

Course Objectives/Course Outline
Spokane Community College

Course Title: Police Interviewing Techniques
Prefix and Course Number: CJ 203

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- Students learn basic knowledge of interviewing and interrogation techniques.
- Students are able to differentiate an interview from an interrogation
- Students learn techniques to seek facts and truth in criminal investigations through interactions with people.
- Students demonstrate the ability to follow the interviewing process from beginning to end.

Course Outline:

- I. General Consideration In Interviewing and Interrogation
 - A. Frame work
 - B. Interviewing Interrogation
- II. Specific Consideration in Interrogation
 - A. Pre-school juveniles
 - B. School-age juveniles
 - C. Adults
 - D. Perceptual styles
 - E. Prejudice, bias, and personal needs
 - F. Psychological stress and conditions
 - G. Environment conditions
 - H. Limitation of human memory
 - I. Techniques of interviewing
- III. Methodologies
 - A. Soviet interrogation methodology
 - B. Chinese interrogation methodology
 - C. Personality characteristics of brain washed subjects
- IV. The psychology of interviewing
 - A. Investigative information
 - B. Behavioral information
 - C. Nine steps of interrogation
 - D. The behavioral analysis interview
 - E. Verbal behavioral analysis
 - F. Nonverbal behavior
- V. Behavior Analysis
 - A. Deception manifests itself in body language
 - B. Used to evaluate truthfulness of those interviewed
 - C. Guides and informs the interviewer
 - D. Non-verbal is more important than verbal
 - E. Real meaning of statements either in harmony or conflict with non-verbal cues
 - F. Non-verbal is more spontaneous making it more reliable
 - G. Behavior of the interrogator influences that of the suspect
 - H. External factors:

1. Can influence the accuracy cues
2. Importance of the issue to suspect and society
3. Status of offender
4. Control over the subject
5. Proximity to the person
6. Start in the social zone, then move gradually closer
7. Start interrogation where the interview ends, then move gradually closer

VI. Internal factors

- A. Can influence the accuracy cues
- B. Intelligence of suspect
- C. Cultural differences
- D. Emotionally unstable people may have unreliable cues
- E. Effects of drugs, alcohol, physical or mental conditions

VII. Observation and Evaluation of Behavior

- A. Behaviors common to truth and deception
 1. Nervousness
 2. Anger
 3. Fear
- B. Typical Truthful Behaviors
 1. Composed-rational and reasonable
 2. Concerned – want you to know they are innocent
 3. Cooperative-willing to do almost anything
 4. Spontaneous – direct and to the point
 5. Sincere – open gestures
- C. Typical Deceptive Behaviors
 1. Anxious – out of control, irrational, not relaxed
 2. Polite – suspiciously polite
 3. Defensive – to the point of being uncooperative
 4. Evasive-“No” or “I don’t know” answers
 5. Guarded-very cautious about what they say
 6. Rationalizing – minimizing the crime
 7. Unconcerned – street smart or repeat offender
 8. Quiet-uncommunicative
 9. Defeated-accepting or apologetic ready to confess

VIII. Nonverbal Behavior Cues

- A. Truthful Body Postures
 1. Upright, open and relaxed
 2. Leaning forward on occasion
 3. Frontally aligned
 4. Slow and causal posture changes
- B. Deceptive Body Postures
 1. Slouching
 2. Rigid or stiff
 3. Aligned off center
 4. Barrier postures
- C. Deceptive Gestures and Movements
 1. Retreat – moving away from the interrogator
 2. Pacing – another form of retreat
 3. Emotional displays
 4. Facial expressions or color changes

5. Eye movement

IX. Verbal Behavior Cues

- A. More controlled than non-verbal
- B. Evaluate with accompanying non-verbal cues
- C. Truthful-more direct and spontaneous answers
- D. Deceptive – memory failure or rehearsed (extreme detail)
- E. Deceptive-repeat question before answering
- F. Deceptive – evade answering by changing the subject
- G. Deceptive-more likely to challenge minute details
- H. Deceptive=tend to qualify their answers
- I. Deceptive-mumble, stumble or incomplete sentences
- J. Deceptive-support their answers with religion or oaths

X. Setting

- A. Need for privacy
- B. Supportive vs. non-supportive settings
- C. Room size and appearance
- D. Interviews versus interrogations

XI. Interrogation: Baiting Technique

- A. Purpose getting suspect to change original denial
- B. Use only after questioning the suspect
 - 1. Regarding his alibi
 - 2. Relationship to the victim or crime scene
 - 3. Obtaining the appropriate denials
- C. Foundation of the bait question
 - 1. Presentation of real evidence (fingerprints, DNA, etc.)
 - 2. Presentation of fictitious evidence

XII. Formulation the Bait Question

- A. Explain in detail the credibility of the bait question
- B. Introductory Phrases-face saving
- C. Response to the bait question – stalling, delaying
- D. Avoid direct challenges
- E. Be sincere and believable
- F. Frazier vs. Cupp 394 US 731, 89S CT. 1420 (1969)

XIII. Themes

- A. Interrogator monologue offering reasons and excuses to psychologically justify or minimize the criminal behavior
- B. Theme development

XIV. Alternatives

- A. Questions which offer the suspect two incriminating choices concerning some aspect of the crime
- B. Face-saving device
- C. Contrasts undesirable action to desirable action
- D. Build the alternatives from themes
- E. Supporting statements-an interrogator statement extending one side of an alternative encouraging the suspect to choose one of them.
- F. Restate desirable alternative
- G. Results usually some kind of admission

XV. Denials

- A. Statement or actions-refusing truthfulness of accusations
- B. Guilty and innocent make denials
- C. Denials can be verbal and/or non-verbal

Print Date: 7/21/14

- D. Immediately return to theme
 - E. Suggested reasons must be plausible and believable
 - F. Repeat to wear the person down
 - G. Avoid long statements or explanations by the suspect
 - H. Induce, entice, or trick-innocent persons don't confess
 - I. Emotional approach-not on hard core offenders
 - J. Factual approach-invalidate alibi step-by-step
 - K. Use bait questions or factual argument
- XVI. Admissions
- A. Details to tie them in every step along the way
 - B. Work them through it step-by-step
 - C. Begin to use incriminating words
 - D. Avoid leading questions
 - E. Attempt to turn oral confession into a written one
 - F. Separate confessions for different crimes