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

MASTER SYLLABUS

JUST 303 – INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWS

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SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CENTER FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE, INTELLIGENCE AND CYBERSECURITY
A. **TITLE:** Investigative Interviews

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 303

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
   2 hours lecture per week
   2 hours lab per week

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

E. **GER CATEGORY:** None

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course provides students with proven techniques which apply to conducting accusatory and non-accusatory interviews. Students develop skills related to preparing for an investigative interview with an emphasis on a proactive role. These skills include developing an interview strategy, interpreting physical and verbal cues, conducting a cognitive interview, developing admissions and confessions and recognizing a false confession. Course includes the most recent court rulings related to investigative interviews and admissibility of statements into court.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**
   a. Pre-requisite(s): 45 credit hours in Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice: Law Enforcement Leadership or Homeland Security or permission of instructor.
   b. Co-requisite(s): None
   c. Pre- or co-requisite(s): None

I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</th>
<th>PSLO</th>
<th>GER</th>
<th>ISLO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Compare an accusatory interview with a non-accusatory interview</td>
<td>3. Students will be able to identify, analyze and utilize various techniques used in a criminal investigation</td>
<td>2. Crit. Thinking</td>
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| b. Describe and demonstrate appropriate techniques for conducting investigative interviews of witnesses, victims and suspects. | 1. Students will be able to demonstrate effective written and verbal communication skills.  
3. Students will be able to identify, analyze and utilize various techniques used in a criminal investigation | 1. Communication  
2. Critical Thinking | |
c. Identify physiological responses which can demonstrate either truthful or deceptive answers.

3. Students will be able to identify, analyze and utilize various techniques used in a criminal investigation

2. Crit. Thinking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY</th>
<th>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISLO #</td>
<td>ISLO &amp; Subsets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Critical Thinking Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry &amp; Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Foundational Skills Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Social Responsibility Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills</td>
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J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT: Yes X No _____


L. REFERENCES: Various internet sources, US Supreme Court Cases, various appellate courts cases/decisions

M. EQUIPMENT: Access to Payson interview suite; multiple computers with access to Genetech video system

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:
   - Quizzes
   - Written assignments
   - Laboratory exercises
   - Class participation
   - Exams

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Interview basics
   A. Definitions
   B. Myths
   C. Building rapport
D. Purposes of interviews

II. Preparation process and developing a strategy
   A. Use of evidence
   B. Background of offender
   C. Case investigation
   D. Use of case files
   E. Selecting an interviewer
   F. The interview setting
   G. The act of communicating
   H. Use of an interpreter

III. Legal aspects of interviews
   A. Four-part test of admissibility of statement
      i. 4th amendment – illegal search?
      ii. 5th amendment – custodial interrogation?
      iii. 6th amendment – denied counsel?
      iv. 14th amendment – due process?
   B. Voluntary statements

IV. Interpreting verbal and physical behaviors
   A. Behavioral clusters
   B. Evaluating verbal behavior
   C. Evaluating physical behavior
   D. Attempts by suspect to mask the truth
      i. Incongruence
      ii. Emblems
      iii. Illustrators
      iv. Adaptors
      v. Leakage

V. Non-accusatory interviews
   A. Complainants and witnesses
   B. Victims
   C. Steps of non-accusatory interview

VI. Determining truthfulness of subject
   A. Selective interview technique
   B. Questions of enticement

VII. Cognitive interviewing
   A. Definition
   B. Purpose of the cognitive interview

VIII. Interviewing children
   A. Non-accusatory interviews
   B. Accusatory interviews

IX. The denial process
   A. Types of denials
   B. Causes of denials
      i. Interrogator’s role
      ii. Suspect’s contributions
X. Accusing the suspect
   A. Timing the accusation
   B. Selecting the accusation
      i. Introductory statement approach
      ii. Direct approach
      iii. Factual approach

XI. Interrogation techniques
   A. Minimizing the seriousness of the offense
   B. Switch the blame away from the suspect
   C. Choice silence
   D. Focusing on the future and past
   E. Guilt
   F. Ego and control
   G. Logical explanations
   H. Props
   I. Lies
   J. Religion
   K. Change perspectives
   L. Sympathy
   M. Mistake
   N. Indifference
   O. Necessity
   P. Overwhelming evidence

XII. Recording the interview
   A. Written record
   B. Audio record
   C. Video record

XIII. Denials
   A. Types of denials
      i. Emphatic
      ii. Explanatory
   B. Evaluating denials

XIV. Admissions v Confessions
   A. The initial admission
   B. Developing the admission

XV. Recording the admission and confession
   A. Written record
   B. Audio record
   C. Video record

XVI. False confessions
   A. Definition
   B. Categories of false confessions
      i. Voluntary
      ii. Coerced compliant
      iii. Coerced internalized
   C. Factors contributing to false confessions
i. Age
ii. Memory
iii. Behavioral differences
iv. Suggestibility
v. Misinterpretation of language

XVII. Use of Technology
   A. Polygraph
   B. Computer voice stress analyzer

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE
   I. Rapport building lab
   II. Cognitive interview lab
   III. Interrogation techniques and rationalizations
   IV. Interrogation lab
      a. Introductory statement approach