

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



MASTER SYLLABUS

JUST203 – CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

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**SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
SPRING 2020**

- A. **TITLE:** Criminal Investigations
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST203
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** None
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring
- G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is designed to provide the skills and knowledge necessary to conduct a thorough preliminary investigation of crimes. Techniques used to investigate common categories of crimes will be discussed. A major emphasis in this course will be the preparation and execution of investigative plans as they relate to a team approach. Other skills will include interviewing, crime scene processing, and basic forensic examination of evidence.
- H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**
- a. Pre-requisite(s): None
 - b. Co-requisite(s): None
 - c. Pre- or co-requisite(s): None

I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

<u>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</u>	<u>PSLO</u>	<u>GER</u>	<u>ISLO</u>
1. Recognize the legal authorities and limitations of statutory law to police procedures.			2. Critical thinking
2. Recognize and communicate viable investigative steps necessary for the successful conclusion of a criminal investigation.			1. Communication skills
3. Distinguish appropriate investigative methods pertaining to various categories of crime.			2. Critical thinking
4. Interpret the rules of search and seizure as they pertain to the collection of evidence.			2. Critical thinking

KEY	<u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</u>
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking

	<i>Critical Analysis [CA] , Inquiry & Analysis [IA] , Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	Foundational Skills <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT: Yes No

K. TEXTS:

1. Sweetman, T. & Sweetman, A. (2001). *Investigating a Homicide*. U.S.: Wadsworth Cengage Learning (Workbook)
2. Birzer, M. & Roberson, C. (2018 E-Book). *Introduction to Criminal Investigations*. CRC Press. (Available for free in Blackboard)

L. REFERENCES: None

M. EQUIPMENT: Technology Enhanced Classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

- Exams
- Quizzes
- Written Assignments

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I Criminal Investigation: An Overview

- A. Definition of criminal investigation.
- B. Basic functions of an investigator.
- C. Characteristics of an investigator.
- D. The response of the first responder at a crime scene.
- E. Arrest and interview of crime scene suspects
- F. Crime scene/evidence protection and security.
- G. Meaning/importance of *res gestae* statements.
- H. Determining if a crime has been committed.
- I. Responsibility for solving crime.
- J. Investigator interactions with other personnel/agencies.
- K. Avoiding civil lawsuits.

II. Documenting the Scene

- A. Characteristics and importance of note taking.
- B. Filing notes.
- C. Use of notes in court.
- D. Purposes of crime scene photography

- E. Purposes of crime scene sketching.
- F. Types of crime scene sketches.
- G. Types of photographic equipment.

III. Writing Effective Reports

- A. Importance of Reports
- B. Uses of Reports
- C. The Audience
- D. Common Problems with Many Police Reports
- E. Recording and Dictating Reports
- F. Computerized Report Writing
- G. Evaluating your Report
- H. Citizen Online Report Writing
- I. The Final Report

IV. Search and Seizure

- A. Fourth Amendment
- B. Exclusionary Rule
- C. Legal Justification
- D. Search warrants.
- E. Consent searches
- F. Stop and frisk
- G. Incident to arrest
- H. Investigatory Searches
- I. Expectation of privacy

V. Physical Evidence

- A. Collection evidence
- B. Preserving evidence
- C. Examination of evidence
- D. Reconstruction of scenes
- E. Admissibility of evidence in court

VI. Obtaining Information

- A. Source of information
- B. Interview and interrogation
- C. Juvenile interviews

VII. Identifying Suspects

- A. Developing suspects
- B. Locating and arresting suspects
- C. Surveillance

VIII. Death Investigations

- A. Classifications of homicide
- B. Elements of the crime
- C. Manners of death
- D. Causes of death
- E. Mechanism of death
- F. Preliminary investigation
- G. Autopsy

- IX.** Victimization
 - A. Assault
 - B. Elements of crime
 - C. Domestic violence
 - D. Stalking
 - E. Elder abuse

- X.** Sex Offenses
 - A. Classifications of sex offenses
 - B. Sexual offenders
 - C. Interviewing victims
 - D. Medical Examinations
 - E. Collection of Evidence
 - H. Suspects

- XI.** Crimes Against Children
 - A. Extent of the problem
 - B. Types of abuse
 - C. Offenders
 - D. Victims
 - E. Preliminary investigation
 - F. Interviewing children
 - G. Court testimony

- XII.** Robbery
 - A. Elements of the crime
 - B. Preliminary investigation
 - C. Investigative tactics

- XIII.** Burglary
 - A. Elements of the crime
 - B. Preliminary investigations
 - C. Crime scenes
 - D. Evidence
 - E. Fencing property
 - F. Recovering stolen property
 - G. Suspect identification

- XIV.** Larceny
 - A. Elements of the crime
 - B. Types of larceny
 - C. Fraud
 - D. White collar crime

- XV.** Motor Vehicle Theft
 - A. Types of vehicle theft
 - B. Elements of crime
 - C. Preventing vehicle theft

- XVI.** Arson and explosions

- A. Elements of the crime
- B. Types of arson
- C. Types of explosives
- D. Preliminary investigations
- E. Crime scenes
- F. Safety considerations
- G. Special tactics

XVII. Computer Crime

- A. Elements of the crime
- B. Viruses
- C. Search warrants
- D. Seizure of computers
- E. Recovery of data

XVIII. Drugs and Organized Crime

- A. Drug categories
- B. Possession or use of controlled substances
- C. Sale of controlled substances
- D. Clandestine drug labs
- E. Marihuana possession and grows
- F. Activities of organized crimes
- G. Organized crime groups
- H. Methods of investigation

XIX. Gangs

- A. Gangs defined
- B. Types of gangs
- C. Gang activities
- D. Investigating gang activity
- E. Hate crimes
- F. Ritualistic crimes

XX. Terrorism and Homeland Security

- A. Classification of terrorist acts
- B. Groups in US
- C. Methods
- D. Federal response to terrorism
- E. Civil rights in the fight against terrorism

XXI. Preparing for and Presenting Cases in Court

- A. Writing the final report
- B. Preparing a case for prosecution
- C. Cross examination v direct examination

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: None