Dear CJUS 334 Students,

Greetings, I want to welcome you to the Criminal Investigations class CJUS 334. The fall semester runs from August 21st, to December 13th, 2017. If this is your first experience in online education, you will find information about USD's technical, academic and student support services, as well as how to take advantages of these services in the Online Student Handbook that is linked from the Getting Started widget on the course homepage. This document also contains important information pertaining to minimum technology requirements, registration information, as well as other university services and policies. This is a course that involves online interaction via D2L. You should follow the steps provided in this guide. Please spend a few minutes navigating the site so that you know how to use it. If you have any difficulties accessing the site, please contact the USD help desk; 
http://www.usd.edu/technology/contact-the-help-desk , e-mail address; mailto:helpdesk@usd.edu.

The myUSD Portal allows university faculty, staff and students to access the information and password-protected resources they need quickly and easily in one central place; https://myu.usd.edu/uPortal/f/welcome/normal/render.uP

I’m happy to be teaching CJUS 334 (Criminal Investigations) and I’m looking forward to our joint study of the ever changing world of criminal investigation.

I currently serve as a victims advocate in a program funded by the Iowa Attorney General’s office. I am also a retired police supervisor; I’ve served with four different military and civilian agencies. I’ve worked a variety of investigations over the span of my career; I also have ten years of experience working in an undercover capacity. I’ve been fortunate to witness first hand some remarkable advancement in the field of criminal investigation. I’ve learned over the years that we can always benefit from research and the exchange of knowledge.

Please read the expectations for this class which are outlined in the course syllabus linked to your D2L Homepage and in the content section. The information that you need to successfully complete this course is located in the syllabus. This class will meet entirely online through the use of D2L. The text book for this class is Criminal Investigation (8th Edition) James N Gilbert. ISBN-13: 978-0135005606. This is not the most recent textbook in the study of criminal investigations but does cover the basic principles and topics needed; our research will bring us up to date as we look at current cases.

I look forward to working with all of you. If you have questions regarding the course or the syllabus, the best way to reach me is via the course page email or mail to: mskaff@usd.edu. I can also be reached during the daytime at 712-251-4388 I will respond to e-mail messages within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours during the weekends.

Mr. Mark P Skaff, M.S.