MASTER SYLLABUS

COURSE NUMBER – COURSE NAME
JUST 424 – Cold Case Investigations

Created by: Liz Brown

Updated by:

School of Science, Health, and Criminal Justice

Department: Criminal Justice

Semester/Year: Fall 2018
A. **TITLE:** Cold Case Investigations

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 424

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 credit hour(s) per week for 15 weeks

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** Yes ☐ No ☒

E. **GER CATEGORY:** None: ☒ Yes: GER  
*If course satisfies more than one:* GER

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall ☐ Spring ☒ Fall & Spring ☐

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course discusses the techniques used to analyze and investigate a cold case. This course highlights the evaluation of the cold case file through the use of available resources, including electronic databases, interview techniques, autopsy findings, media inquiries, and forensic science disciplines.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES:** None ☐ Yes ☒ If yes, list below:

45 completed credit hours or permission of instructor

**CO-REQUISITES:** None ☒ Yes ☐ If yes, list below:
## I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: (see key below)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</th>
<th>Program Student Learning Outcome [PSLO]</th>
<th>GER [If Applicable]</th>
<th>ISLO &amp; SUBSETS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate cold case investigation procedures</td>
<td>PLO 2 – Analyze and evaluate theory and practice in criminological/ criminal justice contexts.</td>
<td>2-Crit Think</td>
<td>IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess government, state and local databases</td>
<td>PLO 2 – Analyze and evaluate theory and practice in criminological/ criminal justice contexts.</td>
<td>2-Crit Think</td>
<td>IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyze the advances in forensic science disciplines</td>
<td>PLO 2 – Analyze and evaluate theory and practice in criminological/ criminal justice contexts.</td>
<td>2-Crit Think</td>
<td>IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain the postmortem results</td>
<td>PLO 2 – Analyze and evaluate theory and practice in criminological/ criminal justice contexts</td>
<td>2-Crit Think</td>
<td>IA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### KEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISLO #</th>
<th>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Critical Thinking Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry &amp; Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Foundational Skills Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Social Responsibility Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Include program objectives if applicable. Please consult with Program Coordinator*
J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:**

Yes ☐ No ☒

If YES, select one or more of the following categories:

- [ ] Classroom/Lab
- [ ] Internship
- [ ] Clinical Placement
- [ ] Practicum
- [ ] Service Learning
- [ ] Community Service
- [ ] Civic Engagement
- [ ] Creative Works/Senior Project
- [ ] Research
- [ ] Entrepreneurship
  (program, class, project)

K. **TEXTS:**


L. **REFERENCES:**

None

M. **EQUIPMENT:** None ☒ Needed:

None

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

O. **SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Quizzes
- Exams
- Discussion Boards
- Paper

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I. The Cold Case Problem
II. Case File Review
III. Learning the Case
IV. Investigation
V. Long-Term Missing & No Body Cases
VI. Prosecution of Cold Cases
VII. Databases
VIII. FBI CJIS & NCIC
IX. Interviewing Senior Citizens
X. Death Certificate, Obituary, and Medical Examiner/Coroner
XI. Cold Case Investigation Units
XII. The Media in Cold Cases
XIII. Forensic Science Techniques & Disciplines
   a. Fingerprints
   b. Serology & DNA
c. Trace
d. Ballistics  
e. Anthropology  
f. Odontology  
g. Questioned Documents  
h. Blood Spatter Analysis  
XIV. Anthropology, Archeology & Remains  
XV. Forensic Art  
XVI. Geographic Profiling  

Q. **LABORATORY OUTLINE**: None ☒ Yes ☐