Investigative Psychology Certificate Program

This course aims to highlight how we may apply psychology to the specific applied area of crime scene analysis. The focus of the course will be on the sub-field of offender profiling and crime scene analysis, and the main psychological principles upon which offender profiling is based will be outlined. This will be done with particular emphasis on the three key areas of Investigative Psychology as it applies to offender profiling: gathering information from the crime scene, making decisions about this information and analyzing the behavior at the crime scene.

Core topics include:
1. Introduction to Investigative Psychology
2. Decision Making & Information Retrieval
3. Behavioral Analysis – Profiling the Crime Scene
4. Behavioral Analysis – Linking Serial Crime
5. Behavioral Analysis – Profiling the Offender
6. Profiling in Practice

Prerequisites:
This certificate is tailored to professionals with experience in law enforcement, investigations, crime analysis, law, psychology, or other related practical fields, who want to gain an understanding of crime scene analysis, and how the principles underlying its scientific practice can be helpful to current practice. The certificate can also be used as further professional development in other related fields that aim to gain an understanding of best practices in decision making and analysis of information. The course may also be taken by students with a Bachelor's degree or equivalent, or an advanced degree in Psychology, Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law, Forensic Sciences, Forensic Accounting, or a related field, who are looking to add to their portfolio. However, such students will be required to demonstrate previous or current relevant practical or research experience. Due to the nature of the content that will be covered in this course, it is not suitable for individuals with a casual non-professional interest in criminology or other social or forensic sciences.

The course is taught over 6 weeks, in a fully online environment, through both video instruction and personal study, as well as through group work with fellow participants on crime scene investigation simulations. The course is flexible for participants to be able to manage the course around their own schedules, but will also require the ability to liaise with other participants several times a week (through online chat or email, or via phone). Good time management skills and ability to meet deadlines is essential.

Advanced computer/technical skills are an advantage but are not required to participate in this course. However, access to a computer and internet throughout the course is imperative.

Course format and time requirement
- Weekly readings (comprised of articles, chapters, websites, etc.)
- Weekly online instructional videos
- Individual and group assignments and exercises
- Online class discussions
- Weekly personal progress updates
- Final personal project applying course material to a practice related issue
- 6 weeks of approximately 6-10 hours weekly expected time commitment

Instructor:
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More information & Registration:
http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/online-certificate-programs