

# SYLLABUS: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION & EVIDENCE

Jennifer J. Liskow'02G\*\*  
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**Course:** Criminal Investigation & Evidence

**Instructor:** Attorney Carol Rolf\*

**Summary:** Students learn the elements of crimes ranging from homicide, arson, assault, and theft to forgery, racketeering, and obscenity. Students also systematically explore the criminal law process from start to finish—intake procedures and investigations, warrants, preliminary hearings, motions and evidentiary considerations, trials, sentencing, judicial appeals, and more.

**Required reading:** *Criminal Law and Procedure* by John Scheb and John Scheb II.

**In class:** Rolf tells stories describing real cases and asks students to determine what crimes have been committed or to examine procedures for police officers, trying cases, and jury selection to ensure that criminals are convicted.

**Film/videos:** Rolf says she varies the films she shares in class. “I’m trying to get students to understand real procedures—it helps them to see cases that they’re familiar with.” She says they often start by looking at differences in real cases. In the past, she’s showed the sentencing of BTK killer Dennis Rader and Scott Petersen and asked students to consider why one received the death penalty and the other did not. ■

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\* **Attorney CAROL ROLF** is Assistant Professor and Director of the Criminal Justice and Legal Studies program at Rivier College and has taught business law courses for over 15 years. Before concentrating on teaching, Attorney Rolf practiced law full time for more than 20 years and is licensed to practice in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. As part of her general law practice, Attorney Rolf represented many business entities. In addition to a law degree, Attorney Rolf has a Masters in Business Administration and a Masters in Counseling, both of which complement the multi-disciplinary Criminal Justice program.

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\*\***JENNIFER LISKOW** works as a Public Relations and Web Writer in the Office of Marketing and Communications and teaches in Rivier’s Professional Communications program. Jenn earned her bachelor’s in English and communications from Notre Dame College in Manchester, N.H. in 1996. In 2002, she completed her master’s in writing and literature at Rivier. She began writing in junior high school; since then, she has had poems, short stories, features, and essays published. In her free time, Jenn enjoys practicing yoga, ten-pin bowling, and listening to live music with her husband, Tim.