COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This is a course in investigative theory, the collection and preservation of evidence, sources of information, interviewing and interrogation, the use of forensic sciences in criminal investigations, and case and trial preparation.

TEXT, REFERENCES AND SUPPLIES:

NOTE: Do not delay getting the required text; most of the examination material will come from the assigned text book and without it you cannot hope to do well on exams.

Reference materials used by instructor may include:

Swanson, et. al. Criminal Investigation (previous eds.)
current statutes applicable to course material, as well as court cases and other relevant materials

Supplies: Students will bring notebooks, pens, pencils, and Scantron® sheets for examinations to class. It is suggested that students purchase several Scantron® sheets, both objective-type and essay-type, at the beginning of the semester, and have them available during class, in the event an unannounced quiz is given.

COURSE GOALS/ OBJECTIVES:
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:
• explain the purpose, role, and functions of a criminal investigation unit and investigator;
• explain the effects of evidence tampering, making false reports;
• explain techniques and purposes of conducting investigations;
• discuss crime scene searches;
• explain the importance of proper case preparation and presentation;
• explain the techniques of using informants;
• define various terms applicable to investigative procedures;
• discuss legal issues concerning interrogations and the use of confessions;
• identify levels of proof;
• discuss techniques used to investigate various crimes;
• research an assigned topic and write a paper on it, properly applying the APA style of writing to the paper and submit a paper for grading that is free from errors in grammar and composition.

Participation Statement: For Online courses, students MUST actively participate by completing an academic assignment by the official census date. Students who do not do so, will be dropped from the course.

Each student should anticipate at least one hour out of class preparation for each lecture hour, plus study time preparing for examinations. Attendance is important in this class.

Portable cellular phones, beepers, and similar paging devices may be disruptive to the class, and you are encouraged NOT to bring them into the classroom. If you do bring them to class, please make sure they are turned off. Should they become a nuisance, you may be asked to remove them from the classroom. The wearing of hats and the consumption of food are not allowed in during class, and, pursuant to Midland College Policy 5:14:02, the use of tobacco products (smoking, dipping, chewing, etc.) is prohibited in the building, including the classroom.

Students missing a major examination must make the exam before the next class period unless special arrangements are made. Make-up examinations may be the same as, or different from, the examination given in class. Make-up examinations will cover the same material as the scheduled examination. Failure to make up an examination will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam. No make-up opportunity is available for the final exam. Final exams are not given early or late. The instructor reserves the right to give quizzes, announced or unannounced, at any time. There is no opportunity to make up quizzes that are missed.

The instructor cannot drop students from courses. It is your responsibility to drop a class if you no longer plan to attend and complete the semester. Check the Midland College catalog for the last day to drop a course. You may be limited in the number of courses you can drop, and you may not be entitled to a tuition refund if you drop a course.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor  Brian Kneisley
Office       174 Technical Building
Telephone    (432) 685-4685
E-mail       Division Social/Behavioral Science and Business Studies (685-6830)
Office Hours: Subject to change each semester, office hours are posted and announced in class.

ADA Statement: Any student who because of a disabling condition may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the Counselor/Disability Specialist at 432-685-5598 as soon as possible. The Counselor/Disability Specialist is located in the Scharbauer Student Center Building. These conditions may include documented physical or educational disabilities. Please be aware that services or accommodations are not automatic. Each student must request them and secure the proper authorizations/documentation.