taken them out of order. In either case, the videos are available for students to watch if they want to conclude the story. No assessments are tied to these videos.

### Schedule of Work

Every pair of units has a similar schedule of work for students. This schedule includes the following estimations for time students should spend on each activity. Students who spend less than the recommended time on any activity should be encouraged to use that time on the Enrichment, Discussion, or Project pieces instead.

- Warm Up Discussion
- Key Terms
- Direct Instruction reading and videos
- Main Discussion
- Enrichment
- Project or Unit Review
- Lesson Recap
- Checkpoint or Exam

### Topics

- Crime and Criminology
  - The Study of Crime
  - Criminal Justice Professionals
  - How Science Solves Crime

- Crime Theory
- Who Prevents Crime?
- Witnesses and Perpetrators
  - The Challenges of Victims and Witnesses
  - The Eyewitness
  - The Criminal Mind
  - Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System
  - The Insanity Defense
- Inside the Crime Lab
  - Forensic Evidence
  - Crime Scene Procedure
  - Processing Evidence
  - The Autopsy
  - The CSI Effect